

The Biblical Examiner

A Biblical Examination of Issues at Hand (January, 2003)

Holding to the Historic Baptist Faith, The London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689

The Biblical Examiner. Purpose - to examine current situations in the light of God's Word and do battle, viz., contend for the faith. We are at war! The Word of God is our only weapon (battle axe), and It alone must



be applied to the root of unBiblical philosophies, Jer. 51:20; Luke 3:9. The Biblical Examiner is sent to those who request it & those to whom others request it be sent. It is supported by those who receive it. Donations can sent to us, *Biblical Examiner*, PO Box 81, Bentonville VA, 22610, or through THE LINDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, PO Box 6, Linden, IN 47955. Be sure to note that the donation is for the Examiner. The Examiner is provided without charge as time and funds permit. Let us hear from you, for your letters encourage us to continue on in our service of the King. **All articles by Rev. Need unless otherwise noted. Permission to reprint granted where proper credit is given.** Manuscripts welcome, as we have space.

The Homeschooler, Dr. Paul Cates.

Published by & with *The Biblical Examiner*, p. 20

Ben-Ezra and Its Illegitimate Child

Book Review of "The Death of the Church Victorious" by Pastor Ovid E. Need, Jr. with Forewords by Rousas John Rushdoony and Dave MacPherson.

Reviewed by Pastor Emeritus Raymond P. Joseph while visiting his daughter and family in Syracuse NY.

This reviewer is on the board of the National Reform Association, whose annual meeting was held on November 15, (2002) in Ephrata PA. At the meeting's conclusion (at which we elected a new president, Atty. John Fielding) I visited a booktable at the back and was presented a copy of this book by its author, Pastor Ovid Need, Jr. The book had just been received from the publisher the previous Monday.

If any of our dispensationalist Christian brothers feel like picking up a daring

See Review, p 11

Tithing and the Victory of the Church

By Thomas Williamson, 3131 S. Archer Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60608

Your attitude toward the ancient practice of tithing, the giving of one-tenth of one's income to the Lord's work, probably depends a lot on your attitude toward the Old Testament.

Those who see a basic discontinuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament will probably insist that tithing is not for today. To quote Old Testament verses on tithing to such folk does no good - such citations carry no more weight with them than verses from the Koran, Book of Mormon or Bhagavad Gita.

See Victory, p 12

The Proverbs 31 Lady (and Other Impossible Dreams)

Reviewed by Christina Joy Need (17)

The Proverbs 31 Lady, (and Other Impossible Dreams) was written by Marsha Drake, and published by a Division of Bethany Fellowship, Inc., Bethany house in 1984.

The author's intention and goal in writing this book and being able to present it to the public, was to encourage young ladies and moms to follow the example that the woman in Proverbs 31 gives us. When this passage is read, it either brings cheerfulness and goals to be accomplished, or brings discouragement

See Impossible, p 13

Personal

We trust you all had a good Christmas and New Year. The next big event on the calendar is April 15.

We were able to visit my oldest daughter and her husband the weekend after Christmas, and make a visit to the folks at Linden. Both were very good visits. We wanted to leave early Christmas morning and drive the 7.5 hours and be at Corey and Jessica's house in the early afternoon of Christmas day, but we had a Christmas eve snow. We were not about to try to drive over the mountains in the snow. So we left the next day.

We are still trying to get settled here in Virginia. The primary reason I resigned was so I could write and get material together. I have told some folks that I almost need to pastor again so I can have that time, for I sure have not had it since we have moved out here. I am increasingly thankful to the folks at Linden who patiently allowed me to have many hours for uninterrupted study and writing.

See Personal, p 14

Law of Freedom

Rev. Need

"Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God?"

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32.)

At the end of November, we went to the National Reformation Association conference where Gary DeMar was one of the featured speakers. Bro DeMar made a statement that brought the following to mind.

He quoted from Chapter 4 ("YOU CANNOT LEGISLATE

See Law, p 5

Missions against God

By Lyle Jacobsen

(We met the Jacobsens at Lloyd Sprinkle's church [yes, *Sprinkle Publications*; he is an unusual man, and will make your head swim with historical facts from the books he has read and reprinted, if you ask him]. I asked Mr. Jacobsen why they left Wycliffe 12 years ago, and here is their story. The point that caught my attention is the same thing I have complained about for several years—that is, fundamental, "Bible Believing" churches and organizations are, as a rule, militating against the Christian family. See the letter after the Jacobsen's article.)

See Missions, p 2

IS AT HAND!

By Pastor James A. Henry

When John the Baptist announced the coming of the kingdom of heaven he said, "*Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" Matt. 3:2.

The phrase "is at hand" is the translation of the Greek word "*eggizo*". The primary meaning assigned to this Greek word is "draw nigh, be at hand, come nigh, come near, draw near".

The phrase is found in nine different passages: Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; 26:45; 26:46; Mark 1:15; 14:42, Rom. 13:12 and I Peter 4:7. Another form of the Greek word is "*eggus*" and has basically the same as

See Hand, p 15

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Missions cont.

December 1990: My wife and I with our newborn son stepped aboard an airliner to return to the United States after 16 months of language learning in France. We were then members of Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT), and seeking a change of assignment from Burkina Faso in French-speaking West Africa to some possible task that could be done in the U.S. As there was no translation work in our desired area of residence, we resigned membership in WBT and began seeking "civilian" employment.

What happened? What changed our minds from "frontline" involvement in missionary endeavors to a resolution to return to American society? Our switch cannot be tagged to one event or one unrelated idea or comment. The root of our return to the US actually actually began years prior, even before we met each other.

Both of us had attended the Basic Seminar conducted by the Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts (Bill Gothard). There we learned for the first time the option of homeschooling as the preferred means of preparing one's children for Christian adulthood. Though we were yet single, this idea remained in our minds that should marriage become a reality, homeschooling would be an important consideration in discerning a potential mate.

As the years went by, we each began our still independent preparations and inquiries into missionary involvement. Eventually we would meet while taking graduate level coursework at WBT's Dallas center in conjunction with the University of Texas at Arlington. Over time we became engaged and married, and were assigned to work as translators in Burkina Faso. (A translator with Wycliffe Bible Translators is one who learns an unwritten language, develops an alphabet and a grammar, and translates the Bible, specifically the New Testament, into that language, and teaches some people of that language group to read.)

We have learned that modern evangelical missions has succumbed to a "conservative" feminist agenda, that though most evangelicals would consider themselves Biblically conservative, in practice they are ignorant of Scripture and are following anti-orthodox practices. In particular, they promote the inclusion of single women in ministry, especially in missions as few men themselves are in missions; having wives work alongside their husbands in missionary tasks as equals, not as helpmeets for their husbands; and sending children to boarding schools so as not to hinder the work of their parents in the missions endeavor.

We were aware of these factors as we progressed

in our association with WBT. Yet we determined that for our family, we would seek to order our lives according to Biblical norms rather than those in the missionary society at large.

Gratefully, we were able to reinforce our pro-family priorities through the acquisition of books beyond those necessary for the translation task. Some books we acquired included Mary Pride's The Way Home



An unusual sight in VA, a White Christmas. Drivers here go "crazy" in snow.

and All The Way Home, and Rick and Jan Hess' A Full Quiver. It was after the birth of our first son in France that I read All the Way Home. Through this book I began to realize just how far Western evangelicalism of the late 80's had strayed from the Biblical norms.

In short, what we saw were aspects of our own family life that are minimally addressed in general evangelicalism. It is only when these aspects become overwhelming that they are finally dealt with, and that usually by professional counseling. These aspects include marital and familial relations, legal and psychological divorce, multigenerational consequences of moral sin, etc. We had come to the realization that Christian witness should proclaim, by word and example, relational wholeness, particularly in families. Yet *that* we could not promote due to our personal background and lack of practical training. We also recognized that in the developing world, where missions are focused, the family is a key relational environment, far surpassing the West with its individualism, rampant divorce and militant feminism. How could we as Christian missionaries proclaim a reconciling gospel to the whole of man, when we ourselves were not practicing it? Thus our decision to return to the United States. We concluded that in the familiar cultural setting we could better learn and practice whole Christian family life as opposed to moving to western Africa for ministry work *and* build up our family life.

The acceptance of our return by our supporting churches and friends was varied. We had hoped that we would get favorable responses, even inquiries as to what we felt were Biblical reasons for focusing first on our family rather than on missions. One church

graciously said that further details were not necessary since life is filled with unanticipated changes. In contrast, another pastor practically condemned us for "leaving the mountain path that God had ordained" for us. Even one parent breathed a sigh of relief that we would not be risking our physical health in the wilds of Africa, something which had not been communicated to us beforehand - thus confirming the lack of wholeness in family relations we were now seeking to restore.

Our experience with WBT revealed to us several problems with evangelical missions. First is the wholesale acceptance of humanist cultural anthropology. While cultural anthropology is the study of man in his societal setting, humanists seek to do this study in a relativistic way. Thus the activities of different people are viewed in a non-judgmental way, that though certain activities may not be acceptable to Western standards, they are correct for those people. It even becomes "in" to adopt the norms of the people with whom they live and study, such as a couple we know who wear the Muslim dress of the people they live among (though none of us have heard of missionaries adopting the manner of undress of aborigines living in the Amazon basin or in New Guinea).

My wife Teri, for example, tells the following story which occurred while she was studying for missions (in the mid-80's) at a well-known west coast evangelical university: Her academic advisor had spent time on a Navajo Indian reservation to study the use of power (as in spiritual power). While there, the professor sat in on and witnessed what can best be described as a seance. Various spirits were called upon to assist people. In other words, these Indians called upon evil spirits for help. The advisor, who professed to be a Christian, had no problem with any of this and seemed to think it was quite natural and normal (see Lev. 19:31; 20:6). In fact, this professor asserted that the Bible claims many gods in addition to Yahweh. In a personal conversation, the professor expressed that the power of these minor gods could be used by Christians too. How then can we stand against the gods of this age when we are seeking to use them for our Christian purposes?

A second problem of missions is the priority of soul-saving rather than discipleship as commanded by our Lord in Matt. 28:18-20. Salvation is seen as obtaining a train ticket to heaven (when there is no train), instead of as a long journey on the narrow way of righteousness.

Thirdly is the accepted western view of women in society as noted above. For further discussion on the role of women and men, Rev. Need has several articles related to the Scripture's teaching in Titus 2:3-5. Along with this is the primary emphasis of missionary work above the responsibility of caring for one's family. I refer specifically as examples to William Carey, the founder of the modern missionary movement, whose wife went insane on the mission field, and to David Livingstone who sent his wife and children ("orphanise my children"- his term) home to Scotland while he labored for 5 years in Africa.

Another problem is that mission agencies and their

members are not under specific church authority, even in denominational missions. While many missionaries are members of a church, and by extension, honorary members of all supporting churches, they are essentially without a church and without spiritual oversight and accountability. It is assumed that the missionary is spiritually self-sustaining, or that the agency oversees spiritual oversight. We recognized this shortfall while in France and began a prayer group for missionaries in transition there.

Mission organizations also tend to follow the corporate business model in their operations. This is an area for further study and comparison with the Biblical standard. This article only addresses some of the foundational problems of missions, and does not provide solutions. A beginning point would be Roland Allen's *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?*, (Eerdmans, 1987). In conclusion, missions, like the western church (reformed and evangelical), is in need of an overhaul, a Reformation.

(Lyle Jacobsen holds a B.S and a M.S. in Engineering from North Dakota State University. He has served short-term with Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (WEC) in The Gambia, West Africa, and later with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Since 1995, Lyle is a stay-at-home Dad where he works full time in his home bakery. He resides in Virginia with wife, Teri, and their 5 children and can be reached at 7338 Rushville Rd., Dayton, VA 22821.)

Observe:

First, though claiming to be “family” oriented, the church has, generally, worked to separate and destroy the family. They have different classes for each member of the family (Sunday School, Children's Church), they support and even encourage women to work outside of the home, all the while claiming to be building up the family. Missionary couples go to foreign countries, and their Christian testimony is that both husband and wife work and their children are raised by others in a boarding school. In other words, onlookers understand that Christianity sees children as a burden to be endured and set aside for the “Lord's work”:

Darby also held that it was sinful to prepare for one's children. ⁵¹ Thus developed the common ‘mega-church’ mentality — simply put, if a person follows God's will, God will take care of that person's children. Then God's will is defined as spending all one's time actively involved in the ministry of *soul winning* — that is, increasing the numbers who attend church. ⁵¹ *Collected Letters*, I.268. This pastor has personally heard probably the best known Baptist pastor of the 1900s say that if you will do God's work, God will take care of your children. He defined God's work as teaching Sunday School, working a bus route, and/or otherwise engaged in religious activity building a ‘mega-church’ while ignoring the family. That pastor lost all his children [to the world]. (*Death of the Church Victorious*, pp. 174, 175.)

American style Christianity has destroyed the world. I abhor the *results* of Darbyism, pre-millennialism, but it seems to have made such mess out of things that I might be inclined to believe that the Lord *will have to literally return* with His rod of iron and threaten even Christians with a sword to make them do right and take the responsibility for their own children.

We are also noticing a trend within the “Patriarchal” movement—a movement that encourages the fathers to take their proper Biblical place as heads of their families. Too many of these families that are trying to reclaim their Biblical roles are losing their daughters. Why? There is not room in this issue to discuss this situation, but, Lord willing, we will start dealing with this in the next issue of the Examiner. There is a genuine and serious war going on against the family, and the enemy is offering even “good” things to get Christian parents to turn their backs upon the children the Lord has entrusted to them.

Second, the Jacobsens returned to the States because the missionary endeavor would not permit them to exist as a biblical family—wives as helpmeets to their husbands, keepers at home, working to train



Ovid, Bettie, Christina Need, Jessica, Corey DeShong

the children in the ways of the Lord. The pagan societies wherein they were to live had a better understanding of the home than did the representatives of “Christianity”, the missionaries—the pagans knew in their hearts that wives were to care for their families. What a reproach on the name of the Lord and Christianity.

Third, up until the time of Edward Irving, (c. 1825), *public opinion* was that the Gospel of Grace would conquer the world in God's good time. Irving preached against *public opinion*, and Darby picked up the message. Providence brought George Müller into the new millennial camp of the *Theology of De-feat*. Until Müller's time, the emphasis of missions was to Christianize the nations in accord with Matthew 28. However, Müller was convinced that this goal was unscriptural, so he started a training institution (*Scriptural Knowledge Institution*, 1836) for missionaries in order to teach them that their only hope was “soul-saving”, and that it was a sin to try to bring about godly social change. His *Institution* was the main-stay of Hudson Taylor's China Inland Missions. (*Death of the Church Victorious*, pp. 194-195)

Thus the majority of modern missions has worked to turn the world over to the spirit of the antichrist, starting with the very basic building block, the family. My, how we need a spirit of reformation—that is, a return to the Word of God as the rule for all faith and action.

But a major fault of the modern mission movement must be laid at the door of the modern “Evangelical” church. The following is an e mail from a distressed mom. She responded to one of my articles posted on www.ladiesagainstfeminism.com. The site belongs to Jennie Chancey, Bettie's oldest child (www.sensibility.com is also her site). Jennie continually gets heart-rending letters like the one below. The lady asked that her name be withheld for obvious reasons. Sadly, the things in her church that cause her distress are far too common. I could count on one hand (even if I were missing some fingers) the number of churches that exalt Biblical womanhood.

Dear Rev. Need,

Thank you for your article at Ladies Against Feminism. We need more Pastors like you. I live in NJ and it is hard to find a church that would dare teach as you have.

I wonder if you would take a few minutes to read and answer me. I write out of an aching, tired heart.

The church we attend would never dare hold up the woman in the home as an ideal. The Pastor's wife has always worked. There are several excuses given for this.

1. People need two salaries to make ends meet today.
2. They can reach more people in the work force.
3. Why should they waste their education and skills by being in the home.

Being at home is acceptable perhaps if there are babies or toddlers there and IF you can afford it. There is no true teaching of Titus 2 anymore. Being “keeper at home” is meaning having a good daycare provider or working opposite shifts of one's husband. And keeping it clean.

When I came to the Lord 24 yrs ago, I asked the Lord what He would have me do and He led me to Titus 2:3-5. I have tried, not very successfully, to live this way. My husband while liking me at home, does not do so for Biblical reasons. The convenience of me at home outweighs the money I might make.

He has been saved but our walk with the Lord has been quite rocky. God changed things in our lives and my husband has resented them. Our walk is different. He is quite content to teach Sunday School once a week and that is it for God in our lives. The rest of the week is void.

He will not speak to me of God and wants only peace in what he wants to do. This year I decided to do an experiment. I didn't push for the children to attend youth group. He has not done or said anything about it. :(None of our older children attend Church or seek the Lord.

We had a very difficult time 5 yrs ago at this church.

My dad was sick with Cancer. We had very little help or support from the church. I cared for my dad as long as I could in his own home. My oldest boy was working and would care for him at night. It was a dark season of my life yet one of the brightest. My reliance on God grew strong and I knew Him in a way I never did before. He did walk me through that "valley" of the shadow of death. Jesus walked with my beloved dad and I till we parted at the fork of death. Jesus took my dad home and walks with me today.

I was head of the children's department at the time. I would then be hearing changes from the pulpit. I went to the Pastor and said that I could not do my job right if I learn of changes this way. The Pastor and I had differing views on the importance of the



Clockwise from left: Ovid; David, Gracie, Jeffrey (new grandson), Heather, Kelsea Ethell; Thomas, Matt, Isabelle (new granddaughter), Jennie Chancey; Bettie, Christina Need; John Nathan, Alex Chancey. The 6 Flournoys, with 3 girls and a new grandson, are missing, living in Texas.

ministry. We once bucked heads over the junior church program. He compared it to having a program to alcoholics. Never did he use any scriptures to show me why. I had scriptures to show where we needed it.

I had started the ministry. Our church had started from the ground up. I had wanted to quit when my last child was born but they begged me to stay. All of a sudden things were changing. It would have been better if I had been asked to resign or take a leave as the burden of family and my dad was quite heavy. But when the third time he changed something again at the pulpit I put in my resignation. I was asked to stay till they found a replacement. I did so. The week after my dad died and was buried, they had a cake for all out going people. They gave plaques for their service. I was so upset I hid in the bathroom. To do that was hypocrisy since we had left on bad terms. I could not have controlled myself to receive it. Especially after all that had gone on that week and in the past.

My husband was in agreement that I was treated wrongly but shrugged it off.

My children saw the things that went on at that time. How the church actually caused us more grief than comfort.

My husband loves the church and insists we attend. I don't think I would complain except my family is falling away and apart from the Lord. Even this past fall I asked my husband to attend the assistant

Pastor's Bible study. We did for a while but have stopped due to other activities. There is nothing except the actual time on a Sunday morning.

You mentioned about wives wanting to go where they are fed. I have mentioned this to my husband. For I feel that I am more drawn into a liberal lifestyle at the church. You speak of separation, yet the differences are minimal.

Is it wrong to ask Pastors about scriptures? I have gone to the Pastors of my church and questioned them about the Titus scriptures amongst others in the Word. Why they are not taught. I have asked if we disobey God in living the roles He has given us, then how can we say anything when others take it the next step to disobeying the gender God gave them. If we use birth control and sterilization, how can we stand against abortion which is just the far end of birth control. The principle is still not wanting children.

...

I have found that much down and dirty work is not done today. Yet many churches here pride themselves on care ministries that send out cards or give meals.

One catholic church in the area tried to start a ministry that would help the elderly live on their own. But

it soon died out. Lack of help. No older women in the home to give of time and self.

God has a remnant. I am part of a Titus 2 email loop that encourages each other in God's ways and seen many miracles. I have a message board for women. There are many out there who would love to be in the home but so cowered down or deceived by the world and the church as not to be in home.

When I wrote one of the Pastors at my church about the different issues above, he thanked me for the letter and said he would get to it. Well, he has long since moved away. From some Pastors I get spit and sputtering, some just silence. Yet, where is the man of God to show me in the Word where I err?

Many fix on rock and roll music and the occult. I questioned one about why he doesn't mention the rebellion of men and women to their roles. He said I was a rebellious woman trying to force my will on others.

I don't understand. If so, where is the scripture to show me my error?

I don't question Pastors as I once did. It has not gotten me any answers. I teach a small group of women in my area. I am not qualified. While I love the Lord, seek Him in His Word each day, try to live as He commands, I seem to flop in my life. When I ask my husband scriptural questions, I am met with silence. My children grow and don't follow Jesus. Even though I have tried to teach and walk with Him.

I will still continue on. But I grow weary and worn. I wonder of my errors? I cry out to the Lord.

We don't homeschool. Our children are in public school. It is the will of my husband.

The more I read the Word, the more I am convicted of our need to obey Him. Regardless of others. In the Word I am only more convinced of what He has already taught me.

I know a woman should not speak up at church. But going through an email to question is not the same. I am seeking answers but not finding them. I don't want to go the way of the world but of the Lord.

Thank you again for that teaching on the feminization of Christian America. Recently on Breakpoint, they mentioned the most powerful woman in the world. I thought they would speak of the Christian mom but instead they spoke of one of Bush's people.

In many ways, the modern Christian woman looks good but so does that white washed tomb. I am not being catty or mean but have learned over the years that many things that start out looking good turn quite bad down the road.

Not one Pastor has mentioned to me how society has turned more to Jesus by the Christian woman being in the workforce. It seems in looking back in my life and in history that it has caused the opposite.

Thank you again for your time.

Yours in Christ,

...

1 Cor 15:57-58

I responded to her letter, and here is her reply.

Dear Pastor Need,

Thank you for answering my letter. Thank you also for forwarding it to your wife. I live in ..., N.J. It is in Ocean county. The church we attend is Pastor ... is our Pastor. He is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas.

As I look around the area here in my town and others close by, there is not one I know of that has a Biblical Pastoral family. Most wives work. Some are Co-Pastors and some are female Pastors.

I meet every other week with 3 other women. We are studying the Excellent Wife by Martha Peace. Her book is quite good but she is weak on the woman being in the home. I noticed it when she published her second book on being a Titus 2 woman. It seems that for some who are keepers at home, the right opportunity comes along and they forsake it. That happened to the woman who started our women's ministry in the church. She was one to be at home till she became the Pastor's secretary. Speaking up against leaving the home was forbidden. She actually kicked me under the table as I started to say something the one time.

Once when the ladies study did do a study on Titus 2, I was taken aside afterwise for being antagonistic. I had closely questioned the teacher on how do we love our husband. You can't just say love him. It is not that easy. I suggested that we follow 1 Cor 13:4-8a and be self sacrificing as Jesus. I knew I had

a difficult relationship and others do too. You can't just say to feel something. You teach actions and love will come. Even if the husband does not love back, you learn to love as God does.

Well I stopped going afterwise. The church last year had a woman's study on the Excellent wife but I was told the class was full. The three other women I meet with are younger. One is in her late 30s. She is a mom of 4. Homeschools. Her husband had been an elder in the church and noticed things were not quite right and left. He felt like you did to be in the ministry. But things have not worked out yet. I believe they are home churching. Another is another homeschooling mom of 4. Her husband is also in the leadership of the local Baptist church. Their Pastor's wife works because everyone needs to today. He has questioned his Pastor on this and other things and is sidestepped each time. The third woman is early 30s and has 3 young children and #4 on the way. I don't know her husband but she is very eager to learn of God's ways.

We live in an age of diversity. If you don't like your potato chips plain, well you can have them with cheddar, onion and vinegar, garlic, barbecue etc! So too with churches. So many difference, each to suit one's taste. I think of the verse 2 Tim 4:3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths" also 1 Peter 4:4 "In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;"

I have been reading your website and enjoying it. I also have been going to Way of Life for a while too. If you are aware of any churches in my area, I would be interested. I also ask for your prayer for my family.

Thank you, ..., 1 Cor 15:57-58

Comment:

Pastors, men, women, how would you answer her? Has Titus 2:1-5 been abrogated for our day? If so, by whom, and by what authority? If not, then why do we not preach and obey it? Why will not those who claim to be followers of Paul obey the Spirit's instructions given through Paul? Or do we just follow what is convenient? If so, then the reasons given for rejecting the Old Testament law, (Christ did away with the Old Testament Law, or Paul did not reinforce it, so it is no longer in effect) are nothing but lies and hypocrisy. You would think Christ was speaking to pastors like those mentioned above when He said:

6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. 7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with

their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. (Mat. 15.)

Matthew 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

May God see fit to give us pastors who will preach the entire word of God, including what He gave through Paul, and men who, by God's grace, will obey.

Brother Need

Law Cont

MORALITY") of his book, "You've Heard It Said," which is now out of print. He opens the chapter with a quote from Ted Koppel:

What Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai were not the Ten Suggestions. They are commandments. Are, not were. The sheer brilliance of the Ten Commandments is that they codify in a handful of words acceptable human behavior, not just for then or now, but for all time. Language evolves. Power shifts from one nation to another. Messages are transmitted with the speed of light. Man erases one frontier after another. And yet we and our behavior and the commandments governing that behavior

remain the same.

Mr. DeMar goes on to quote Cecil B. de Mille, the director of *The Ten Commandments* (1956, starring Charlston Heston and Yul Brenner). In a very unusual way, de Mille began the movie by coming out on stage and delivering a short but powerful statement on the nature of freedom under the law of God. He said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, young and old. This may seem an unusual procedure, speaking to you before the picture begins, but we have an unusual subject: the birth of freedom. The story of Moses. The theme of this picture is whether men ought to be ruled by God's laws or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator like Rameses. Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today."

The question we want to address is,

"Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God?"

The battle rages today, only the State has gained tremendous power since de Mille offered his question in 1956. The battle is much more heated today than it was then, and it appears that the State is winning by great leaps and bounds because Christians have fled from the battle field.

As I have been trying to do a little study in the

Book of Ezekiel, some things have come to my attention:

First, Judah fell so deeply into sin that she could not recognize God's hand in her calamities. She could not see that those terrible things were sent by God to call her to repentance. So rather than listening to the prophet's call to repent and yield to the yoke of Babylonian servitude, she broke her agreement with the Chaldeans, and looked to pagan Egypt for her protection.

Second, the result of her rebellion was Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem and of Judah. With this destruction, Israel's Old Testament theocracy lost its political existence, and she was driven from her own land to bear the punishment of her obstinate rebellion against the Lord her God.

Third, God's movement against His people was not His rejection of the covenant. Rather, it was merely a suspension of the covenant, and He will still carry out His plan for mankind's redemption through the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Fourth, the covenant people never again recovered their independence, other than for a short time under the Maccabees. (The lawless group now in Israel cannot be considered God's covenant people, nor do they have the Old Testament claim to that land. Judaism today is no more than man's apostate religion.)

Fifth, though the nation never regained its independence and remained dispersed among the heathen, the covenant promise was still good, and was renewed in Christ, which was God's intent from the beginning.

Though Ezekiel spoke to God's people who were in captivity, the message reaches all the way forward to Christ and the Gospel Church. Through Ezekiel, God promises to "deliver his church at his appointed time and also destroy their enemies, who either afflicted them, or rejoiced in their miseries."

Ezekiel was a contemporary with Jeremiah and Daniel, with Jeremiah 54 years previous and con-

tinuing 6 or 7 years after Ezekiel. Daniel's godliness is referred to in Ezekiel, 14:14, 16, 28:3. Ezekiel does not speak against Babylon. **His efforts were not to get the government to reform**, but to get the captive people to reform and return to the law of the Lord, a very unwelcome message. Ezekiel's message moved the people to violence against him.

This is a very real message for our day — reformation of the government is not the answer. Reformation of God's people is the only answer.

We know pastors who were excited that the Republicans had been elected, and Bush would now be able to obtain his goals. But we have seen that a Republican Congress is **not the answer**, other than



bringing in more socialism and more loss of freedom. (Bush is pushing to legalize all of the hundreds of thousands of illegal Mexican aliens now in the U.S, without giving them citizenship. *The Washington Times*, Nov. 23, 02. <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20021123-42336600.htm>)

“Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God?”

Notice that rather than enforce current immigration laws, such as stopping illegal emigrants, Bush & Co., is pushing for more protection for big business and tighter and tighter controls on American citizens. In fact, Bush & Co. is prosecuting those Americans who are trying to stop illegal emigrants. See “The Federal Government Has Met The Enemy And They Are – The Tombstone Militia” http://www.vdare.com/francis/border_war.htm

Congress recently passed a **major Bush agenda bill** which will finance **gathering total** information about everyone—it was called the “Homeland Security” bill. The continued supposed threat of terrorism has given the ungodly an abundance of ammunition to press for and justify removing what little freedoms we have left in this nation.

From what I understand, the president initially pressed for a 35 page “Homeland Security” bill, but it grew to almost 900 pages. There were many things added to the bill after the House passed it. The House warned the Senate that if the Senate took anything out, it would have to come back to the House, and the House would not get it done before the end of this session of congress.

I have heard people, even pastors, praise G. W. Bush as **bringing in the millennium**, but we see here that he has passed probably the most massive government intrusion bill in history. He is clearly a wolf in sheep’s clothing, and the blinded and ignorant Christian right is supporting him all the way to their own destruction. (Though Bush is attacking the rights of American citizens, *World* magazine has yet to criticize him.)

The bill grew to encompass more things than we care to think about. Not only did it urge and finance the development of high tech equipment to collect total information on absolutely every person in the US, it contained a **vaccine injury indemnity** clause which shields drug companies from legal action for their vaccines that might cause illnesses (complete articles below are available from *TBE* upon request):

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Essay On Vaccine Injury, Homeland Security, and Culpability

by Leonard G. Horowitz, D.M.D., M.A., M.P.H.
If you are still processing shock in the wake of the

virtually unanimous passage of the Bush administration’s Homeland Security Bill with its “license to kill” from vaccine injuries without liabilities, you have likely yourself to blame most.

I don’t relish blaming victims, for we have all been victimized by this legislation. But for more than six years, since the publication of *Emerging Viruses*:



AIDS & Ebola—Nature, Accident or Intentional? (Tetrahedron Press, 1996) my colleagues and I tried to alert you to the increasing attacks on health freedoms and human rights directed by special interest groups representing the multi-national military–medical/pharmaceutical–petrochemical cartel. We provided proof of their power over most elected officials, and the mainstream media, but you thought we were delusional. ...

Another:

Whose side are you on, Mr. President?

By HELEN THOMAS (Houston Chronicle, Jan. 2, 2003, 8:02PM)

THE Bush administration has it in for trial lawyers and is planning a big push for “tort reform.”

The public should be wary of this new attempt to curtail consumer protection. And I hope Congress will slam the brakes on this White House maneuver to trample on the rights of citizens who seek recourse from doctors for malpractice and from big corporations for defective products.

The administration has co-opted the word “reform” to roll back progress and promote its goals of weakening government restraints in a variety of areas.

It’s noteworthy that the administration has never pursued the corporate chieftains whose greed stunned the nation last year with the same energy that it goes after lawyers who are fighting for the consumer. ...

Medical doctors are especially happy over the elevation of Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., a surgeon, to Senate Republican leader. Frist has championed capping malpractice awards. After he was elected to lead his fellow GOP senators, Frist was praised by Donald Palmisano, president-elect of the American Medical Association. ...

Frist also is the author of a provision in the Homeland Security bill providing liability relief to the makers of Thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative that recently has been added to various childhood vaccines. The provision is applicable even to pending cases and is expected to result in the dismissal of numerous ongoing cases alleging that Thimerosal has caused autism in children. ...

When Bush was governor of Texas, he led a crusade to make the state’s legal system less helpful to consumers. He pushed through legislation that capped punitive damages, limited class actions to federal courts and made it easier for judges to impose sanctions on plaintiffs who filed so-called “frivolous” lawsuits.

Let’s have more of that “frivolity.” That is actually a misnomer because some of those lawsuits led to dramatic safety improvements, forced on corporations through jury verdicts. Nothing gets their attention like writing a big check to an injured customer. ... [Example, ed.]

* Eli Lilly was selling an arthritis pain-relief drug whose side effects included a fatal kidney-liver ailment. It took a \$6 million jury verdict against the drug company to persuade it to stop selling the medicine. ...

(This article is at <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/story.hts/editorial/1722302>)

The few freedoms we had left in the US are quickly being confiscated, all in the name of stopping terrorist activity, while a majority of Christians give him a *free pass*.

Pentagon confirms ‘snooping’ system

By Bill Gertz

THE WASHINGTON TIMES, 11/21/02.

The Pentagon yesterday confirmed that a high-tech data-collection system that will monitor credit-card transactions and airline ticket purchases, described by critics as “a supersnoop’s dream,” is being created to thwart terrorist attacks.

Edward C. “Pete” Aldridge, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and a retired Navy admiral, said the program, Total Information Awareness (TIA), is an “experimental prototype” that will attempt to search “vast quantities of data to determine links and patterns indicative of terrorist activities.”

Critics have charged that the program will give the Defense Department the power to conduct research into the personal habits of Americans. (**Does not this violate the “Posse Comitatus” act forbidding using the US military against Americans? Ed.**)

The program is being developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which is headed by retired Adm. John Poindexter, the national security adviser during the Reagan administration who was convicted of lying to Congress in the Iran-Contra scandal. The convictions were overturned on appeal. (Total knowledge about everyone has been a dream of Poindexter for years. *Ed.*)

“DARPA’s purpose is to demonstrate the feasibility of this technology,” Adm. Aldridge said. “If it proves useful, [TIA] will then be turned over to the intelligence, counterintelligence and law-enforcement communities as a tool to help them in their battle against domestic terrorism.” ... (**Note that “domestic terrorism” has a very open ended definition—who defines “terrorist”? “Right wing” Christians who are not “Politically Correct”, as well as the “Patriot” movement have been defined as “terrorist”. Anyone who is not “PC” can and probably will be defined as a “terrorist”. Ed.**) ...

Another:

Christian Science Monitor, 12/3/02 - <http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/1203/p01s01-usgn.html>

Why the Pentagon will watch where you shop

New Total Information Awareness project will sniff company databases for terrorists.

By Faye Bowers and Peter Grier | Staff writers of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON - Should Uncle Sam know as much about you as MasterCard does?

In essence, that may be the key question posed by the Pentagon's new Total Information Awareness (TIA) project.

This effort - whose Latin motto translates as "knowledge is power" - aims to create huge databases that sift through the purchases, travel, immigration status, income, and other data of hundreds of millions of Americans. Its purpose: to sniff out the terrorists among us.

Credit-card companies already carry out such paper profiling as an antifraud device, ...

But the recent theft of thousands of identities from commercial databases points out what can happen when such data falls into the wrong hands, say critics. And the federal government is not American Express. It has far greater power, and citizens thus need to assiduously protect their privacy from its snooping.

"Data files that become available [to the government] are likely to be used beyond their initial purpose, and we need to guard against that somehow," says Robert Pfaltzgraff, professor of international security at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Mass. ...

"There are three parts to the TIA project," says Edward Aldridge, undersecretary of Defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics. ...

The second part is to develop a tool that would discover connections between transactions, such as passports, airline tickets, rental cars, gun or chemical purchases, as well as arrests and **other suspicious activities**. ... (Who defines "suspicious", *ed.*)

"If [the testing] proves useful," Mr. Aldridge says, "TIA will then be turned over to the intelligence, counterintelligence, and law enforcement communities as a tool to help them in their battle against domestic terrorism." ...

The government should be able to have this technology up and running within a year, McKnight says. Some of the more advanced - like voice recognition and face recognition - may take longer. ...

Germany is one country that has long experience with this. In the 1970s, its federal police pulled together databases from private and public records. From crosschecking data, they were able to determine where terrorists belonging to the Red Brigades Faction lived, and even the places they frequently visited. (Define "terrorists", *ed.*)

Another:

Big Brother Is Back

By John Barry, Newsweek

... Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld brusquely waved off the criticism [of Poindexter leadership of the Pentagon's efforts to collect total data on every American citizen, *ed.*]. "I would recommend people take a nice deep breath," he said. "Nothing terrible is going to happen." But on Capitol Hill, Democrats and some Republicans—including retiring House Majority Leader Dick Armey—are concerned that the project is part of a wider White House strategy to erode civil liberties in pursuit of

security. (A court recently granted the government expanded surveillance powers.) They are especially irritated that they knew nothing about the \$10 million experiment, since the Pentagon quietly buried it under "technology development" in the Defense bill. Now they're demanding greater scrutiny. Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein says she wants to freeze the program's funding until Congress can hold hearings. Poindexter may not be able to ignore the rumblings. "He forgot the question you always ask," says one Pentagon official. "How would this look on the front page tomorrow?" <<http://www.msnbc.com/news/839248.asp>> (November 25, 2002)

And another:

In Terror War, 2nd Track for Suspects Those Designated 'Combatants' Lose Legal Protections

By Charles Lane, Washington Post Staff Writer, 12/1/02, Page A01

The Bush administration is developing a parallel legal system in which terrorism suspects — U.S. citizens and noncitizens alike — may be investigated, jailed, interrogated, tried and punished without legal protections guaranteed by the ordinary system, lawyers inside and outside the government say.

The elements of this new system are already familiar from President Bush's orders and his aides' policy statements and legal briefs: indefinite military detention for those designated "enemy combatants," liberal use of "material witness" warrants, counterintelligence-style wiretaps and searches (searches of private homes without a warrant, *ed.*) led by law enforcement officials and, for noncitizens, trial by military commissions or deportation after strictly closed hearings.

Only now, however, is it becoming clear how these elements could ultimately interact.

For example, under authority it already has or is asserting in court cases, the administration, with approval of the special Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, could order a clandestine search of a U.S. citizen's home and, based on the information gathered, secretly declare the citizen an enemy combatant, to be held indefinitely at a U.S. military base. Courts would have very limited authority to second-guess the detention, to the extent that they were aware of it. ...

(www.washingtonpost.com <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A58308-2002Nov30.html>> I will send the complete article upon request. It is quite lengthy. Obviously, I cannot post the article, and the *Post* only allows an article to be freely copied for 14 days after its publication. See IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN HERE at the end of this article.)

The implications of the above are not hard to imagine. Among other things, the State has been looking for ways to go after the "Patriot" movement for several years; now they have the *support* of the American people. Bush claims the authority of the people, saying that if the people do not like his actions, then

they can vote him out of office, but because they have voted him in, he has their authority to do these things. Will it not be just a matter of time until anyone with a gun and who is not "PC" will be **secretly declared an enemy combatant**, and held indefinitely at a U.S. military base. The "Posse Comitatus" act is dead, killed by Bush & Co. Clinton sold the nation's security to China for campaign contributions, but Bush has sold individual Americans for what seems to be a love for power. Bush, it seems, is far more dangerous than Clinton ever was.

However, we can blame Bush & Co. and others who are intent on enslaving every American all we want, but those of us who know our Bibles know better. The ACLU, and other groups, have worked hard to remove Christianity from society, and their efforts would have been ineffective if Christians had not stood by, and let Christianity be removed while waiting for the *rapture*. (80% of Americans claim to be Christian.) Darby, with his dispensational rapture teaching, taught it was sin for a Christian who loved God to be involved in any "secular" activity, except maybe as a doctor or a dentist. Though most of the developers of the millennial system were lawyers, they considered the bar and the military totally unlawful for a Christian, as was any kind of political involvement. They even considered it a mark of a lack of spirituality to read a newspaper. (*Death of the Church Victorious*, pp. 331, 332.) With the removal of Christianity with the Christian's permission, the very freedom the ACLU thought it was trying to protect, *i.e.*, personal freedom, has been destroyed.

"Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God?"

Sad to say, men, even many Christians, would **rather be the property** of the State than **free souls** under God, because to be free souls under God, man must submit to and obey God's laws, *i.e.*, the Ten Commandments.

Clearly, the reason all our freedoms are being removed is because America has rejected the only source of freedom, the Law-Word of God.

I believe that it is very significant that just before the "Homeland Security" bill passed, Alabama was told to remove the Ten Commandments:

Alabama told to remove Ten Commandments

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) --A Ten Commandments monument in the rotunda of Alabama's judicial building violates the constitution's ban on government promotion of religion, a federal judge ruled Monday.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson gave Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who had had the 5,300-pound granite monument installed in the state building, 30 days to remove it.



Moore testified during the trial that the commandments are the moral foundation of American law. He said the monument acknowledges God, but does not force anyone to follow his conservative Christian religious beliefs.

A lawsuit seeking removal of the monument argued that it promoted the judge's faith in violation of the constitution's ban on government establishment of religion.

"This is a question of whether the politically powerful can impose their views on others," Southern Poverty Law Center attorney Danielle Lipow argued during the trial before Thompson.

Moore testified he decided to locate a monument to the Ten Commandments in the building shortly after he was elected chief justice in November 2000.

The monument, which features the King James Bible version of the Ten Commandments sitting on top of a granite block, is one of the first things visitors see upon entering the building.

Monday, November 18, 2002 Posted: 11:19 PM EST (0419 GMT)

How many Christians have been told to remove the Ten Commandments by their spiritual leaders – "we are under grace, not under law"?

The Law and Sovereignty

There were two interesting paragraphs in the article, **Commandments and Court, Justice May Be Asked to Resolve Debate Over Monuments:**

Even though Moore's monument contains quotes from historical figures and documents, Thompson's ruling found it to be a clearly religious display, said University of Alabama constitutional law professor Bryan Fair.

"The chief justice is not trying to assert that the Ten Commandments are one of multitude sources of law. He's trying to assert the sovereignty of God over all, particularly the Judeo-Christian God," Fair said. (*The Washington Post*, A6. AP, 10/24/02.)

Comment – the Author of the Ten Commandments is not the god of the Jews, for the Giver of the Law at the Mount can only be identified with and as the Lord Jesus Christ, a fact denied by Jews. The purpose of the Commandments is not only to show men how to live, and show them the holiness of God, but to bring men to Christ, Galatians. 3:24. Thus, Jews since Christ worship another god; they do not worship the Christian God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Just a thought—the UN created a "homeland" where people could follow the Jewish religion. Too bad the UN will not create a homeland where Christians can follow the Christian religion, which might be a good thing. See Endnote #1.)

Sovereign—1. Above or superior to all others; chief; greatest; supreme. 2. Supreme in power, rank, or authority. 3. Of or holding the position of ruler; royal; reigning. 4. Independent of all others [a sovereign state] (*Webster's New World Dictionary*.)

Sovereign is a word the State desires to claim for itself, the *sovereign State*. The secular State claims

to be the only authority to make laws. The Commandments are laws set down by the Sovereign God, who is the only *lawgiver*. (Isa. 33:22, James 4:12.) Thus, the more secular the State (and man) becomes, the more it despises any prospect of a sovereign outside of itself. And hence the war waged by fallen man, particularly the government school system who wants to be the only law for those placed within its walls,

against any display of the Ten Commandments. The display of the Commandments represents the *sovereignty of God over all*. The Commandments displayed among many other law-sources, e.g., Koran, can be tolerated because then the display only speaks of one God among many gods, violating the very first Command-

ment. (Let me also mention that any depiction of "Jesus" [as is so common today] is a clear violation of the Second Commandment against making any likeness of God, for Christ is the *Everlasting Father*; He is "God with us". Isa. 9:6, Mat. 1:23. We went to a "Christmas Pageant", and the final scene had "Jesus" walking down the center aisle waiting for the rapture. Such a depiction was a clear violation of the Second Commandment.)

Fallen man wants to be his own sovereign, and the State wants to be sovereign. There is a continuing battle between the two who desire to be sovereign. Whatever disagreement the two, the secular State and the secular man, might have, they can agree on one thing—that is, the Christian God cannot be sovereign. He cannot be the one and only lawmaker Who holds everyone else accountable.

Sovereignty—this issue gives an insight into the reason the courts (and the government school system) are so hostile to the Commandments — the courts believe they are the last word concerning law. But the Commandments, when seen as coming from the Sovereign God, tell the courts and national governments that they are secondary to the laws already made. Fallen man does not like the idea that he is not in control of his own destiny. (We find it strange that Muslim countries have no problem admitting that they are governed by a law higher than themselves, the Koran, yet Americans, a "Christian" country will deny that they are governed by a law higher than themselves, the Commandments.)

Christ Himself said,

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32.)

The opposite of freedom is bondage, so rejection of the truth *shall make you bondmen*.

Truth about what? Truth about what is going on in society? Truth about political issues? Truth about

the rapture, the antichrist, &c.? I have been around the "Patriot" movement some, and their theme is that knowing the truth about government conspiracy is what will set you free—Buy their books, and you will be set free (of your money, I will add).

But we must let God define *truth*:

Truth

Used in various senses in Scripture.

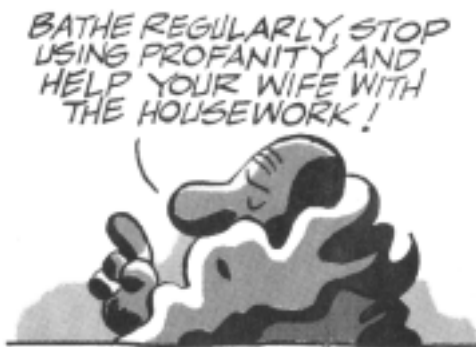
1. In Pr 12:17,19 it denotes that which is opposed to falsehood.
2. In Isa 59:14,15 Jer 7:28 it means fidelity or truthfulness.
3. The **doctrine of Christ is called "the truth of the gospel"** Ga 2:5 "the truth" 2Ti 3:7 4:4
4. Our Lord says of himself, "**I am the way, and the truth**" Joh 14:6 (Online Bible.)
Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 17:17.)

We are set aside as God's free men by the **truth**.

145 ¶ *KOPH. I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.* 146 *I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.* 147 ¶ *I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.* 148 *Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.* 149 ¶ *Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.* 150 ¶ *They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law.* 151 *Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.* 152 ¶ *Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.* (Ps. 119)

Thus, we are told that **all** of God's **commandments are truth**:

19 ¶ *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.* 21 *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.* 22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.* 23 *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he*



beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 **But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.** 26 *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.* 27 *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To*

visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1.)

Biblical liberty and freedom is the liberty and freedom from the power of sin so we can do what is required of us by the Lord God.

As Mr. de Mille said:

The theme of this picture is whether men ought to be ruled by God's laws or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator like Rameses. Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today.

The choice is man's. As a society departs from the commandments of God, the State increases its power over its citizens. (1 Sam. 8.) If man refuses to be self-controlled, he will be controlled by an oppressive state.

MAN WILL BE A SLAVE EITHER TO HIS FALLEN PASSIONS AND THE STATE OR HE WILL BE A SLAVE TO GOD!!

Until we see a return to the truth of the word of God, particularly the **Commandments**, the truth of the gospel and genuine, Biblical faith in Christ, we will continue to see increased bondage to an out of control, all powerful, all knowing State. It is part of God's unchanging law of sowing and reaping.

2 Timothy 3:7 *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* 4:4 *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

We live in an information age, with cable news and the internet giving more information than can possibly be absorbed by anyone. People have more information at their disposal than ever in history. Yet people are *ever learning* about various things, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth as defined by God. The primary reason is that they do not want the *truth*, that is, the Word of God.

Rushdoony points out that the purpose of man's existence is that man should exercise dominion over the earth in terms of God's calling upon himself. The purpose of freedom is that man exercise dominion and subdue the earth under God. (*Institutes*, I. 485.) If he cannot use his freedom for its true purpose, godly dominion, then it is only a matter of time before he loses his freedom.

If men, particularly the State, are free to steal property, then there is no freedom for private ownership. As property rights decrease and taxes increase, the godly freedom of private ownership is lost.

If men, particularly the State, have unrestricted freedom of speech, including publishing, then true freedom of speech is lost, for there will be no freedom for the truth. Unrestrained freedom of speech means there is no standard of truth, and lies can be used against any and every one, as is far too common today.

The world sees freedom and liberty as freedom and liberty from God and His word:

1 *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.* (Ps. 2.)

But as man frees himself from the bands and cords of God's laws, he is simply bringing himself into terrible bondage to self, strengthening an all-powerful State.

The theme of this picture is whether men ought to be ruled by God's laws or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator like Rameses. Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today.

The question is, WHO WILL WE BE A SLAVE TO – OUR PASSIONS, WHICH WILL LEAD TO SLAVERY TO THE STATE, OR TO GOD, which is individual freedom.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32.)

It does not say the pastor will know the truth, and you will be free. It says that those who know **and do the truth** will be made free – free from fear, free from the dominion and power of sin, free from the binding lusts of the flesh.

18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.* (Lk. 4.)

Joshua 24:15 ¶ *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD,*

choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today.

I set a choice before you all today

We can either be a slave to the Lord God or a slave to self and to the state. Christian men become slaves to the state by default when they anxiously await the rapture and refuse to think and act in

Biblical terms. Freedom will only start when the church says, believes and lives like the Ten Commandments are binding upon God's people (and upon the world in general) as much today as they were the day they were given.

Note #1.

According to Schaff (*History of the Christian Church*, Vol. VIII, pp 489-493), Calvin had no qualms of putting those to death who disagreed with him or who he felt violated Scripture, including beheading a girl for striking her parents. Quoting Schaff: § 107. THE EXERCISE OF DISCIPLINE IN GENEVA.

Calvin succeeded after a fierce struggle in infusing the Church of Geneva with his views on discipline. The Consistory and the Council rivalled with each other, under his inspiration, in puritanic zeal for the correction of immorality; but their zeal sometimes transgressed the dictates of wisdom and moderation. The union of Church and State rests on the false assumption that all citizens are members of the Church and subject to discipline.

Dancing, gambling, drunkenness, the frequentation of taverns, profanity, luxury, excesses at public entertainments, extravagance and immodesty in dress, licentious or irreligious songs were forbidden, and punished by censure or fine or imprisonment. Even the number of dishes at meals was regulated. Drunkards were fined three *sols* for each offence. Habitual gamblers were exposed in the pillory with cords around their neck. Reading of bad books and immoral novels was also prohibited, and the popular "Amadis de Gaul" was ordered to be destroyed (1559). A morality play on "the Acts of the Apostles," after it had been performed several times, and been attended even by the Council, was forbidden. Parents were warned against naming their children after Roman Catholic saints who nourished certain superstitions; instead of them the names of Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Zechariah, Jeremiah, Nehemiah became common. (This preference for Old Testament names was carried even further by the Puritans of England and New England.) The death penalty against heresy, idolatry, and blasphemy, and the barbarous custom of the torture were retained. Adultery, after a second offence, was likewise punished by death. These were prohibitive and protective laws intended to prevent and punish irreligion and immorality.

But the Council introduced also coercive laws, which are contrary to the nature of religion, and apt to breed hypocrisy or infidelity. Attendance on public worship was commanded on penalty of three *sols*. When a refugee from Lyons once gratefully exclaimed, "How glorious is the liberty we enjoy here," a woman bitterly replied: "Free indeed we formerly were to attend mass, but now we are compelled to hear a sermon." Watchmen were appointed to see that people went to church. The members of the Consistory visited every house once a year to examine into the faith and morals of the family. Every unseemly word and act on the street was reported, and the offenders were cited before the Consistory to be either censured and warned, or to be handed over to the Council for severer punishment. No respect was paid to person, rank,



or sex. The strictest impartiality was maintained, and members of the oldest and most distinguished families, ladies as well as gentlemen, were treated with the same severity as poor and obscure people.

Let us give a summary of the most striking cases of discipline. Several women, among them the wife of Ami Perrin, the captain-general, were imprisoned for dancing (which was usually connected with excesses). Bonivard, the hero of political liberty, and a friend of Calvin, was cited before the Consistory because he had played at dice with Clement Marot, the poet, for a quart of wine. A man was banished from the city for three months because, on hearing an ass bray, he said jestingly: "He prays a beautiful psalm." A young man was punished because he gave his bride a book on house-keeping with the remark: "This is the best Psalter." A lady of Ferrara was expelled from the city for expressing sympathy with the Libertines, and abusing Calvin and the Consistory. Three men who had laughed during the sermon were imprisoned for three days. Another had to do public penance for neglecting to commune on Whitsunday. Three children were punished because they remained outside of the church during the sermon to eat cakes. A man who swore by the "body and blood of Christ" was fined and condemned to stand for an hour in the pillory on the public square. A child was whipped for calling his mother a thief and a shedevil (*diabless*). A girl was beheaded for striking her parents, to vindicate the dignity of the fifth commandment.

A banker was executed for repeated adultery, but he died penitent and praised God for the triumph of justice. A person named Chapuis was imprisoned for four days because he persisted in calling his child Claude (a Roman Catholic saint) instead of Abraham, as the minister wished, and saying that he would sooner keep his son unbaptized for fifteen years. Bolsec, Gentilis, and Castellio were expelled from the Republic for heretical opinions. Men and women were burnt for witchcraft. Gruet was beheaded for sedition and atheism. Servetus was burnt for heresy and blasphemy. The last is the most flagrant case which, more than all others combined, has exposed the name of Calvin to abuse and execration; but it should be remembered that he wished to substitute the milder punishment of the sword for the stake, and in this point at least he was in advance of the public opinion and usual practice of his age.

The official acts of the Council from 1541 to 1559 exhibit a dark chapter of censures, fines, imprisonments, and executions. During the ravages of the pestilence in 1545 more than twenty men and women were burnt alive for witchcraft, and a wicked conspiracy to spread the horrible disease. From 1542 to 1546 fifty-eight judgments of death and seventy-six decrees of banishments were passed. During the years 1558 and 1559 the cases of various punishments for all sorts of offences amounted to four hundred and fourteen—a very large proportion for a population of 20,000. ...

(For further instances of intolerance, see § 139. PROTESTANT INTOLERANCE. JUDGMENTS OF THE REFORMERS ON SERVETUS.

Note #2.

President Bush:

"For half a century, this beautiful mosque has

served as a place of worship for Muslims and has helped to advance understanding between people of different faiths. Millions of our fellow Americans practice the Muslim faith. They lead lives of honesty and justice and compassion.

I am pleased to join you today in the celebration of Eid, the culmination of the Holy Month of Ramadan. I appreciate so very much Dr. Khouj, and I want to thank the other distinguished imam from the Washington, D.C. area. Thank you all for being here. And I enjoyed our visit. I also appreciate the Muslim schoolchildren who are here, telling me stories and reading poems and showing the art work. Please tell them thanks again for their hospitality.

Islam traces its origins back to God's call on Abraham. And Ramadan commemorates the revelation of God's word in the Holy Koran to the prophet Mohammad — a word that is read and recited with special attention and reverence by Muslims during this season."

The above statement can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/12/20021205-5.html>

Thus Bush exalts the wicked Koran to the level of the Holy Word of the Christian God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. When will the Christian media, pastors and Christians in general repent for exalting Bush as a godly man? As are so many seemingly good men today, he is a wolf in sheep's clothing, and Christians seem to be blind to the evil he has done and is doing.

1 Samuel 2:25 *If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the*



voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them. (See also Josh. 11:20, 2 Chron. 25:16, Jn. 12:40.)

Though I certainly pray that I am wrong, it sure seems that God has blinded even good men to the truth of what is going on *because the Lord would slay them*. Has He blinded Americans so He can judge and destroy this once Christian (not Judeo-Christian) nation?

Note #3.

SMALLPOX VACCINE RESULTS ARE IN From <http://www.stratiawire.com/article.asp?id=750> (12/9/02)

The first returns are in on the smallpox vaccine. A recent multi-center US government clinical trial on 200 "young adults" has been completed.

MSNBC reports. The volunteers who got the shot

were VERY healthy to begin with. One researcher, Kathy Edwards, called them the "crème de la crème."

Okay? So get this. "Yet when she [Edwards] inoculated them with smallpox vaccine, arms swelled, temperatures spiked and panic spread [at Baylor University]. It was the same at clinics in Iowa, Tennessee, and California."

Stats: After the shot, one-third of the volunteers missed at least a day of work or school. 75 out of 200 experienced high fever. "Several were put on antibiotics because physicians worried that their blisters signaled a bacterial infection."

Wow.

And look, smallpox is a VIRUS, and antibiotics DON'T WORK against viruses. So, in essence, the researchers were inferring that the vaccine SUPPRESSED THE IMMUNE SYSTEMS of the volunteers—thus allowing bacterial infections to bloom suddenly—OR the vaccine was contaminated with bacteria to begin with.

Researcher Edwards, who headed up the study, said, "I can read all day about it [the adverse effects of the vaccine], but seeing it is quite impressive. The reactions we saw were really quite remarkable."

When a researcher makes a comment like this, you know some very bad things are happening.

AND THIS WAS A POPULATION OF EXTREMELY HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS. YOUNG ADULTS WHO SHOULD BE AT THE VERY PEAK OF LIFE, WITH THEIR IMMUNE DEFENSES FULLY INTACT.

Of course, this story didn't get much play in the press. But the handwriting is on the wall. Anyone can see what'll happen if they start shooting up people by the millions with the vaccine. For example, people who don't qualify as severely immune suppressed by any obvious assessment, but still do, in fact, have reduced immune capacity—AND THAT IS A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE.—these folks will be AT GREAT RISK from the vaccine.

This government study is KEY. Because later on, they will try to cover up the devastating effects of the vaccine. They will lie, distort, omit. But right now, here it is. Out in the open. The results, for all to see.

Let me tell you something. The CDC WANTED to release the results of this study. They wanted to go on the record now, before the stuff really hits the fan. They are very frightened of being nailed for killing people with the vaccine.

Remember, thanks to Bush & Co's Homeland Security Bill, the drug companies now have *vaccine injury indemnity*, shielding the companies from legal action resulting from faulty vaccines. They now have a "license to kill" with faulty vaccines.

Regardless of what "they" say, they can not force you to take this, or any other, shot!! As for me and mine, "they" will have to take my shot before I take theirs!!!

Note #4.

**IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN HERE!
Don't we wish :(**

Read it and weep for what was our great nation. Osama won.

Photographer Arrested For Taking Pics Near Cheney Hotel

2600 News, 12-5-2

An amateur photographer named Mike Maginnis was arrested on Tuesday in his home city of Denver - for simply taking pictures of buildings in an area where Vice President Cheney was residing.

Maginnis told his story on Wednesday's edition of Off The Hook. Maginnis's morning commute took him past the Adams Mark Hotel on Court Place. Maginnis, who says he always carried his camera wherever he went, snapped about 30 pictures of the hotel and the surrounding area - which included Denver police, Army rangers, and rooftop snipers. Maginnis, who works in information technology, frequently photographs such subjects as corporate buildings and communications equipment.

The following is Maginnis's account of what transpired: As he was putting his camera away, Maginnis found himself confronted by a Denver police officer who demanded that he hand over his film and camera. When he refused to give up his Nikon F2, the officer pushed him to the ground and arrested him. After being brought to the District 1 police station on Decatur Street, Maginnis was made to wait alone in an interrogation room. Two hours later, a Secret Service agent arrived, who identified himself as Special Agent "Willse." The agent told Maginnis that his "suspicious activities" made him a threat to national security, and that he would be charged as a terrorist under the USA-PATRIOT act.

The Secret Service agent tried to make Maginnis admit that he was taking the photographs to analyze weaknesses in the Vice President's security entourage and "cause terror and mayhem." When Maginnis refused to admit to being any sort of terrorist, the Secret Service agent called him a "raghead collaborator" and a "dirty pinko faggot."

After approximately an hour of interrogation, Maginnis was allowed to make a telephone call. Rather than contacting a lawyer, he called the Denver Post and asked for the news desk. This was immediately overheard by the desk sergeant, who hung up the phone and placed Maginnis in a holding cell. Three hours later, Maginnis was finally released, but with no explanation. He received no copy of an arrest report, and no receipt for his confiscated possessions. He was told that he would probably not get his camera back, as it was being held as evidence. Maginnis's lawyer contacted the Denver Police Department for an explanation of the day's events, but the police denied ever having Maginnis - or anyone matching his description - in custody.

At press time, the Denver PD's Press Information Office did not return telephone messages left by 2600. The new police powers introduced by the USA-PATRIOT act, in the name of fighting terrorism, have been frightening in their apparent potential for abuse. Mike Maginnis's experience on Tuesday is a poignant example of how this abuse is beginning to occur. It suggests that a wide range of activities which might be considered "suspicious" could be suddenly labeled a prelude to terrorism, and be grounds for arrest. We will continue to post updates to this story as we learn them.

<http://www.2600.com/news/display/display.shtml?id=1441>

Bro Need

REMEMBER, "Calvinism" was developed to answer "Arminianism" 50 years after Calvin. I am reformed: 1) CHRIST ALONE, 2) FAITH ALONE, 3) GRACE ALONE, 4) SCRIPTURE ALONE. See TBE, Summer, 02. Bro. Need

Review, cont.

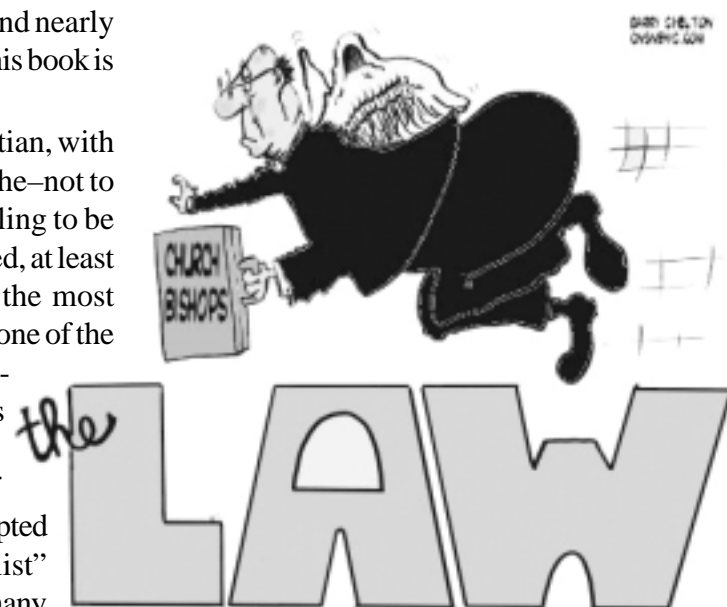
read, then this book has to be *the* book for you—especially if you think you are totally and irretrievably committed to dispensationalism, sincerely believing forever and ever that dispensational theology is "simply what the Bible teaches" (This reviewer has Christian friends who believe just that!) And if any of the rest of you non-dispensationalist brothers have ever wondered how dispensationalist "other-worldliness" gained its foothold in the Church—virtually taking over significant parts of the Body of Christ—(and nearly destroying it, if that were possible)—then this book is definitely for you as well!

Let's assume you are a thinking Christian, with such a wide streak of daring in your psyche—not to mention mere curiosity—that you are willing to be exposed to perhaps what will be recognized, at least in some circles, as the most thorough, the most thought-provoking, historical expose' of one of the mightiest heresies and devastating theologies that has ever afflicted Christ's longsuffering Church on earth—nothing less than a spiritual virus infecting the Body of Christ. Indeed, much—(this reviewer is tempted to say—"most")—of today's "fundamentalist" and "evangelical" Churches—yes, and too many "Reformed" churches—have been sickened near unto death by the heresy of pre-tribulation rapture dispensationalism, for "other-worldliness" has captured, not only those who profess to be dispensationalists, but also those who do not. Even among those who deny such a theological affliction, the inroads of the "just-lead-people-to-Jesus-and-forget-society" thinking are everywhere. It inhabits both pulpit and pew. If you are curious about the how's and when's of how such a heresy could get started, how it happened, where it received its beginning, then this is definitely a book for you! Nevertheless, in the interests of full disclosure, please be forewarned: reading this timely volume on the origins of today's "otherworldliness"—an "otherworldliness" which has stripped today's Church of her sense of obligation to obey her LORD's "Great Commission"—("Make all *nations* My disciples" Matt. 28:18-20)—reading Brother Ovid's book will drastically challenge you and lead you to examine any remnants of dispensationalism remaining in your thinking and belief structure, especially the "pretribulation rapture" kind. If when you finish it, you still consider yourself to be a dispensationalist—especially a *pretribulation rapture* dispensationalist—then it must be said in all charity that you probably haven't been paying

attention!

Because, if you are paying attention, there is only one reasonable course of action for you—that of wanting to divest your mind and heart of any remaining vestiges of "other-worldliness" thinking. You will be challenged to prepare yourself for the risk of being forced to change your theology—at the very least to seriously modify it—(perhaps even to the point of becoming classically Reformed!).

So, why all the concern? What can be the possible danger to a dispensationalist in reading Brother Ovid's book, a 473pp. tome some 20 years in the making? How can such a flaming and drastic statement have any possibility of being defensible? Maybe this reviewer is succumbing to the temptation to spin a yarn of irrational promotion? Maybe he's just engaging in mere inflammatory rhetoric, a bad piece of negative propaganda—perchance the product of an overheated word processor gone a little batty?



Well, let's leave that for you to decide. For now, we'll finish with a few quotes and especially the book's conclusion. For a book which packs such a wallop as this one does, it is really a very easy read. It is divided into 107 Chapters, all of them quite short.

Re: The Ben-Ezra System: Receives by far the longest column of references in the index (next to that of J.N. Darby). Origins of dispensational thinking lie with a Jewish convert to Roman Catholicism, a Jesuit priest by the name of Lacunza (1731 to 1801), who assumed the name "Ben-Ezra". His published theology received the same name. Rev. Edward Irving, licensed to preach by the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in 1815, latched on to "Ben-Ezra"; with the later help of J. N. Darby and C.I. Scofield. The "new system" spread far and wide, primarily contributing a devastating blow to the death of victorious thinking in the Church.

Re: Morgan Edwards (1722 to 1795): Yes, premillennialism has been taught from the beginning of Christianity, although a minority view, and Edwards offered a millennial system well before Lacunza and his "Ben-Ezra". Nevertheless, Need contends, it was Lacunza's "Ben-Ezra" as promoted by Irving and his followers—especially Darby and Scofield—which serves as the basis of modern premillennial dispensationalism.

Re: Plymouth Brethren: Lacunza's influence can be easily traced to the Brethren's *Scofield Reference Bible*, through which his system became accepted as orthodoxy.

Just one more reference, and we'll leave you to plumb the rest of the fascinating depths of Need's more than 20 years of research—this from the end of the Conclusion:

Conclusion: "The result of the new, unique system of Christian thought was the deliverance of society to the spirit of antichrist by default. Though Lacunza's millennial system was not new, *the anti-Christian fervor of the world today can be directly traced to him, to Irving, and to the "tiny religious sect" that Darby claimed as his own.* (emphasis the reviewer's).

"Though God's people many times love messages of irresponsible escapism, the task before the people of God is not hopeless. *For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*"

And then, this:

"The preceding document is offered to the reader with the prayer that God will work to give his people the desire to go—and teach all nations—that is, Christianize the nations of the world, and develop the Christian faith into every area of life and thought.

Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (Romans 8:37.)" (all other emphases are the author's)

This reviewer simply says: "Amen! So let it be."

Death of the Church Victorious, 2002; Sovereign Grace Publishers, Lafayette IN. 473 pp., includes three Appendices, a bibliography, and index. Paperback, \$24.99 (available now) and hardback, \$39.99 (not available yet). Minus 30% plus \$3.00 shipping. (Paper, 17.50 + 3=20.50 ea.) It can be ordered from Ovid Need, PO Box 81, Bentonville VA 22610. Or you can order it from **Christian Literature World** (clw.com) also with a 30% discount, plus \$5.00 postage. **PO Box 4908, Lafayette IN 47903** (765-429 4122) It can be ordered through any book store, including Amazon. Note: Amazon supports pedophilia, (See <http://www.afajournal.org/cover/culture_1.asp>) Maybe tell Amazon you would order from them if they did not support pedophilia. The book would make a good gift.

Victory cont.

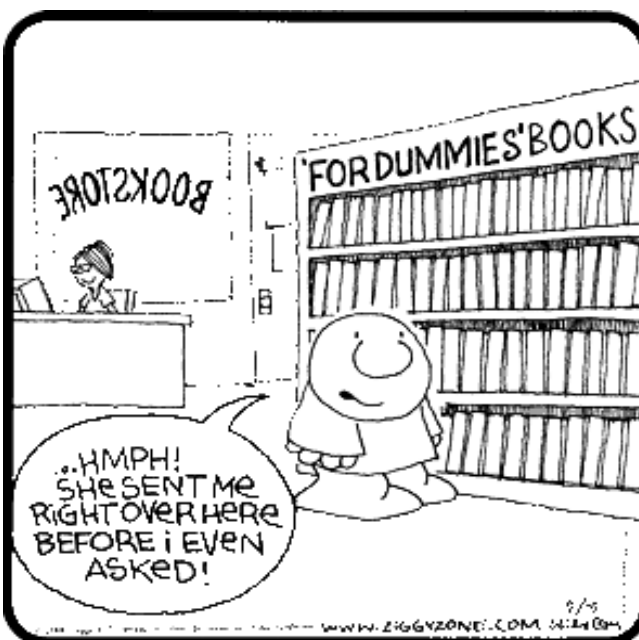
If you can't show it to them in the New Testament, then they won't believe it. (Unfortunately, the New Testament says absolutely nothing against such sins as rape or abortion. If the authority of the Old Testament is rejected, we lose a lot of the moral law, as well as most of the out-of-context proof texts used to prop up the speculative system of futurist Bible prophecy that is favored by dispensationalists today).

Then there are those who see a basic continuity between the Old and New Testaments. They note that Christ said in Matthew 5:17-19 that the Law is still in effect, that Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 10:1-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and elsewhere that the Old Testament is still for today, and that he taught in Romans 13:9, 1 Timothy 1:9-10 and elsewhere that the Ten Commandments are still for today.

Those who see the New Testament as a continu-

ation of the Old, rather than a complete abrogation of the Old, will tend to accept Old Testament Law as being for today, except for such items as animal sacrifices, dietary laws and circumcision, which are specifically abrogated in the New Testament.

The practice of tithing is favorably mentioned at least 3 times in the New Testament; in Matthew 23:23, where Christ appears to approve of the practice; in 1 Corinthians 9:13-14, where Paul says that Christian preachers are to be supported in the same manner as Old Testament priests were (which would mean tithing); and in Hebrews 7:8, where we are told that the resurrected Christ was currently receiving tithes from somewhere, in the decade prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Presumably Christian believers were giving Him tithes at this point in time.



Anti-tithing preachers will explain these verses away, and adamantly insist that tithing is not for today. Some people will make a real issue of this, accusing anyone who believes that tithing is for today of being a heretic. The reason they become so upset and belligerent over this matter is because belief in, and practice of, tithing, threatens their entire belief system, a belief that the church is meant to be a colossal failure in this dispensation.

If people started tithing to their local churches, then those churches might start being successful and having a measurable and positive impact on their communities. This would go against the doctrine of the "Ruin of the Church" as taught by Plymouth Brethren founder John Nelson Darby, and popularized by his various disciples, most notably C. I. Scofield and Hal Lindsey.

One preacher who illustrates the connection between anti-tithing ideology and the dispensationalist conviction that the churches are meant to be a big failure, is the late G.E. Jones (1889-1966) of Morrilton, Arkansas. In 1964 he published a book entitled "Freedom From the Law and Spiritual Growth," which was devoted almost entirely to an attack on belief in tithing.

G.E. Jones was a Landmark Baptist preacher and theologian, who was quite sound in doctrine and practice in many ways. Over the years, I have reprinted a number of excellent articles by Jones, who expressed

Scriptural truths and Baptist convictions in a manner far better than I could hope to do. In many respects, he was a notable defender of the faith.

However, Jones was also a thoroughgoing dispensationalist, who had learned well the lesson that there can be no expectation of victory for the Lord's churches in this age. This conviction on his part comes through loud and clear in his book on tithing.

On page 51 we read, "**The reader may think I am against church buildings. I am not, but I am against preaching tithing to get money for them. I am against elaborate, expensive buildings, and putting a huge debt on the people to build such a house. Not long since a Convention preacher friend of mine told me they had put millions of dollars in fine church buildings and school buildings and hospitals in China, and now the Communists have taken over all those costly buildings. Who knows but that in a short time the Communists or Catholics will take over in this country, and we will lose all our fine buildings, and have to go to worshipping in secret in out of the way places.**"

There are elements of truth here. Jones is correct to warn against pressuring people to go deeply into debt for expensive and possible unnecessary church building programs. He is correct to caution against an unbalanced emphasis on bricks and mortar - among independent Baptists today, there are lavish amounts of money spent to build church buildings, but almost nothing spent on literature to propagate Baptist principles in our communities and around the world. There are some things we can learn from Jones.

But did you notice the strong element of defeatism and despair in Jones' warning that we might as well not invest in church buildings, because the Communists or Catholics are probably going to take over and steal it all anyway? Darby would have been proud at Jones' conviction that organized Christianity lacks the power to overcome the forces of Communism and Catholicism, and is doomed to be a failure. It never entered the mind of Jones that victorious Christian churches, wisely spending the tithe money of God's faithful people, might be used of the Lord to defeat the threat of Communism and Catholicism.

It has been 38 years since Jones warned that we might have to head for the hills as defeated refugees, and in that time, the threat of Communism and Catholicism has receded considerably, even though dispensationalists insist that things are fated to get worse and worse. Now, Islam seems to be shaping up as the main threat in the 21st Century, and no doubt some dispensationalist preachers can be found to explain why we are doomed to be defeated by the Muslims.

Getting back to Jones' book - he is opposed to tithing, because if too many people started tithing, then it would enable us to start planning and building for the future. This would be a violation of Jones' conviction that we have no future to plan and build for, because Jesus is coming soon. Jones wrote, "**We are to preach and build and live, and witness, as though Christ will come for us tomorrow, not as**

though His coming is a long ways off: When churches put hundreds of thousands of dollars into a church building you may be sure they are not looking for Christ to come soon.” (p.51)

He comes back to the same theme on p. 87, attacking those who would dare to try to leave behind any kind of lasting work or legacy for the Lord: “When we spend from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for an expensive church building does that look like that church is expecting Christ to come soon? Several years ago a prominent Convention preacher said that money put in Ouachita College would be doing work for Christ a million years after we are gone. That does not look like that preacher was expecting Christ to come for at least a million years. That is virtually saying, ‘My Lord delayeth his coming,’ Matthew 24:48.”

These words were written in 1964. In the 38 years since that time, other religions have been building for the future, while some dispensationalists have been sitting in the mud, insisting that there is no future, nattering away about the “signs of the times” and proofs that Christ is coming in just a few more years. They devote their energy not to building for the future, but to fighting and attacking other evangelical Christians who are trying to build for the future, and to slashing away at any Scriptural principles that might help us to build for the future, such as the doctrine of tithing.

Tithing is a tool of dominion, and a means by which the Christian can help build a godly legacy that will continue for many generations after his death. All this, of course, is anathema to the true dispensationalist believer who instinctively shrinks in horror at any mention of dominion or victory for the Lord’s Churches in this age, and who insists that we are in the Terminal Generation. To their way of thinking, only a fool would try to leave any form of Christian legacy or lasting impact (whether in the form of a church building, or a transformed society) for the benefit of future generations, because there cannot be any future generations. They have believed that since the 1830’s, when dispensationalism first became popular.

On page 52 of his book, Jones complains against the use of tithe money to support religious colleges that do not teach his dispensational system of failure and doom and gloom. **“Do the text books in these standardized schools ever have a discourse on the Abrahamic covenant, the restoration of Israel, and the 1000 years reign of Christ and His saints? Do they teach that the Devil is the god who rules this present world system? Do they teach that the work and wisdom of this present world is evil, and that it is coming to naught? Do**

they teach that the wisdom of men will finally bring into existence an evil world wide government over which the Devil and the beast will have absolute control? All this they keep out of their text books.”

Jones was offended by the thought that tithe money would get into the hands of schools that ignored Darby’s teaching that there is nothing to be accomplished in this dark age, except to aimlessly loiter around and wait for the Antichrist to take over and make a shambles of the efforts of poor, deluded non-dispensational Christians who thought they could build something for the future. (How Jones reconciled his belief that the Devil runs the show here on earth, with Christ’s statement in Matthew 28:18 that all power had been given to Him in heaven and earth, I do not know).

BARRY SHELTON-CNSNEWS.COM



On page 66 Jones attacks **“those who preach tithing and those who teach that Christ is now reigning on Davids’ throne,”** for their error in believing there can be any victories on behalf of the Lord prior to Christ’s return at the end of the so-called Great Tribulation period. Not until then can the enemies of God be

defeated, according to his dispensationalist system, which is so terribly threatened by those who tithe and who agree with Peter in Acts 2:29-36 that Christ was already seated on David’s throne in the year 33 AD. (Notice that in Jones’ view, belief in tithing and belief in the victory of Christianity in this dispensation are mentioned and denounced in the same breath, as convictions that just naturally go together).

Enough has been quoted here to show that Jones associated belief in tithing with the “heresy” that the churches can be victorious in this age, and that he felt that an anti-tithing position was necessary in order to uphold the traditional dispensationalist dogma that the churches are meant to be a miserable failure in this world, leaving no legacy or lasting achievements.

It is not the purpose of this article to try to manage anyone’s personal finances, or to tell anyone how much money to give to their church. My own personal conviction is that tithing is for today, that the practice of tithing will help the churches to achieve victory and dominion in this dispensation, and that that will be a good thing, even if it goes against the dreary, defeatist dogma of Darby and his dispensationalist disciples. But I have no desire to enforce this conviction on anyone, or to pressure anyone to give more than they can or should.

We have seen that G.E. Jones believed that the doctrine and practice of tithing went hand in hand with belief in the ultimate victory of Christianity in this age, and in the desirability of leaving a Christian im-

pact and legacy for the benefit of future generations.

If you, and your church, agree with Jones that it is wrong for the Lord’s churches to win any victories for Christ before His Second Coming, and that it is wrong to build for the future and leave any continuing, ongoing Christian influences or institutions that may have an impact in the fixture, then you will tend to believe that there is no need to tithe. Your tithe will probably not do much good anyway, if given to a church dedicated to the “Theology of Despair” and the “Ruin of the Church.”

But if you believe that the church is meant to be victorious and to have a beneficial impact on all nations, Matthew 28:19, and if you agree with the teaching of Isaiah 9:6-7 that there would be an unending increase of Christ’s government and peace in the world as a result of His First Advent (He was born as a child the first time, and will not come that way the second time), then you will probably want to put your money where your mouth is, and tithe.

You will also share in the blessings that God promises to those who give generously to His work, Malachi 2:10-11, Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, etc.

If you are interested in a religion for losers, and want to be a part of a team that has already conceded defeat, then G.E. Jones has shown the way. Or if you want to be a winner, part of an enterprise that will give glory to God for as long as the world stands, Ephesians 3:21, then tithing is part of that winning formula. Tithing is a tool of dominion and victory. The only question is, do we want to be victorious for our risen Lord, or do we want to be a bunch of miserable losers?

Impossible cont. and overwhelms the reader. However, this book shows how one woman, a wife and mother, strives to reach this goal through disappointment and strife, but she does eventually become this woman in Proverbs 31, unknowingly.

The book begins with a woman, named Martha, as she reads her Bible and comes across the reference in Proverbs. She is soon consumed with the constant desire to be like the woman she has read about. This book leads you through Martha’s journey toward becoming the Proverbs 31 Lady.

It shows her struggles with every day life, her battles with herself, her disappointments, and her repentance when her conscience is struck with how she behaves and lives. She is constantly practicing self-control. The book also tells of her winning streaks and her blessings in her family as her rewards.

One of my favorite parts in the book is the day of Martha’s birthday. She works in her home throughout the day, thinking everyone (her husband and three sons) has forgotten her special day. Close to the end of the day, when Martha is ready to start supper, she has lost or misplaced the roast she was going to cook!

She looks everywhere for it, and gets frustrated. As she feels her aggravation and anger rising, she immediately flees to her room and pours her heart in prayer to God. When she is on her knees and is about

to pray, something on the bed catches her eye. She sees the new dress her husband had bought for her as a gift of love and appreciation, and which she had not had a chance to wear. On the dress was a note.

Her husband, John, had hidden the roast at the very bottom of the freezer (which Martha did look through, but not at the very bottom!). The kids were going to McDonald's, and John was going to take her to dinner (and of course he asked her to wear her new dress!).

Why is this one of my favorite parts? It is because all through this book, Martha is constantly trying to be like "Her" in Proverbs 31, and she learns how to have a relationship with God. As you read towards the end of the book, God is changing her as she learns to practice patience and becomes better equipped to handle her temper; and God gives her grace for her everyday needs.

Through her birthday celebration, through her family, and through many other occasions, God rewards her with these blessings that keep her going through troubles and triumphs. I imagine she will look back at the end of her life and say, "God's molding and changing, including all the pain and joys that went with it was worth it!"

I would highly recommend this book to women of any age who are willing to consider a Biblical alternative to a fast-track career life. Parents of daughters may also enjoy reading this. It has helped me to come to the conclusion that I don't have to become like the Proverbs 31 Lady over night, which I have been quite worried about. However, this is the time to prepare, and this book has provided hope.

Personal cont.

After several years of great anticipation, the book is finally here. There is a review of it in this issue. I realize the timing is in the hands of our Sovereign Lord, so the timing must be right.

We had the privilege of attending the "National Reform Association" conference last October. Let me urge you who have web access to check out <www.NatReformAssn.org>.

Right after we moved to Linden in 1983, I saw an article in the local paper about wanting to bring county-wide Planning & Zoning (P&Z) into the county. Stirred in my spirit over the attack against this further loss of personal liberty, I made a mass mailing into our county. We were able to gather enough names on a petition to stop the efforts at the time, and generated enough concern to get some good men elected to office. Though the attack by the P&Z crowd was against personal liberty and against property rights (actually theft by placing the property under the control of a local zoning board), the local churches would

not help us in the conflict. Though P&Z was stopped, the attackers did not stop. Using tax payers' money, the attack continued. Two years ago, the thieves gained enough clout by electing commissioners and council members to designate \$35,000 to study P&Z. My concern was that when we moved, no one would pick up the fight against those determined to steal the property values and liberty of their fellow citizens. I was confident that no pastor would lead the charge, and none did. Apparently, they remain in the comfort of their studies.

Typical of politicians who are used to having their own way, for this last election, the P&Z advocates had both a Republican and a Democrat running for the same office on the commissioners. The plan was, no doubt, to leave the people with no choice except the lesser of two evils, both of which were to bleed them to death. (A plan that has worked very well on the national level.)

So, at the last minute, the opponents of P&Z ran a man as an Independent on an anti-P&Z platform, and won the seat with 48% of the vote that was split three ways.

The P&Z opponents also gained the needed seat on the county council to put a stop to the \$95,000 already designated for the next step toward P&Z. Needless to say, there is now a shake up in the county political powers who thought they had everything in their pocket. The pro zoning crowd tucked tail and ran for cover.

Some comments:

First, I have expressed my dismay many times over the fact that pastors will not get involved in areas they can influence, such as when their neighbors are being robbed and defrauded by the local governments through oppressive and confiscatory policies. Evidently, involvement in such areas is not part of their Christianity, so they walk on the other side of the street where they don't have to see the man who is bleeding in the ditch from being beaten by the local government. Churches, pastors and the people are getting what they deserve as they refuse to get involved in the political and social events around them.

Second, one person can have an influence. One voice, with the boldness of knowing he is right, can make a difference. (Pro. 28:1.) It has been rightly said that 10% are committed conservative and 10% are committed liberal, and the 80% is swayed by either side.

Third, we must stand on what is right to do. If we only stand where we have confidence of winning, we

will stand for nothing, and sin will continue to reign.

Forth, we must learn to think long term. The ungodly see any setback as only temporary as they believe their god is more powerful than the Christian God. Christians must gain the same vision; a setback must be seen as only temporary, for their God is *more powerful* than is the pagans'. The short-sightedness of American Christianity is giving this nation over to the devil and his crowd.

Spanish

The Lord allowed us to make contact with a lady who is fluent in four languages, including Spanish. She has offered to translate for us. The next problem will be funds. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter from a man who has a burden for the Spanish speaking people:

... Anyway, the sky is the limit on the size of a database you can build up for your mailing list, and of course there are thousands of churches in Latin America, and even a few in Canada and other non-Spanish countries.

I see no reason to print on any different quality of paper than what is used for the Biblical Examiner - newsprint should be fine. As for your question as to "if they would support a ministry such as this," if by that you mean that you are wondering how much money the recipient churches will contribute to the Spanish version of the Biblical Examiner, my personal experience has been that there is very little money to be expected from such a venture. Maybe I am just a "doubting Thomas," but my advice is to expect that you will receive little or no money from the Spanish churches you mail to, even if you send to 1000 of them, and that you should plan on this ministry being subsidized from other sources. ...

Thus though they may use the material, we cannot expect support from Spanish churches. Please make this a matter of prayer, both for wisdom for us in this area and support to get sound material into the hands of Spanish speaking Christians.

Special Booklets

I have put together some small booklets for homeschool meetings. They are made up of various articles which have appeared in past *Examiners* that should be of interest to homeschoolers. They are laser printouts, and saddle stitched or spiral bound. They are available for a donation.

8 1/2 x 11 booklets

Biblical Instructions to WOMEN & YOUNG LADIES.

Containing: 1) Instructions for a Godly Young Lady 2) Teaching Daughters to Blaspheme God 3) Marriage & Deceit 4) Sex Education 5) Women's Empowerment Movements 6) Feminization of America 7) The Value of a Woman

Concerning BILL GOTHARD

Containing: 1) Character Counts Examined (As used in the public schools to develop "character without God.") 2) Character First defended by Gothard 3) Character First, a workers view 4) Gothard's Homeschool Program as seen by a pastor-parent 5) Law Resource F (Booklet 54, Gothard's Theology of Civil Government Examined.)

HOME SCHOOLING



Articles by Dr Paul Cates, as appeared in *The Biblical Examiner*

1) Welcome to Homeschooling 2) Principles and Practices of Teaching Reading 3) What Can Children Learn & When 4) 12 Teaching Guidelines for Basic Psycholinguistic Skills 5) Developing the Total Child 6) What Every Home Schooling Parent Needs to Know about ADD 7) Dyslexia 8) Psychology: Psychiatry & Special, Education to the rescue?, Psychology Redefines Religion, Is Psychology a Science? 9) What's Wrong with Outcome-Based Education? 10) The Education Bloc, or Who Controls Government Education? 11) Why Home-Schooling is Important for America (by Samuel L. Blumenfeld)

Smaller Booklets

MEN & RESPONSIBILITY

BARRY SHELTON-
CNSNEWS.COM

Containing: 1) Men & Responsibility 2) The Effeminate Male 3) Clement of Alexandria, 193 AD 4) The Virtuous Man, Job 29-31 5) Defend the faith, A call for young men to join the battle for God's Kingdom on earth

WAR AGAINST THE FAMILY

Containing: 1) War Against the Family (The strengthened state, Lev. 18) 2) Teaching Daughters to Blaspheme (Titus 2:3) 3) Family Law (Behind closed doors)

MARRIAGE

Containing: 1) Sex Education 2) Marriage & Deceit 3) License? Contract? Coverture? 4) My Marriage 5) Divorce 6) Homosexuality

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Hand cont. "eggizo", with this addition, "of times imminent and soon to come to pass".

This expression is found four times: Matt 26:18; Phil. 4:5; Rev. 1:3; and Rev. 22:10.

One final Greek word is translated "is at hand" in the King James Version of the New Testament. That word is "enistem" and means "to be upon, impend, close at hand". This word is found only one time, in II Thess. 2:2.

Every time the phrase it used it refers to something that is about to occur. There is no reason to assume that there would be a delay in the event predicted when this expression is used.

WHAT DOES THE PHRASE SIGNIFY?

The importance of the meaning of this Greek word can be seen in the various positions advanced relative to the time and nature of the coming of the kingdom of heaven. There is a school of thought that teaches that the kingdom of heaven has not yet come. This school teaches that when Jesus offered the kingdom to the people of Israel they rejected it and because of their rejection, the setting up of the kingdom was put on hold.

This school teaches that in the future Jesus Christ will return in the air in a visible bodily form. At that

time He will defeat the Devil and the forces of evil, claim this world as His own and establish an earthly kingdom fashioned on the order of the kingdom over which David and Solomon reigned in 1,000 B.C.

JESUS DID ALL THESE THINGS BY A. D. 70

John said that Jesus was manifested "that he might destroy the works of the devil" I John 3:8. The writer to the Hebrews added, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" Heb. 2:14. Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" Luke 10:18. When did this event happen? I believe John described it in Revelation 12:9. When

the Devil was cast out of heaven he lost his position as "prince of the power of the air". Peter wrote in approximately A. D. 64 to the saints that "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" I Pet. 5:8.

Paul told the Romans that God would "bruise Satan under your feet shortly" Rom. 16:20.

At that time the Devil was not longer the "prince of the power of the air", but he was confined to the earth and was angry for he knew that he had but a short time.

THE DEVIL'S TIME RAN OUT

Satan had approximately forty years to harass the church, but when Jesus returned in power and glory He cast the Devil into the lake of fire. It was during this time that the Devil was bound "that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: after that he must be loosed a little season" Rev. 20:3.

The expression "a thousand years" is a symbolic number of the time between the ascension of Jesus in A. D. 30 and His return in judgment in A. D. 70. It was during this time that the gospel went into all the habitable world in fulfillment of the great commission Jesus gave the church in Matt. 28:19-20.

When this task had been completed the end came: not the end of the cosmos, but the end of the old covenant Jewish age. This is exactly what Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in *all the world* for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" Matt. 24:14.

Paul assured the saints at Colosse that this mission had been fulfilled by the time he wrote to them in A. D. 62. He said, "whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come

unto you, as it is in *all the world* Col. 1:5-6.

WHY DO WE SIN?

Most people blame sin on the Devil. You often hear men say, "the Devil made me do it". But is this Biblically sound for our day? The many problems that men have with sins today come from their own evil hearts. Jeremiah said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" Jer. 17:9.

Jesus said, "For from within, out of the heart of the men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, and evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these things come from within, and defile the man" Mark 7:21-23.

James said, "every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" James 1:14-15.

Some students interpret the Bible from a different hermeneutic than that used by the futurists. This group believes that the phrase "is at hand" refers to events that were to transpire imminently. They believe that Jesus did indeed defeat and destroy the Devil and established His kingdom while on earth and took full possession of it in A. D. 70.

The debate concerns the meaning of the phrase "is at hand". Does it mean something that is about to occur, or does it refer to something that could be delayed due to the action of sinful men?

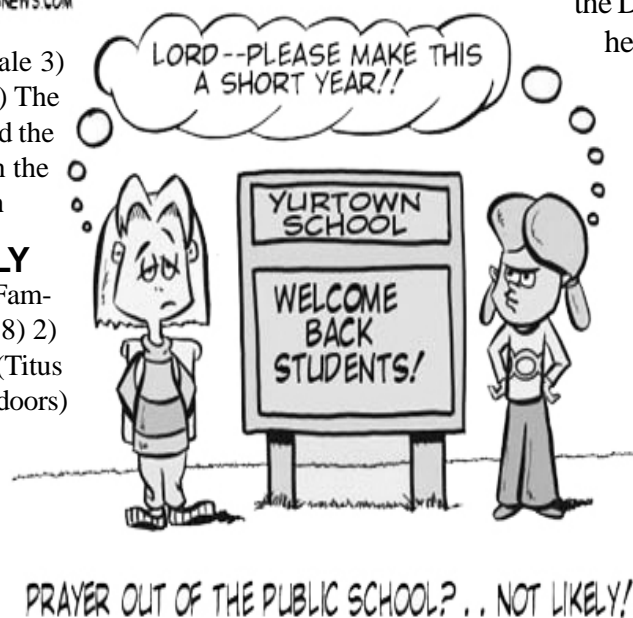
WHEN WAS THE KINGDOM TO COME?

According to the vision Daniel received approximately six hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the kingdom was to be set up in the days of the four kingdoms that were to rule over the world known to Daniel. Those four kingdoms are identified as Babylon, the Medes and the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans.

These kingdoms came in succession and the fourth was the Roman Empire and it was in power when Jesus was born. The Roman Empire fell in 476; therefore if Daniel's prophecy was accurate the kingdom over which the Messiah was to reign had to be set up before the fall of the Roman Empire.

Those that believe the kingdom of heaven has not yet come have come up with the subjective idea that the Roman Empire will be revived in the so-called "last days" of the church age. They say out that of it will come a man they identify as the "antichrist." They teach that this man will persecute the Jews until Jesus returns and destroys him.

They read into the "signs" that Jesus gave the men of His generation to know when the end (of the old covenant age) would come and say they are being fulfilled in this generation. They set dates and tell people the return of the Lord will occur in a certain year. When their date comes and goes and nothing happens, they refigure and set a new date, but never apologize for their errors. They teach a physical return of Jesus to establish a physical kingdom in the city of Jerusalem. They fail to realize that His kingdom is spiritual and all that are born of the Spirit now



rule and reign with Him.

THE KINGDOM DANIEL SAW

Daniel saw that a kingdom was to be set up in the days of those four kings and said it was to be a kingdom that shall never be destroyed. This is the same kingdom the angel Gabriel told Mary about when he announced the coming of the Messiah.

The question is simply this, "Did Jesus establish the kingdom of heaven while He was on earth, or was it postponed?" The answer to the question lies in one's understanding of the nature of the kingdom of heaven.

Peter made it very clear that when Jesus was raised from the dead He fulfilled the prophecies about Christ sitting on the throne of David. He said, "Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ" Acts 2:30-31.

Peter went on to say, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" Acts 2:36.

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?

The final word in settling eschatological disputes should lie with the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus preached "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is **at hand**" Matt. 4:17.

He used the same Greek word used by John in Matt. 3:2. The little word "**eggizo**" which means, "draw nigh, be at hand, come nigh, come near, draw near". Why would He say that the kingdom of God was nigh if it would not be set up for hundreds or even thousands of years?

When Jesus sent out the twelve apostles to preach He said, "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is **at hand**" Matt. 10:7.

Again He used the same Greek word "**eggizo**", a word that means "draw nigh, be at hand, come nigh, come near, draw near".

THE TIME IS FULFILLED

Mark helps us understand the way the Lord Jesus used this phrase and realize that the kingdom of God was ready to be revealed. John the Baptist has been put into prison for preaching the gospel of the kingdom, it was at this time that Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is **at hand**: repent ye, and believe the gospel" Mark 1:15.

The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to complete the things delineated by God when He revealed the things that were to occur at the time of the end. Daniel wrote, "and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people all these things shall be fulfilled" Dan. 12:7.

When was the power of the holy people (the Jews) broken? Was it not when Jerusalem fell and the temple was destroyed and Biblical Judaism came to an end?

Daniel did not understand the things that he had seen relative to God's plan for Israel and he said, "I heard, but I understood not: then said, I, O my

Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" Dan. 12:8-9.

THE TIME OF THE END WAS NEAR

It is vital to understand the meaning of the expression "the time of the end". Many Bible teachers alter the order of these words and speak of "the end of time". The end spoken of in the Bible as it related to the mission of the Messiah was the end of the Old Covenant age. The writer to the Hebrews said that the end had come when he wrote. He said, "but now once in the end of the world (age) hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" Heb. 9:26.

Paul knew the Jewish age was soon coming to an end when he wrote to the Corinthians and said, "upon whom the ends of the world (ages) are come" I Cor. 10:11.

Now what was ending in the days of Paul and the other apostles? Certainly not the cosmos, for almost two thousand years have passed since Paul wrote these words. The end that came was the end of the Old Covenant age, the Jewish economy.

Jesus was answering the question put to Him by the disciples as they observed the temple. They said, "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world (age)?" Matt. 24:3.

Jesus proceeded to deliver the great Olivet discourse in which He told of the terrible times that were coming on the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. He made it clear that everything He spoke about in this great discourse would occur before the generation to which He spoke passed away. He said, "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled" Matt. 24:34.

KINGDOM TO COME WHILE SOME WHO HEARD HIM STILL LIVED

Since we do not see any two thousand year old people in the world today we must assume that Jesus came many years ago He said, "There be some stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom" Matt. 16:27-28.

DOING HIS FATHER'S WILL

This is what Jesus meant when He said, "The time is fulfilled" Mark 1:14.

He was embarking on the work given to Him by the Father to secure the eternal redemption of His chosen people. He said very clearly, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" John 10:11.

There was a time during His life the earth that His followers got into a dispute as to who would be the greatest in His kingdom. It got so bad that James and John came to Him and said, "Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory" Mark 10:37.

Jesus was quick to tell them, "Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones

exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" Mark 10:42-45.

Jesus knew that He had come into the world to die; while on the cross He said,

"It is finished" John 19:30.

That which was finished was the assignment given to Him by the Father. In His High Priestly prayer he said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" John 17:4.

NOT AN EARTHLY KINGDOM

The kingdom Jesus came to establish was not an earthly kingdom. There was a time when the Jews became convinced that He was the king they were expecting and they attempted to take Him and make Him a king by force. John said, "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone" John 6:15.

He had told the Jews when asked when the kingdom should come, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. Luke 17:20-21.

Jesus told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world" John 18:36.

WHO ARE THOSE WHO ENTER THE KINGDOM?

Jesus told Nicodemus that for one to enter the kingdom of God he must be born again. Nicodemus made the mistake that so many people make by trying to understand the words of God. He tried to put a physical meaning on spiritual matters. When Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" John 3:3. Nicodemus said, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" John 3:4.

Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" John 3:5.

Just as physical birth is something totally out of the control and action of the one being born, even so is spiritual birth. James said, "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth" James 1:18.

The new birth is the work of God by the Spirit. John said that those that are able to receive Jesus as personal Lord and Saviour are able to do so because they have been born of God. He said, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God... Which were born... of God" John 1:12-13.

REGENERATED AND TRANSLATED

The only way a sinner can escape the effects of sin is to experience the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote to Titus as said, "he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the

Holy Ghost" Tit. 3:5.

Paul told the Colossians that they were saved due to what God had done for them through the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "(God) *hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son*" Col. 1:13.

JESUS IS KING AND BELIEVERS REIGN WITH HIM

When the seventh trumpet sounded there were great voices in heaven that said, "*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever*" Rev. 11:15.

Paul had told the saints at Rome that just as Adam's act brought death, even so the act of Jesus brought life. He said, "*they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ*" Rom. 5:17.

Are you aware of your position in the world today if you are one of the Lord's sheep? John said, "(Jesus) *hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father.*" Rev. 1:6.

John went on to say when he realized that Jesus was the one that was qualified to take Daniel's sealed book and open it and reveal the things that were to occur at the time of the end, "*Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and*



people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" Rev. 5:9-10.

The kingdom of heaven is a present reality for every true believer. We do not have to wait for some future events to unfold. The minute one is born of the Spirit he is translated into the kingdom of heaven. He spends the balance of his earthly life in service to God and in seeking to share the message of His free grace with others. At physical death he is released from this fleshly body and receives a new spiritual body in which he will fully comprehend the glorious things He has done for us. Paul said, "*now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known*" I Cor. 13:12.

Not a Movie—An Event

(see the review in the Summer 2002 issue of the Examiner).

"God's and Generals" will open this February 21.

From everything I have heard, it is as true to history as any film can be. It presents the genuine Christianity of Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee with as strong of a Christian witness as possible on film without it being a "preaching" film.

It takes place in the area in which we live, the Shenandoah Valley and the Blue Ridge mountains.

It is being distributed by Warner Brothers, and will be well worth your time to see.

Sadly, with all the smoke over Trent Lot, the film will be considered totally "Politically Incorrect", and will probably receive terrible reviews for that reason, though it has several well known Senators appearing in it.

"In terms of traditional values, true patriotism and Christian themes, this film will make all categorical competitors in movie history appear as mere pebbles before a mountain."

Make plans to see it even on opening day.

Is it any wonder that Paul said, "*For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better*"? Phil. 1:23.

Paul was anxiously awaiting the return of Jesus, but he also knew that even at that time in his life it would have been far better to leave this body of flesh and go to be with Jesus. But there is no longer a waiting period for believers since A. D. 70. Jesus promised to return, and He did, and He is now with us, living in our hearts by faith.

THE KINGDOM CAME ON TIME

The kingdom of heaven was declared to be "at hand" by John the Baptist, by Jesus, by Paul and by Peter. Paul wrote to the Romans and said, "*The night is far spent, the day is at hand*" Rom. 13:12.

Paul expected the Lord Jesus to return shortly and challenged the believers to make themselves ready for the glorious appearing of the Jesus. Just as the kingdom was at hand when John the Baptist and Jesus declared it to be, even so the return of the Lord Jesus was at hand when Paul declared it to be. Jesus returned, and He is here with us today. Let us worship and adore Him. Remember He said, "*For where two or three are gathered together I my name, there am I am in the midst of them*" Matt. 18:20.

Aren't you glad Jesus is here today? We are members of His heavenly kingdom and right now, in life, we are reigning with Him on the earth. He Himself said,

"*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*" Matt. 5:3.

The world will never understand what we believe. Let us rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. For if we are suffering with Him we know that we also are reigning with Him.

Peter wrote to encourage those who were about to experience the great tribulation Jesus spoke of in Matt. 24:29, and said to them, "*rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceed joy*" I Pet. 4:12-13.

Peter knew that that time was on them for he said,

"*the end of all things is at hand*" I Pet. 4:7.

Notice Peter used the same phrase John the Baptist and Jesus had used when speaking of the coming of the kingdom of heaven. He said "is at hand".

He said, "*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God*"

I Pet. 4:17. That time of judgment did come in A. D. 70 when Jerusalem fell to the Roman army, and the temple was destroyed. This was just what Jesus predicted when He had said, "*There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down*" Matt. 24:2.

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote about the destruction of Jerusalem in A. D. 70. Since that date there has been no temple, and the old covenant worship has ceased. There is no need to expect a restoration to the old order, for Jesus came to establish the new covenant by His own blood, fulfilling all the types and shadows seen in the old order.

To expect a return to the old is an insult to the sufficiency of His "once for all" sacrifice. The writer to the Hebrews said,

"*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*" Heb. 10:10.

James A. Henry has been a Baptist Pastor and preacher for 51 years. He is a graduate of: Jacksonville College, Baylor University, Ouachita Baptist University, BMAA Seminary & American Divinity School, holding A.A.; B.A.; M.A. Th.B; B.D.; Th. M.; Th. D. & Litt.D. degrees. He is former president of BMAA and Executive Director of Minister's Benefit Dept. Texarkana, AR. He is presently the pastor of Caney Baptist Church, Pickton, TX. He has authored five books.

From p 20

St. Tammany prides itself on being the state's public education leader. Bright blue signs stand sentinel by the entrances of the district's seven U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon schools. The district was recently ranked first in Louisiana for its overall student performance on standardized tests, and throughout the parish, school halls and principals' offices are filled with plaques and accolades for outstanding achievements.

Terry Burghorn and his wife,

Laura, moved to St. Tammany in part because of the strong school system. But like hundreds of other north shore parents, the Burghorns decided the best the state could offer wasn't good enough, and they pulled their daughters out of public schools five years ago.

"The school systems are losing the kind of discipline they need," Burghorn said. "Children start learning methods of procrastination; they get excusitis."

The Burghorns are not alone. Despite St. Tammany's sterling education reputation, the parish has one of the state's highest concentrations of home-school students. More than 880 St. Tammany students are educated at home, according to education department records. Membership rolls for the parish's four largest home-school organizations put the count even higher, well over 1,000 families. Organizers say those families could have more than one child being educated at home.

In the metro area, Jefferson Parish, also home to some top-scoring schools, has the next highest home-school enrollment with more than 729 registered home-school students.

Home-school parents said they made the choice for different reasons. Some cite religious motives, while others said they just want deeper bonds with their children. But many St. Tammany and Jefferson parents said their decision to home school had less to do with the quality of education inside public school classrooms than with an unease with the culture of public school hallways.

"I'm not doing this because I hate the public schools - how the schools are has nothing to do with it," said Michelle Theriot, whose children have never attended a public or private school. "I'm doing this because I want to know and like my children."

A devout Roman Catholic, Theriot said she was called by God to educate her children at home. She can instill in them at home the religious values she and her husband believe are important.

"Their character is not developed just before and after school, and math is not just about equations and fractions," Theriot said.

Robin Tenhundfeld, a Metairie mother of five, made the decision to teach her children at home 14 years ago after meeting home-school families at her church.

"I was just impressed by the kids," she said. "They weren't dealing with discipline problems."

The Burghorns also said behavior was a major factor in their decision to take their daughters out of public school. Academically, the girls were doing well - all excelled in the classroom and were enrolled in advanced placement and gifted classes. But Laura Burghorn was heart-broken as she watched her daughters' constant bickering and lax attitudes about learning.

"They just did what they had to, they never explored all the endless possibilities of what they were studying," she said. "They weren't happy, and I didn't like who was getting off the school bus."

From: "Dave Champion" <d2ranch@QNET.COM>

Date: Mon, 2 Dec 2002 18:15:30 -0800, Subject: Pennsylvania Gags Pastors

All,

For year I've been saying that it was only a matter of time until government attempted to prohibit 503(c) tax exempt churches from preaching elements of the gospel in ways that are deemed "inappropriate", or "offensive", or "illegal" by the non-Christian community.

I wish I had been wrong, but regrettably events have proven me right.

On Tuesday, November 26, 2000, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a bill that would make it illegal for such churches [in reality just "religious corporations"] to quote Bible passages that condemn homosexuality, or to otherwise preach a doctrine which presents the practice of homosexuality as being less acceptable to God than heterosexual behavior. The measure amends the state's Ethnic Intimidation Act to include "sexual orientation, gender or gender identity." Governor Mark Scheiker is expected to sign the bill into law.

William Devlin, President of the Urban Family Council, is advising pastors and churches across Pennsylvania to "obtain some very good liability insurance and contact an attorney if the pastor intends to continue faithfully preaching the Word." According to Devlin, "This bill is so broad that if you have an attender at your church who feels offended or intimidated by what is said from the pulpit, you and your church leadership will be receiving certified letters inviting you to either a deposition or a court appearance."

The Bible commands us to be "in the world, but not of the world". Apparently most church "leaders" these days conveniently forgot that passage when they decided it was O.K. to become state corporations and apply for IRS tax-exempt status. Personally I don't see how it gets any more "of the world" than that.

If challenged, the Pennsylvania law will likely be found constitutional because it applies to state-controlled statutory fictions [corporations] exercising governmental "privileges". Other states will then follow suit.

If this latest development is not sad enough, it will be offensive to watch how many professed-Christians and their pastors will simply fall into line without much more than a few feeble words of protest.

The only good news in all of this is that so called "free churches" will not be affected by the new law.

Dave Champion

Note: *Church, Inc.*, a book by Rev. Need, explains the Biblical reasons for not being an incorporated church. It is available from Ovid Need, PO Box 81, Bentonville, VA. 22610. \$4.00 post paid.

In the beginning the Burghorns worried that keeping their daughters home would cut them off from social and philosophical diversity. But over time, Laura Burghorn said she realized she could expose her children to different kinds of ideas and people while protecting them from negative social pressure.

"They're not dealing with sex in the hallways, they're not dealing with drug abuse, they're not dealing with racial issues, but they're also not kept inside of a box," she said.

'We're not weirdos'

Snuggled into comfy chocolate brown armchairs in the corner of a local Starbucks, Jessica Welch and Nyla Gutekunst look like typical soccer moms. They swap kid stories while sipping frothy coffee concoctions and keeping an ear tuned to their cell phones. A casual observer probably wouldn't guess Gutekunst is a former second-grade teacher who home schools her three boys. Or, that Welch is the former leader of one of the area's largest home-school groups.

Home-schoolers are shedding the long-clinging negative image of anti-government recluses, religious fanatics and modern-day hippies. They're the family next door with 2.5 children and asport utility vehicle.

"I don't think people see it as odd," Gutekunst said. "Most people have heard of it or know somebody who home schools. The question I get most often isn't 'Why?' but 'How do you do it?'"

Comfort in numbers may be a contributing factor in the growing popularity of home schooling, Gutekunst said. It's easier to take the drastic step of walking away from traditional schoolhouse education when you know you're not alone.

Indeed, in the New Orleans area, home-school parents are far from alone. At least 14 major home-school support groups offer everything from group field trips and P.E. days to education cooperatives. In St. Tammany, parents can choose from four major home-school groups that cater to different religious beliefs and educational philosophies. These associations provide a network of support for home-school parents and social opportunities for students.

"We are so over-socialized," said Michelle Theriot, gesturing to a calendar overflowing with play dates, field trips and church events. "We're not some weirdos trying to keep our children isolated from the rest of the world. We're not isolating them, we're insulating them."

Still, there were times when Dan Prendergast and his brother, Luke, wondered what they were missing by staying at home.

Now college students, the brothers were home schooled through high school and although they never lacked for social interaction -- both were active in sports, church and even went to proms and high school

football games -- they remember wondering what it might be like climb on the bus with their friends.

"There were times, especially when I started high school, that I kind of felt like I was missing something," Dan said.

But even when given the choice to go to a public or private high school, the brothers said they knew they preferred to finish their education at home.

"It gave us a lot more freedom," Dan said. Freedom to focus on topics they cared most about and to finish school at their own pace, he said.

"Every kid is an individual, so this gives parents the chance to tailor the educational program to fit the child," Luke said.

Teaching styles

But individualization means choices, and home-school parents are faced with a dizzying number of them in everything from educational philosophy to what kinds of school supplies to purchase. Flexibility is the rule, said Michelle Theriot.

"I thought I was flexible before, but I'm really learning about being flexible now," Theriot said, cradling her 5-month-old son, Patrick, while helping 5-year-old Danielle figure out how to complete a math pattern problem. Meanwhile, Theriot's other two children, Christopher, 12, and Kathryn, 9, were busily designing family crests in the next room.

Theriot follows a unit study format where she designs lessons in English, math, science and history around a central theme such as the sun or medieval England. She adjusts the lesson to meet each child's grade levels so all three can participate even while they're learning very different skills.

Spend an afternoon with three different home-school families and you'll find three different philosophies on child rearing, teaching and discipline.

For some families, home school is a structured and orderly affair complete with school desks, chalkboards and exams. At the other end of the spectrum are unschoolers, a small group of home-school parents who believe the best way to teach is not to teach at all and let their children discover what they need to know at their own pace.

Like most home-school families, the Tenhundefs fall somewhere in between.

On a weekday afternoon, Robin Tenhundef's children were each working on a different subject while she circulated about the kitchen helping Jay, 8, with his math, checking 11-year-old Adrienne's progress studying sentence structure and praising Matthew, 5, for his artwork.

Jay learns best from hands-on lessons, Tenhundef said. So while he pondered a math question about how many beans would be left if two were removed from a group of five, she retrieved a bag of beans from her kitchen cabinet. She put five beans on the table and slid two away.

"You see ... you have a number, and you're taking away some to find out how many are left," she explained.

"I think people have to let go of the classroom mind-set," she said. "The way a teacher teaches 25

to 30 students is completely different from the way a parent works with a child. You can look at your child and know what they need."

As with her two oldest daughters, Tenhundef said she'll keep her children at home until they're ready to graduate and move on to college.

Like Tenhundef, many home-school parents choose to keep children home through high school and use one of the dozens of available high school curriculum plans to prepare their children for the GED and college entrance exams.

Other parents choose to enroll students in private or public schools during high school so they can graduate with a standard diploma that can sometimes make getting into college simpler. But as home-school ranks have grown nationally, colleges are becoming more accustomed to working with home-schooled students and aren't thrown when students show up without a diploma or high school transcript, officials said.

Cause for concern

While they don't publicly discourage it, Louisiana educators say the rise in home schooling is cause for concern. Students who study at home may not be getting the same quality or variety of education as their public and private school peers, educators say.

Because home school is essentially unregulated in Louisiana, parents aren't required to cover the same education content or reach the same learning benchmarks as schoolteachers. Teaching children the variety of material state officials have deemed essential to a well-rounded education takes skill and special training, said Diane

Debra Horst had the same concerns when she decided to home school her son, Chad, when he was in junior high school. She knew he was going to have to go back into the public school

system and face a battery of competency and entrance exams. She wanted to him to be prepared.

"I couldn't do it all myself," she said.

Horst hired tutors for Chad and traded off with other home-school parents who were experts in subject she wasn't.

"If there was a subject that we didn't know, we would hire tutors or find somebody who did know," Horst said. "That's what home schooling is all about: giving your child the best of everything."

Even more worrisome for state educators than the quality of home teaching are the cases when children are kept home and not educated. Louisiana's liberal home school laws are celebrated by parents who want as little state involvement as possible, but the wide loopholes also make it easy for some children to slide through the system without being educated at all, said Cecil Picard, state superintendent of education.

"I'm not too concerned about the parents who decided to home school for the right reasons," Picard said. "What's tragic is that there's a handful of parents out there who have pulled their kids out of public school or even private school because they're not happy with the system, but then their kids end up running around not doing anything. That's tragic because the loss is to those children."

Noting that most home-school parents are doing it for all the best reasons, Picard said such cases are the exception, not the rule.

The few home-school rules that exist can only be loosely enforced by the already cash-poor education department.

"We have no monitoring," Picard said. "We have no follow-up."

Acknowledging that there are some parents who keep their children home but do little schooling, home-school parents say any more state regulation would rob them of control over their children's education and leave them no better off than the public schools.

"Anyway, who am I to say what's best for someone else?" said Gina Beck, a Slidell mom who's been teaching her three boys at home for several years. "There's no one right way to teach your children."

And home schooling is not for everybody, said Michelle Theriot. Some parents are not able to take on the task of educating their children.

"I do with so much less to stay home, and I know there are people who can't sacrifice one parent's paycheck," she said. "It's not meant to be for everybody, but this is what works for us and it's what works for our children." *****



Roussel, executive director of instruction for Jefferson Parish public schools.

Roussel said working with the same teachers year after year means home-school children may not be exposed to a variety of different teaching styles, a valuable part of any education.

"Unless you're very talented at a variety of teaching methods, it could become a little mundane," Roussel said.

The results are sometimes evident when home-school students return to public school at the high school level where they often lag behind because they weren't exposed to all components of the public school curriculum, Roussel said.

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LESSONS FROM HOME

A growing number of parents are choosing to home school their children, bypassing the public and private schools that they say have problems focusing on a child's immediate needs combined with social pressures, discipline and values.

By Aesha Rasheed (St. Tammany bureau/The Times-Picayune, 5/26/02.)

Weekdays start out pretty typically in the Theriot household. David and Michelle Theriot are up by 7 a.m. to rouse, feed and pray with their four small children before David heads off to work.

But while other parents in their Covington neighborhood are waving goodbye at the bus stop, Michelle Theriot gathers the kids around the kitchen table for the day's first lesson -- math, usually. She likes to tackle the tough stuff first.

In a state known for its poor public education system, the Theriots are among a rapidly growing number of Louisiana families that have chosen to take their children's learning into their own hands. Following a national trend toward home schooling, more parents are turning away from public and private schools and toward an education option generally viewed as far outside the mainstream.

The number of registered home-school students in Louisiana has tripled in the past decade, ballooning from about 3,500 in 1991 to more than 11,000 this year, according to the state Department of Education. Nationally, a 1999 survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Education revealed that some 850,000 children were home-schooled that year, up from an estimated 345,000 in 1994.

But some experts believe the figure is much higher

because some states don't require parents to register their home-school children and the states that do have difficulty keeping an accurate count. Researchers who track education trends put the number of U.S. children being taught at home at about 2 million. In Louisiana, they say, there are 20,000 to 30,000 home-schooled kids.

Among school officials and home-school parents, there's no

consensus on the reason for the trend. Some education officials explain that relatively loose home-school regulations in Louisiana and many other states make it easy for parents to keep children at home.

The state's laws only ask parents to notify state officials of their intent to teach children at home, and officials say many parents don't even do that. Students who want to qualify for state college tuition waivers must enroll in a home-study program that requires them to submit a curriculum plan and show progress on annual standardized test scores. But there are no specific curriculum requirements or teaching standards, and home-study plans are rarely rejected, officials said.

Nationally, Louisiana has neither the weakest nor toughest regulations. Nine states, including neighboring Texas, do not require parents to notify state officials at all of their intent to home school. But 10 states, mostly clustered in the Northeast, set down very specific rules for home schooling in terms of teaching quality, required curriculum and yearly testing.

In New York, for example, home-schooling laws require that specific educational topics be covered at each grade level, set minimum attendance rules and demand that students pass standardized tests or some approved annual education assessment. Parents are required to keep quarterly attendance and testing records that are subject to review by the local school superintendent.

While acknowledging that the liberal laws could be a factor, many home-school parents point to Louisiana's historically dismal public education record as the driving force behind the state's growing number of home-school students. And, parents say many public schools do little to reinforce the values that they seek to instill in their children.

"No. 1, the public schools are bad, and No. 2, they've taken all the morals out of the schools," said Glenn Polsey, a home-school dad and president of the Christian Home Educators Fellowship of New Orleans East. Polsey, who is also vice president of the Christian Home Educators Fellowship of Louisiana, said he hears the same frustrations from parents across the state.

The state's public school accountability program has done little to reverse the flow of children from school campuses and may have actually fueled it, said Barbara Mitchell, co-president of a West Bank home-school group. Interest in home school was already blossoming, but Mitchell said the introduction of the LEAP testing program five years ago drove more parents out of the public school system.

Though many parents say a poor public school system is a key factor behind the growth in the home-school ranks, the state's worst school districts don't have the highest concentrations of home-school students. In fact, the reverse is true.

St. Tammany, the state's overall best school district, has a high concentration of home-school students while Orleans Parish, home to the bulk of the state's worst public schools, has fewer than 500 registered home-school students.

Some of the difference might be explained by demographics, home-school parents say. New Orleans has a high concentration of low-income and single-parent families who would find it nearly impossible to support a family while teaching children at home.

"But also, I think a lot of parents (in Orleans) aren't aware that this is an option," Polsey said. "They just don't know they have a choice or don't think they could do it."

Escaping the box

Money, Money

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