

Psm. 11:3

# Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

*"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1*

## NEWS LETTER

Issue #27

December 2014

**Monthly Verse:** *"Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.."* ~ Psalm 2:10 & 11

### 'What Would Jesus Do?'

A Popular Question, implying that what ever He did, We should do!  
We don't have to guess or speculate about it!  
We can be sure He would do exactly what He has already Done, and We should be doing the same!  
He taught men of their sin and its consequences!  
He taught them of their need of Righteousness before God!  
He taught them of how only they could obtain that Righteousness!  
He then provided Himself as the only means of that Righteousness!  
John 3:13-18; *"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* ~ **Bro. Donnie Burford**

*All Noble Things are Difficult*  
By Oswald Chambers

*"Enter ye in at the strait gate . . . because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way. . ."* (Matthew 7:13-14)

If we are going to live as disciples of Jesus, we have to remember that all noble things are difficult. The Christian life is gloriously difficult, but the difficulty of it does not make us faint and cave in, it rouses us up to overcome. Do we so appreciate the marvellous salvation of Jesus Christ that we are our utmost for His highest?

God saves men by His sovereign grace through the Atonement of Jesus; He works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure; but we have to work out that salvation in practical living. If once we start on the basis of His Redemption to do what He commands, we find that we can do it. If we fail, it is because we have not practised. The crisis will reveal whether we have been practising or not. If we obey the Spirit of God and practise in our physical life what God has put in us by His Spirit, then when the crisis comes, we shall find that our own nature as well as the grace of God will stand by us.

Thank God He does give us difficult things to do! His salvation is a glad thing, but it is also a heroic, holy thing. It tests us for all we are worth. Jesus is bringing many "sons" unto glory, and God will not shield us from the requirements of a son. God's grace turns out men and women with a strong family likeness to Jesus Christ, not milk sops. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to live the noble life of a disciple of Jesus in actual things. It is always necessary to make an effort to be noble.

### Psalm 2

- 1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,
- 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
- 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.
- 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.
- 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.
- 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
- 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
- 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
- 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
- 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

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## Sermon: "Christ and Christmas"

by Bro. David M. Green



"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." (Revelation 19:1-11)

Here we find the prophesy of the destruction of Babylon, or as we know her today, Roman Catholicism. She is one who has affected all manner of people, nations, and kings. Yet, God says for His people to leave her. When God says to do something, we better listen close. This holds true of all her pagan ways, and abominable practices.

In exactly ten days the world will celebrate Christmas. I will not be a part of their practices, and today we shall see exactly why.

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore

afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." (Luke 2:1-20)

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men." (Matthew 2:1-16)

During this time, and perhaps right now, the world is seeing or participating in plays and reenactments of Christ's birth. Many so-called "churches" will have people dressed up to show what happened on the day of His birth. Many businesses and individuals have nativity

scenes portraying what they believe happened. Yet, nobody ever cares what the Bible really says.

Notice, the world says that there were three wise men. The Bible gives no number. It might have been three, but there also might have been three hundred. God did not tell us, so we need not speculate

The world says these wise men visited a babe in a manger. However, Jesus was not in a manger when the wise men found him. They visited the young child in the house!

The world says emphatically that Jesus Christ was born on December 25th. However, I have searched the scriptures and not one time does my Bible say that was the day He was born. The fact is, I did find some interesting information. According to Jewish authorities on the subject, it is winter in that part of the world during December 25th and the shepherds do not stay outside with their flocks...they would rather be in the caves to escape the weather. Also a complete census tax like the one that occurred would have been next to impossible to have in the middle of winter.

Yet, some will say to me, "Well we can fix the 'minor' problems with the Christmas story and even though we don't know the date for Christ's birth, Dec 25th is an OK date to celebrate it." Yet, before you say or think that, let us dig a little farther.

Why the date? If December 25 is an unlikely date, then why was it chosen to be the day to celebrate Christ's birth? Since December 25th is NEVER found within the Bible, we must begin to look at history. Search through Baptist history and you will never find it. But do a search through Roman Catholic history and it will be found, with roots that go back even before Christ came into this world.

According to what I could find, the year 336 seems to be the beginning place of celebrating Christ's birth on Dec 25. This simply amazed me, because by that time everyone who knew Christ was dead already. Nobody who lived during the time of Christ ever celebrated His birth, according to the Bible. He did tell us the way to remember Him, though. (See Luke 22:19-20.)

Why did Rome choose this date, when it was probably the least likely of all dates they could have picked? To answer that question, we must go further back into history.

According to the article about "Christmas" found in Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia,

"Christmas originated in the 4th century as a Christian substitute for pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. Before the introduction of Christmas, each year beginning on December 17 Romans honored Saturn, the ancient god of agriculture, in a festival called Saturnalia. This festival lasted for seven days and included the winter solstice, which usually occurred around December 25 on the ancient Julian calendar. During Saturnalia the Romans feasted, postponed all business and warfare, exchanged gifts, and temporarily freed their slaves. Many Romans also celebrated the lengthening of daylight following the winter solstice by participating in rituals to glorify Mithra, the ancient Persian god of light (see Mithraism). These and other winter festivities continued through January 1, the festival of Kalends, when Romans marked the day of the new moon and the first day of the month and year.

Although the Gospels describe Jesus' birth in detail, they never mention the date, so historians do not know on what date he was born. The Roman Catholic Church chose December 25 as the day for the Feast of the Nativity in order to give Christian meaning to existing pagan rituals. For example, the Church replaced festivities honoring the birth of Mithra, the god of light, with festivities to commemorate the birth of Jesus, whom the Bible calls the light of the world. The Catholic Church hoped to draw pagans into its religion by allowing them to continue their revelry while simultaneously honoring the birthday of Jesus. The Eastern Orthodox Church took a slightly different course. By the end of the 4th century the Eastern Church in Constantinople had also begun to acknowledge December 25 as Jesus' birthday."

E. G. Cook, in his article "What Is Christmas" wrote:

"In Babylon, that great heathen Chaldean city, pagan religion reached its peak so far as ancient history was concerned. Here in Babylon the queen of heaven and her son had their beginnings in the persons of Semeramis and her son, Tammuz. When Belshazzar was slain (Daniel 5:30) and the Chaldeans defeated by Darius, the Mede, it seems the capital of the pagan religious world was moved from Babylon to Pergamos. Later, at the death of Attalus III, Phrygia was given to the Roman Empire in 133 B.C. The Babylonian pagan worship was then removed to Rome where Semeramis and Tammuz became Fortuna and Jupiter. This queen of heaven and her son became the very heart of pagan, or idol worship throughout the world. They were called by different names in different countries. In Egypt they were Isis and Osiris, in India they were Isi and Iswara, in other parts of Asia they were Cybele and Plutus, but they were all the same queen of heaven and her son. All of these were dumped into Christmas under the new name of Mary and Jesus...Now with all the ingredients in Christmas, it is time to look for the reason why Christmas must be in December. Even back in ancient Babylon the birth of Tammuz was celebrated in our December. The heathen sun worshippers throughout the northern hemisphere all celebrated the rebirth of the sun at the time of its turning back toward the North, that is about December 25. Tammuz, Oriris, Iswara, Deoius, Plutus and Jupiter were all representatives of the sun in their respective countries. These heathen people had been brought into the Catholic Church, mainly through the efforts of Constantine the great. They were still just as heathen as they were before they were incorporated into the Catholic Church, and they were going to continue celebrating this great feast at this same time. It did not matter too much what their god was called. It was still a representative of their sacred god, the sun. But the time of their feast could not be changed, because the sun starts on his return toward the North at only one time of the year. Even old Satan, with the help of all his able efficient coworkers, could not change that time. Therefore, Christmas had to be December 25, whether the shepherds were out that night with their flocks or not." (See Jeremiah 7:18)

So, this is the origin of the date. What about the customs surrounding it?

Christmas Tree: From what I have seen of the holiday, the Christmas Tree seems to be the main attraction. If Christmas is a Christian holiday, then what does it have to do with Christ? Absolutely nothing. Fact is, the tradition of cutting down a tree and decorating it is found within the Bible. Notice this passage from the Bible:

"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not



dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities. Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men. But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation." (Jeremiah 10:2-10)

Apparently, this is yet another heathen practice that Catholicism incorporated into their religion.

Santa Claus: Catholics and Protestants alike are telling their kids that Santa Claus is coming to bring them all presents. He is a fictional man who is described as one who knows all. He supposedly travels all night long bringing presents to kids everywhere, all over the world. Last time I checked, lying is a sin. Yet, parents are lying to their kids right this very hour. You may say, "It's only a little harmless white lie." Really? Where does the Bible say that it's ok to lie a little? You are raising your kids to fear Santa...when they should fear God. (Proverbs 9:10) Have you noticed how that Santa spells Satan if the letters are rearranged. Not a coincidence, if you consider Isaiah 14:12-14.

Mistletoe: It is said that if two members of the opposite sex meet under the mistletoe, they must kiss. This comes from a Druid superstition Mistletoe was held sacred by ancient peoples. It was forbidden to fight in the presence of mistletoe. Eventually the tradition carried through as the Christmas slogan "Peace and Joy. "Mistletoe was held sacred by the Norse, the Celtic Druids and the North American Indians. The Druid priests would cut mistletoe from an oak tree with a golden sickle. The branches had to be caught before they touched the ground. They then divided the branches into many sprigs and distributed them to the people, who hung them over doorways as protection against thunder, lightning and other evils. The folklore continued over the centuries. It was believed that a sprig placed in a baby's cradle would protect the child from goblins. Giving a sprig to the first cow calving after New Year would protect the entire herd. "

<http://www.didyouknow.cd/xmas/mistletoe.htm>

Holly: "Holly was the sacred plant of Saturn and was used at the Roman Saturnalia festival to honour him. Romans gave one another holly wreaths and carried them about decorating images of Saturn with it. It was used as folk medicine for toothache, measles and dog bites. To avoid persecution during the Roman pagan festival of Saturnalis, the early 'Christians' (Catholics) decked their homes with Saturnalia holly."

Gift Giving: Christmas is a time of giving gifts. Many want to claim it was because the wise men gave gifts. This is true, but they gave gifts to Christ, NOT to each other. And, nobody honors the Lord by their gift-giving. Don't believe me? Work retail for a while, and you will find

that the most ungodly actions occur when people are shopping for Christmas. Perhaps this is the reason why people love Christmas, because they can get a lot out of it. If it was found in the Bible, then the world would not love it (John 7:7; 15:9)

Some verses to remember when considering Christmas:

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:8-9)

The celebration of Christmas is a doctrine of man, taught as if it were a commandment of Christ. The world will laugh at you or try to figure you out because you do not bow down to their command. They are not as Godly as they want you to think. Christ says "their heart is far from me."

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Colossians 2:8)

Someone says, "Well I don't want to be called an odd-ball or a Scrooge so I celebrate it like the world does when I am out there." This is not what God expects. You can be the best testimony by staying out of X-Mass, by keeping your family out of it, and by not even associating yourself with this mess. We ought to be different, according to 1 Peter 2:9 which reads, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." II Corinthians 6:16-18

Idols and the child of God have nothing in common! God expects us to be separate from them!

"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jeremiah 5:30-31)

There are many so-called preachers speak lies to the people. And, what is sad, God's people love it so. Remember what Jeremiah 10 said "Learn not the way of the heathen..."

When you read a billboard that says "Keep Christ In Christmas" or when you hear someone say it, remember: Christ was never in Christmas. Its like coming back from somewhere you've never been. Can't do it. Christ was never in Christmas, and praise be to God He'll stay that way!

# News

**December 2014 News Blitz:** Underlined texts are links to news stories from various sources. If reading this as a printout you can find the links to these stories on our home page. <http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com> or <http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com/news-blitz-archive>

## U.S. Local & State news stories

- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** ["New York Grand Jury May Not Indict Officer Who Choked To Death Eric Garner"](#)
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** ["Florida Judge Temporarily Suspends Arrests Of People Feeding Homeless"](#)  
["Albuquerque Police Chief Fires Cop, Who Fatally Shot Woman, for Refusing to Turn on Body Camera"](#)  
["Mandatory DNA collection during arrest is unconstitutional, court says"](#)  
["County sheriff finally gets the drone he wanted, ignores privacy concerns"](#)  
["Lawsuit Filed in Homeschool Pepper Spray Incident"](#)  
["California Cities Slap 'Climate Change' Warning Labels on Gas Pumps"](#)
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** ["Satanists in Florida to put up a display in the state's capitol"](#)  
["Personnel Files Of Officer Who Shot Tamir Rice Reveal "Emotional Perplexity", Inability To Handle Firearms"](#)  
["Ben Swann Debates Protester Who Says Burning Private Businesses Is A Legitimate Form of Protest"](#)
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** ["Garner death not about race, says daughter"](#)  
["The NYPD did blame one person for the death of Eric Garner, that person was Eric Garner"](#)  
["Green Party of Ohio Backs DOJ, Calls for Indictment of Officers Involved in Tamir Rice Shooting"](#)  
["Gov. Christie's Involvement in Bridge Lane Closures Inconclusive"](#)
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** ["Protesters Shut Down Peter Thiel Event At UC Berkeley"](#)  
["12-year-old Tamir Rice shooting ruled a homicide"](#)  
["Shell May Back Out of a \\$90 Million Settlement With a Contaminated LA Suburb"](#)
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** ["Texas State Bill Will Nullify All Federal Unconstitutional Acts"](#)  
["Mo. Lawmaker's Bill Would Protect Private Property From Agenda 21"](#)

## Misc. U.S. Politics

- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** ["Is the internet protected by the First Amendment? The Supreme Court will decide"](#)
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** ["Obama's New \\$263 Million Proposal Is Not Just About Body Cameras"](#)  
["On Immigration, Obama Redefines Amnesty, Oppression, and the Law"](#)
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** ["Inspector General: Can't Release Documents Re: IRS Sharing of Taxpayer Info With WH"](#)
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** ["States Sue Obama Administration Over Executive Order on Immigration"](#)  
["Texas Leads Coalition of 17 States Suing Obama on Immigration"](#)
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** ["How To Reduce Police Violence— Eliminate Nanny State Crimes"](#)  
["Conservative groups turn to state lawmakers for help blocking EPA"](#)  
["Police Chief: Turn in Friends & Neighbors Who Are 'Gun Enthusiasts' So Cops Can 'Vet' Them"](#)  
["Small Business Administration: Welfare for the Well-to-do"](#)  
["House Passes "Executive Amnesty Prevention Act of 2014"](#)
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** ["Gruber, Tavenner Answer to Congress for ObamaCare Controversies"](#)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** ["Gun groups differ on support for government funding bill"](#)  
["Obama Advisor Jonathan Gruber: Abortion Saves Government Money"](#)  
["Fate of "Bipartisan" Spending Bill Uncertain as Both Parties Voice Criticisms"](#)  
["E-mails Reveal Obama's Morality Police Are Targeting Lawful Businesses"](#)
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** ["Breaking down the 'cromnibus' vote"](#)  
["Pew Research Shows Increasing Public Support for Gun Rights"](#)  
["Omnibus Bill Passes House, Funds Government Through September"](#)
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** ["School Districts Bribing Kids to Buy Washington-approved Lunches"](#)  
["Native American Tribes See Profit — And Pitfalls — In New Legal Weed Rules"](#)
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** ["TN GOP Governor Announces Plan to Expand Obamacare"](#)  
["Documented: US Border Patrol Shakedowns of Deported Migrants"](#)

## U.S. Elections

- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** ["Jeb Bush's Victory Plan"](#)
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** ["Sikh Woman Becomes First in U.S. Elected to City Council"](#)
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** ["The Constitution Party's Year-End Moneybomb"](#)  
["PROJECT GROUNDSWELL" – Press Release from "The Libertarian Party of Oregon"](#)  
["Jeb Bush Will Not Run as a Conservative"](#)
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** ["Old Mary Landrieu Dies Hard in US Senate Runoff"](#)
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** ["Cassidy Replaces Landrieu: GOP Gains Nine Senate Seats"](#)
- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** ["Alabama Constitution Party Expects to Receive a Free List of the Registered Voters of the County in which it is Ballot-Qualified"](#)  
["New Hampshire Bill Would Reduce Petition Requirements, Ease Definition of "Party""](#)  
["Georgia Libertarian Christine Austin running in special election on January 6, 2015 for State House of Representatives, District 50"](#)  
["Congress Likely to Allow Much Larger Contributions to Political Parties"](#)
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** ["Justice Party Unveils Plan to Grow the Party & Recruit Candidates"](#)  
["Americans feel politically divided, Washington isn't helping"](#)
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** ["Jeb Bush and Foreign Policy \(II\)"](#)



## ***“Proclamation of the Living Trust of FREEDOM”***

*by Bro. Dr. M. J. Seymour, Sr.*

Let him that hath an ear and a conscience hear and find responsibility in the dauntless echoes out of ages of antiquity that find common ground in glorious harmonious chants in the demand for primordial freedom. To every generation there is bequeathed this living trust to secure freedom for the masses from the boorish tyranny of the self-inflicted ones of distorted illuminations from the Prince of Darkness and Master of Deceptions. Holy Freedom is ever at risk and the security of it is forever entrusted to the living saints, who must ever keep a vigilant watch.

Hear the beat of the drums, the encouragement of the bagpipes, the charge of the bugles, and the final trumpet taps of the fallen. Hear the alarms for freedom, the cries in the midst of the battles, the tears in the silence of the battles, and the silence in the homes of the brave. Hear the proclamation of the living trust of freedom echo of our forefathers who deemed it a treasure beyond measure, worthy to be a fit inheritance for their children, their children’s children and their perpetual posterity.

Listen and you shall hear the heroes of forgotten ages lift up their voices in unison to give the Proclamation of the living trust of FREEDOM. “May God grant that ye who still walk and live upon the earth be trusted to protect and secure this fragile God gifted FREEDOM which is a sacrificially earned privilege. May you come to understand the treasure beyond measure to which you are entrusted. As we have learned, if you will not have freedom you will surely have death. God give us freedom!

### **U.S. Security & Surveillance (National & local )**

**Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** [“FAA Wins Legal Battle as Drones Re-Classified as Aircraft Subject to FAA Regulations”](#)

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** [“What America’s police departments don’t want you to know”](#)  
[“Warrantless Taking of Drivers’ Blood Samples Ruled Unconstitutional”](#)

**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** [“Newly-Filed Federal Lawsuits Claim TSA Officers Strip-Search 3 Elderly Women”](#)  
[“The Ferguson conundrum solved by community security”](#)  
[“Opinions Versus Facts” \(Ferguson\)](#)  
[“U.S. Postal Service ‘Mail Imaging’ Program Used For Law Enforcement, Surveillance”](#)

**Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** [“America’s Children: The Trials of Growing Up in a Police State”](#)  
[“Congress Quietly Decides To Delete Key NSA Reform In CRomnibus Agreement”](#)  
[“Militarized police are here to stay”](#)  
[“FBI Seize LAUSD iPad Technology Documents”](#)

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** [“Snowden Receives ‘Alternate Nobel’ for Human Rights”](#)  
[“Libertarian Party: Open Letter to U.S. House Leaders to Prohibit Mass Surveillance”](#)

**Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** [“Report Finds Police Departments Making Their Own Rules, Not Reporting Hundreds of Homicides to The FBI”](#)  
[“Prosecutors Say 1789 George Washington Law Requires Google, Apple to Decrypt Smartphones for Cops”](#)

**Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** [“Racial Double Standard in the Eric Garner Affair”](#)  
[“Senate Intelligence Committee Releases Report on CIA Torture”](#)

**Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** [“Torturing the Truth: Why the CIA Report Won’t Change Anything”](#)

**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** [“Controversy Continues Regarding Senate Committee Report on CIA”](#)  
[“Ferguson, New York Cases Used to Push Nationalized Police”](#)

**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** [“CIA Funding: Never Constrained by its Congressional Budget”](#)  
[“Agent Provocateur? Masked Cop, Uncovered by Oakland Protesters, Points Gun at Freelance Photographer”](#)  
[“The Only CIA Officer in Prison for the Torture Program is the One Who Exposed It”](#)  
[“Lois Lerner emails show DOJ and IRS were working together”](#)  
[“Are Dick Cheney and Michael Hayden Afraid of Torture Prosecution?”](#)  
[“Video Didn’t Save Eric Garner, Body Cameras Won’t Save You”](#)  
[“Surveillance Reform in the Next Congress”](#) (Video)

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** [“One of the First Victims of US Torture Is Now Missing in Afghanistan”](#)

**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** [“Media Ignores Tens of Thousands of People Marching Against Police Brutality”](#)

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** [“Many Americans are OK with torture after the release of the CIA’s report”](#)

### **Joshua Katz Letter Regarding Torture Report and Police-Involved Shooting**

*This letter has been published in several media outlets. We’re republished it from [Independent Political Report](#)*

To the editor:

From Ferguson, to New York, to Guantanamo Bay, we have witnessed systematic brutality, oppression, and murder by our government. We have also witnessed the complete unwillingness of the government to hold itself accountable. Defenders of big government have, predictably, stepped forward to criticize, not the horrific acts of our government, but efforts to bring wrongdoing to light. It is claimed that revelations of torture committed by our government put Americans at risk; that risk was created when our leaders allowed this uncivilized behavior to take place in the first place.

These acts of brutality, and lack of accountability, is the result of far too many years of two party rule. The recent torture report, for example, revealed a program of torture carried out by Republicans but a Democratic administration attempted to delay its revelation and indicated that it will not seek any prosecutions. In response to systematic racism and murder by police departments, the White House has come up with a committee to study, not how to hold murderers accountable, but why the minority population does not trust the police. Perhaps it is because the police carry out acts of murder, cover up for fellow officers who have committed horrific acts, and face no penalty for their actions.

The only way we will begin to clean this up is by breaking the two party duopoly. The Libertarian Party stands with the oppressed, speaks for those who society cannot hear, and offers hope for those who have given up any belief that the world can improve. A vote for a Libertarian is a vote against allowing the murderer of Eric Garner to go free, a vote against the warfare state, and a vote against torture. Wherever a person is brutalized or killed by government, we are with them. Wherever people protest against unjust institutions and systematic racism, we are with them. Now I ask you to stand with us and help us to fight these deprivations.

Joshua Katz

*The writer is a Planning Commissioner in the town of Westbrook, the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, and a member of the Libertarian National Committee, the board of the Libertarian Party.*



## U.S. Foreign Policy & Foreign Relations

- Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** [“US tries to head off Israeli-Palestinian 'Al-Aqsa war’”](#)
- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** [“US-Funded Iraqi Army Spent Over \\$380 Million Per Year Paying 50,000 Nonexistent Soldiers”](#)  
[“Kim Dotcom Evades Jail Once Again In Ongoing Battle with the US”](#)
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** [“Nobody Wants to be Secretary of Defense in the Obama Administration”](#)
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** [“Obama’s Drone Campaign: Portrait of a Failed War on Terror”](#)
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** [“Ahead of elections, Lapid rebukes Netanyahu on US tensions”](#)  
[“Egyptian politicians accuse US of violating rights in Ferguson”](#)
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** [“Obama Nominates Ashton Carter for Defense Secretary”](#)  
[“U.S. Led Coalition Performs 20 Air Strikes on Islamic State in Iraq and Syria”](#)
- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** [“16 Pages Of Reckless Bombast—Congress ‘Declares War’ on Russia”](#)  
[“Meet Ukraine’s New Finance Minister: Washington’s \\$150 Million Bag Lady In Kiev”](#)
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** [“The Conservative Realist?”](#)  
[“Garry Kasparov on Chess, the Cold War, and the West’s Shameful Appeasement of Putin”](#)  
[“NATO and U.S. End Formal Afghanistan Military Deployment, but U.S. Troops Remain”](#)  
[“A Group of Veterans Is Equipping Western Fighters Heading to Battle the Islamic State”](#)
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** [“US/NATO Combat Mission in Afghanistan Ceremonially Over, Wars Continue”](#)  
[“The New King of Coke \(Part 1\)”](#) (The first in a multipart documentary on the war on drugs)
- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** [“North Korea Says United Nations Must Investigate CIA Torture or Risk ‘Double Standards’”](#)  
[“South China Sea Deadline Looms as Beijing Slams US in Growing Global Crisis”](#)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** [“Trans-Pacific Partnership To Facilitate U.S.-China Merger”](#)  
[“House Sends Targeted Venezuela Sanctions to Obama’s Desk”](#)
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** [“Senate committee votes to authorize fight against Islamic State”](#)
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** [“Taliban Bombings and Attacks Kill Dozens During Bloody 24 Hours in Afghanistan”](#)

## Economy (U.S. & International)

- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** [“Stealthflation!!! Got Gold?”](#)  
[“Why Oil Is Finally Declining, Which May Lead to Disaster”](#)  
[“Swiss Gold No - Repatriation, Demand from Russia, India and China More Important”](#)  
[“Anti-Gold Propaganda Prevails In Swiss Vote!”](#)
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** [“Scholars Agree: Immigration Fuels Economic Growth”](#)  
[“Hayek’s Warning: The Social Engineer’s Pretense of Knowledge”](#)
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** [“Swiss Bank Referendum Fails, Franc Drops”](#)
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** [“Only Yesterday—How The Federal Debt Went From \\$1 Trillion To \\$18 Trillion in 33 Years”](#)  
[“Bloomberg’s House Bonehead Clarifies All—Central Banks Should Literally Drop Money From Helicopters”](#)  
[“Small-business owners slowly regaining economic confidence”](#)  
[“Full-throttle stagnation in latest employment data”](#)
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** [“This Time Is The Same: Like The Housing Bubble, The Fed Is Ignoring The Shale Bubble In Plain Sight”](#)  
[“Service Employees Int’l Union Suing Fast-food Stores for “Wage Theft””](#)  
[“SMS Technology Brings Bitcoin to Unbanked, Unplugged Population”](#)
- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** [“Take a Ride on Costa Rica’s Fiscal Train Wreck”](#)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** [“Congress Cuts Aid for Student Grants... Gives the Money to Student Loan Contractors”](#)  
[“Is Carl Icahn Right About Apple After All?”](#)  
[“Russia’s Unfazed by Falling Oil Prices”](#)
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** [“Alberta Puts US States to Shame in Economic Freedom Ranking”](#)
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** [“The Curse Of Keynesian Dogma: Japan’s Lemmings March Toward The Cliff Chanting “Abenomics””](#)  
[“Recap Of An Ugly Week: What the Heck Just Transpired in the Global Markets?”](#)  
[“Debunking Keynesian “History”: The Gold Standard Had Nothing To Do With Panics And Busts”](#)

## U.N. News & Globalization

- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** [“The Macro Mauling Continues: Germany Contracts, Japan Downgraded, Copper Tumbles, WTI Lowest Since 2009, Gold Up”](#)  
[“All Eyes Turn to India as UN Climate Talks Begin in Lima, Peru”](#)
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** [“Grand Strategy Is Bunk”](#)  
[“UN Torture Committee Slams U.S. Police and Military”](#)
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** [“Censors Close In on Global Internet Freedom Four Years Running”](#)
- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** [“UN Climate Conference to Set Record for Carbon Emissions”](#)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** [“It’s a Time Bomb’: How the Pacific is Being Fed to Death by Western Food”](#)
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** [“Exclusive Video: Grant Elder Talks About His New Book, Wiki Vs. NWO”](#)
- ### Neighbors to the South (Mexico & South America)
- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** [“Uruguay’s Republic under Siege”](#)  
[“Rousseff’s Legacy Ready to Crumble”](#) (Brazil)  
[“Latin America Leads World for Taxing Time and Money”](#)
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** [“Mexico Protests Must Not Be in Vain”](#)  
[“Argentina Fines Facebook for Defying Censorship Order”](#)  
[“Venezuela’s Plummeting Bolívar Dips into Hyperinflation”](#)
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** [“Gloria Álvarez Takes Anti-Populist Fight to Argentina”](#)  
[“Electoral Council Clears Path for Correa’s Indefinite Reelection”](#) ()
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** [“Cash-Strapped Chavistas Bankroll Million-Dollar Music Festival”](#)  
[“Peña Nieto Jumps on Special Economic Zone Bandwagon”](#)
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** [“Violent Haitian Protests Send Dominican Diplomats Packing”](#)
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** [“Don’t Fall For Unasur’s Olive Branch of Open Immigration”](#) (Union of South American Nations)  
[“Why Argentina Must Learn the Virtues of Economic Orthodoxy”](#)
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** [“Cuban Regime Arrests Over 100 Activists on Human Rights Day”](#)
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** [“Greenpeace Picks Up the Pieces of Advocacy Blunder in Peru”](#)

## The Western World

(Canada, Europe, & Australia)

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> [“Air Cocaine: Trial Begins for Frenchmen Charged With Smuggling Drugs From the Dominican Republic”](#)

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> [“French homeless forced to wear 'yellow triangles'”](#)

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> [“German man sentenced for joining ISIS”](#)

[“In Iran Nuke Deal, France Wants to Have Its Yellowcake and Eat It Too”](#)

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> [“Why the UK's 'Modern Slavery' Problem Is Only Getting Worse, and New Laws Might Not Help”](#)

[“Revealed: The 'Hopelessness' Faced by Migrants to Australia and the Death of Reza Barati”](#)

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> [“Libs ask for recount in SA by-election”](#) (Australia)

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> [“SA Labor narrowly wins Fisher in recount”](#)

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> [“Three dead, four injured after Sydney siege”](#) (Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in Australia)  
[“Sydney in mourning after siege ends”](#)  
[“IIRideWithYou is the best thing to come out of the Sydney hostage situation”](#)

### ROMANIA MISSIONS

December 8, 2014

Dear Pastor and Churches,

**Mission work.** We continued with our regular trips to Bocsă, Filiasi, Aiud and Craiova. Bro. Creosteanu, from Bucharest asked Aurel Munteanu to come there for a week to make some visits and distribute literature. We already sent literature to both brethren, but we don't know if the weather will allow such a trip as winter is settling in. Bro. George, in Rosiori, received several invitations for visiting in his home town and honored them. They received an invitation to meet regularly with a family there.

We were able to visit with many here in Bocsă last month. The opportunity was a sad one, the funeral of an 18 year old, the son of a friend. He was diagnosed with lung cancer six weeks before he passed away. Everything happened very quickly. We are thankful that the young man knew the Lord and this is the greatest comfort for the family. The father came for a short visit a few days after the funeral, and we had a good biblical discussion. Remember to pray for them, please.

We also have been in touch with the people we visited in Moldova. The seventh grade daughter of the family that invited us there underwent surgery for appendicitis. But all is

well now and she is back in school. A special prayer request is for Virgil, Bro. Nicu's son from Filiasi. The Lord has been dealing with him in bringing him back into the church fellowship which he left 6 years ago. He started attending again and he is doing much better spiritually. But he suffers from a serious heart condition. He was close to a heart attack during the first time he came to church service. He was recently discharged from the hospital, but he still has occasional heart pains.

**Literature work.** We had a very busy month in the printshop, printing Bro. Chuck Hunt's *The Body of Christ* and J.E. Cobbs' *Baptist Church Manual*. These are two of the largest publications we have printed here. With these 2 projects, we now have 7 large books produced here in our print shop. We started the translation of Bro. Cockrell's *Missions, Missionaries and The Great Commission*, an excellent little book that every „evangelical” should read. During last month we also sent out several thousands of pieces of literature. Much of it was handed directly to people as we traveled. Thank you all for your faithful prayers and support of this work. I wish to thank the churches that sent us love offerings and also those that increased their support in the last months. You did this without us asking you, but we were praying for a solution, brethren, as our mission and printing efforts and expenses are higher than ever. Every little bit comes as a great help now. It was the Lord that burdened your hearts to do so, and we praise Him for this. Thank you all again! Please keep us in your prayers!

**Introducing our new church members.** I would like to continue with the introduction of the new members. This month I will write about Estera Munteanu, Aurel's wife. Bro. Aurel, you will remember, is a full time preacher working out of our church. Estera (Esther) was saved long ago and has attended our every church service since she came the first time. She believes entirely like us, except she didn't see the need to be properly baptized since she was immersed by a Pentecostal preacher after she was saved. But our prayers found an answer this year when she came before the church to ask for scriptural baptism. She is expecting another child now and asks you to pray for her and for the unborn child, since the doctors say that she may lose the baby due to some complications. Please pray for Estera, for Aurel and their son, Onita, and the work there in Southern Romania.

*Bro. Raul*

## The Middle East

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> [“Israeli nationality bill negates Palestinian self-determination”](#)

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> [“Lieberman outlines his regional peace plan”](#) (Israeli politics)

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> [“Israelis raise funds for Syrian children”](#)  
[“Voter apathy expected to linger among Israeli Arabs”](#)

[“Saudi Arabia forced to rethink ideology in fight against IS”](#)

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> [“Iraq investigates private banks for money laundering”](#)  
[“Russian envoy helps advance Iranian nuclear deal”](#)

[“Who will replace Netanyahu as prime minister?”](#)

[“Gaza engineer develops new technology to replace cement”](#)

[“AP EXCLUSIVE: Kurds Doggedly Defend Kobani”](#) (video report)

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> [“Low turnout expected in Israeli elections”](#)

[“Land grab in Turkey's southeast threatens return of minorities”](#)

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> [“Pakistani Soldiers Kill Top Al Qaeda Militant Accused of Plotting NYC Subway Attack”](#)

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> [“New Evidence Suggests Israel Is Helping Syrian Rebels in the Golan Heights”](#)

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> [“Syria and Iran Condemn Israeli Airstrikes Near Damascus”](#)

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> [“Palestinian Minister Dies After Confrontation with Israeli Soldiers at West Bank Protest”](#)

[“Iran's parliament speaker looks to form own party”](#)

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> [“Tears and Rage at Funeral for Palestinian Minister Who Died in Clash with Israeli Soldiers”](#)

[“Iran Wants Israel to Settle a Multi-Million Dollar Debt From More Than 35 Years Ago”](#)

[“Islamic State Releases Q&A Guide on the Treatment of Yazidi Slave Girls”](#)

[“Islamic State Allegedly Charging \\$1M for the Return of James Foley's Body”](#)

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> [“Hell Cannons' Have Slaughtered More Than 300 Syrian Civilians”](#)

[“Jordan Has Started Deporting Medical Workers and Wounded Syrian Refugees”](#)



## ***“Everyone Shall Give An Account To God”***

*by Bro. Dr. M. J. Seymour, Sr.*

*“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Rom. 14:11-12)*

Humans have always been obstinate brutish self-willed beasts. It is in the nature of their fleshly hearts and minds to despise the sovereign authority of Almighty God, their Creator. Mankind tramples through this world for the most part void of any serious considerations of his mortality and the eternal destiny of his soul. The vast majority are content living in rebellion to the laws of God. It is quite difficult for reprobated minds to grasp the reality of what sin really is and the inevitable condemnation for the love of sin. Lawlessness is the offspring of arrogant unbelief in brutish beasts. After all, if we do not believe there is a God then He really does not exist, right? If we believe God will not cast anyone into hell then He won't, right? This God thing is just all a myth anyway, right?

Apostle Paul asked: “For what *if* some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?” (Rom. 3:3) If one believes the earth is not round does that mean that the earth is not round? Believing has no influence on reality, whether one validates or disavows the existence of a reality does not alter reality.

The reality is that there is a sovereign eternal God that the heavens and the heavens cannot contain; He rules the heavens, the earth, and all that He has created. Not one person can opt-out of His sovereignty or being held accountable to His laws and commands.

In the day of the final eternal judgment the record books written in heaven will be opened, and all men will be judged according to their deeds inscribed within the records. “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Heb. 4:13) Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess and give an account of his life to God. In that day all will know the reality of it.

## **Asia & Pacific Isles**

**Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** [“Malaysia Becomes Angry About Exclusion from MH17 Investigation”](#)

**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** [“China Has Blocked a British Mission to Hong Kong — and the UK Parliament Isn't Happy About It”](#)

**Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** [“No Arrest for Hong Kong Protest Leaders”](#) “Three pro-democracy movement leaders are turned away when attempting to turn themselves in to police. Student leaders continue hunger strike. Protests go on.” (video report.)  
[“China Will Be Banishing Its Creative Class to the Countryside”](#)  
[“Drones Are Being Tested in the Fight Against a Tuberculosis Epidemic in Papua New Guinea”](#)

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** [“In Photos: Proof That Life in North Korea Isn't Always Living Hell”](#)  
[“South Korea to Point Giant Christmas Tree at North Korea's General Direction”](#)  
[“Chechnya's Islamist Insurgency Rears Its Head Once Again in Deadly Grozny Gunfight”](#)

**Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** [“China Makes a New Year's Resolution: To Stop Harvesting the Organs of Executed Prisoners”](#)

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** [“INDIA'S PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER](#)

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** [“Uber Driver Arrested in India for Allegedly Raping and Threatening to Stab Passenger”](#)

**Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** [“The Opium and Heroin Business Is Booming in Southeast Asia's 'Golden Triangle”](#)

**Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** [“Tinder Couple Caught in Drug Bust Highlight China's War on Meth”](#)  
[“Indonesian Army Kills Five Civilians as West Papua Independence Campaign Strengthen”](#)  
[“Acute Water Shortage Leads to State of Emergency in the Maldives”](#)

**Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** [“Militants Pledged to Islamic State Blamed for Killing 10 in Philippines Bus Bombing”](#)  
[“Hitler Makes Inexplicable Cameo in Thai Junta's 'Core Values' Video for School Kids”](#)

**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** [“It's Just the Beginning' — Hong Kong Protesters Vow They'll Be Back as Police Tear Down Main Pro-Democracy Camp”](#)

## ***“Praise Ye the LORD”***

*by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr.*

I Chronicles 16:23, 24, 25 *“Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.”*

As the children of God we are to show the world our gratitude to our Heavenly Father constantly. Here in these verses we are told to sing to our Lord and to show daily what His salvation means to us or has done for us. We are to declare His glory to even our harshest enemies. We are to proclaim His Word and His works to all the world. Why? Because our Lord, above all others, above all the false gods the world over, is the only one worthy to be praised! Praise Him in every aspect of your life. Praise Him when you are down. Praise Him when you are up, Praise Him when the world seems to be coming down around you and there seems no way out. Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!” By: Frances J. Crosby

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;  
Strength and honor give to His holy Name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,  
In His arms He carries them all day long.

Refrain:

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness;  
Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died.  
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus the Crucified.  
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,  
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;  
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!  
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,  
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

## Africa

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> [“Body of Kidnapped and Beheaded Police Officer Found in Tunisia”](#)

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> [“Monitoring Sick Animals in the Wild Could Be the Key to Preventing the Next Ebola Outbreak”](#)  
[“Kenyan President Vows War After Militant Group Al-Shabaab Massacres 36 Quarry Workers”](#)

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> [“Al Shabaab Targets ‘Foreign Mercenaries’ in Deadly Attack on UN Convoy in Somalia”](#)  
[“Kenya’s Government in Crisis After al-Shabaab Kills 36 Christians”](#)

## Social Commentary, Culture, & Arts

(U.S. & International)

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> [“Since When Are Egyptians Not White?”](#)

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> [“Slate Strikes Out: Analysis of Thanksgiving Tale Draws the Wrong Conclusions”](#)

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> [“Roberto Ampuero: One Man’s Escape from Communism’s Clutches”](#)

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> [“Japanese Cops Have Arrested the Woman Who Made a Kayak Shaped Like Her Vagina — Again”](#)

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> [“Stephen Hicks: Populism Succeeds Where Education Fails”](#)

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> [“From republicanism to tyranny: How did we lose our rights?”](#)  
[“Pearl Harbor and the Engineers of War”](#)

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> [“The ‘thin blue line’ serves no purpose”](#)  
[“The Reality and Propaganda of War”](#)

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> [“Moynihan Was Right In 1965: A Monograph On The 50-Year Decline Of The Two Parent Family”](#)  
[“Be Glad You Haven’t Read the Broken Logic of ‘Broken Bonds’”](#)  
[“Americans are mad as hell and we’re not going to take this anymore”](#)  
[“Education We Want, Not What Politicians Provide”](#)

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> [“‘War Is The Health Of The State’: Reflections On The Torture Report”](#)  
[“Latin America: Between Despotism and Chaos”](#)

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> [“Holocaust Panel: Abortion should be Remembered as a Crime against Humanity”](#)  
[“The Hundreds: Thomas Jefferson’s Forgotten Plan for Restoring a Failed Republic”](#)  
[“Rape and the Attack of the ‘Man-hating Media’”](#)

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> [“The Old Feudal Spirit”](#)

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> [“Why rumours about the Sydney siege spread on social media”](#)

## Religion

(U.S. & International)

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> [“Catholic Church Advisory Group Says Obligatory Celibacy May Have Contributed to Child Abuse”](#)

## Science & Technology

(U.S. & International)

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> [“Why Creation Matters - #Abortion”](#) (Video, 28 mins long)

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> [“The Geminids meteor shower should be one of the best this year”](#)

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> [“Officials fret potential mass blackouts from solar activity”](#)

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> [“The science of airport bomb detection: mass spectrometry”](#)  
[“An electron’s near-light-speed tour of the Australian Synchrotron”](#)

## Health & Medicine

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## Historical Marker: “The Inquisition”

*by C. H. Spurgeon  
From the August 1868  
Sword and Trowel*

THE union of the church with the state renders persecution possible; and hitherto churches have not been slow to avail themselves of the secular arm that they might confound all dissent with arguments which come home to the bone and the flesh. All churches, when they lose the spirit of Christ, are very prone to persecute; but a horrible pre-eminence must be awarded to the scarlet harlot of the seven hills, for no church on earth except that of Rome has had a separate institution for hunting out and destroying heretics. Whether it may be traced to want of will or want of inclination on the part of other establishments, it is certain that the Popish Antichrist alone has been able to drink of the overflowing blood-cup filled by familiars and tormentors. Long pampered by the state, she came to be its lord and tyrant, using fire and sword, prison and rack, to work her accursed will. The Inquisition was the masterpiece of infernal craft and malice, and its deeds were far more worthy of fiends than men. If the church of Rome could at this moment change its Ethiopian skin for ever, lay aside its leopard's spots, and become a pure community, ten thousand years of immaculate holiness and self-denying philanthropy could not avail to blot out the remembrance of the enormous crimes with which the Inquisition has loaded it. There is a deep and indelible sentence of damnation written upon the apostate church by avenging justice for its more than infernal cruelties, and the curse is registered in heaven; nor can any pretences to present liberality reverse the condemnation which outraged humanity has pronounced against it; its infamy is engraved in the rock for ever. Centuries of the most liberal policy would not convince mankind that Popery had become tolerant at heart; she wallowed so greedily in oppression, torture, and murder in her palmy days, that the foam of human gore hangs around her wolfish hugs, and men will not believe her to be a gentle lamb, let her bleat as she may. Against her common humanity is up in arms as much as evangelical religion. Her confessional is as dangerous to the mere moralist as to the Christian; her inquisition would be as ruinous to mercantile

prosperity as to spiritual activity. Men of all religions and of no religion should deprecate the growth of a system which rendered the Inquisition possible; while followers of Jesus, for their own sake as well as for their Lord's, should oppose it with all their might.

Rome made the worst possible use of the weapon which the state gave her, but the radical evil was the state's entering into alliance with the church, and lending its power to fulfill her purposes. Had true church principles prevailed, the crimes which make us shudder would have been impossible. Disarm and disestablish every sect, and leave each religion to its own moral and spiritual power, and no inquisition can be dreamed of; but put forward the doctrine that a state should propagate or maintain religion, and you have uncaged the lion; no one knows how much he may rend and devour. Modern Romanists would, many of them, lament the cruelties of former ages, but they ought to see that these were but the ripe fruits of their system when plentifully irrigated with royal favor, and planted in a soil rank with ignorance and superstition; a principle which, among Protestants with far less scope, has nevertheless produced most horrible results. Anglican churchmen who persist in upholding church and state, if they will but carefully think the matter over, will see that the Inquisition is but a grosser exposition of their principles; it is not the outgrowth of either one creed or another, but the result of a paternal government protecting its espoused faith with all its power. The argument that a state ought to have a religion, and support it by national funds, when like a medlar fully ripe and rotten, lands us at Smithfield's stakes or the Lollard's Tower. Whether Papists or so-called Protestants hold it, its results are the same in substance though not in measure. Rome has made a diabolical use of it, but no priests are to be trusted, even Protestants can persecute if they have the opportunity. Principles do not stop short at a hard and fast line, though their practice may be compelled to do so; and it is clear to every thinking man that, although state-churchmen would shrink from setting up an inquisition, the full development of their views would logically require it: the path of prudence is to return to the true principle, and leave the kingdom of Christ to be as at the first, not of this world. The same spirit which blazed up at an *auto-da-fé* smoulders in an imprisonment for church-rates, and the same principle which in its manhood dyed the Netherlands with blood in order to thrust in the Papacy, is that which thrusts in the Irish church upon an unwilling people. We Protestants who are really so, must fight zealously against the essential Popery which would lead us to use the secular arm in spiritual matters, and would tempt us to employ compulsion where everything to be acceptable must be voluntary. We must insist upon it that no shade of coercion or degree of patronage shall be exercised towards any religion; all must be fully tolerated, nay, more, all protected in their natural liberty, and all secured an absolute equality before the law. To act as Rome has acted is to unprotestantise ourselves. To deny Roman Catholics the fullest civil and religious equality is to degrade ourselves to their level by handling their weapons. Faction suggests reprisals, and fear demands precautions, and none can wonder, for the Papistical party is cunning and bigoted to the last degree; but Christianity scorns to sin in order to avenge a wrong, or avert an evil. If we treat our antagonists as they treated our fathers, we cannot convert them, for they have already perverted *us*. A people boasting of their Protestantism as the English do, should be ashamed to support Popery in the Anglican establishment, or

to bow before the dogma of union between church and state, which is the essence of Antichrist and the germ of persecution: an injustice to man, and an impertinence to God. The inmost soul of Protestantism is *the responsibility of the conscience to God alone, the spiritual nature of true religion, and the freedom of faith from the rule of earthly lords*. State-churchism is antichristian, and always ripens into oppression and tyranny wherever opportunity is given it. "NO POPERY" is our cry, and therefore laying the ax at the root of the system, we demand the abolition of every union between church and state, and the disallowance of every form of interference on the part of Caesar with things which belong alone to God.

We have been led to these remarks through reading a most thrilling work by Dr. W. H. Rule, a solid volume of sober history, written without the slightest tinge of sensationalism, and yet more stirring by far than any romance. Dr. Rule has, by this book, contributed to the standard library of Christendom—every one should read it, and see what state-religion leads to when it has nothing to hinder it. Truly in the case of the Romish church it makes one loathe the very name of Romanist, and shake himself, lest the plague of intolerance should by any means linger in his own garments. To Rome it seems to be essential to rend and devour. "'Blessed Father,' said Baronius to Paul V., 'the ministry of Peter is twofold—to feed and to kill.' For the Lord said to him, 'Feed my sheep;' and he also heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'Kill and eat.' To feed sheep is to take care of obedient, faithful Christians, who in meekness, humility, and piety, show themselves to be sheep and lambs. But when he has no longer to do with sheep and lambs, but with lions, and other wild, refractory, and troublesome beasts, Peter is commanded to kill them; that is to say, to attack, fight, and slaughter them, until there be none such left." This notion of killing (eating is another matter)—has been fully carried out by the Papacy, as our long rolls of martyrology can prove. It is the duty of all Protestants to be well read in our martyr annals, that our detestation of Popery and all that leads to intolerance may be renewed and confirmed.

Dr. Rule commences with a paragraph which shows that persecution commenced as soon as ever the church was affiliated with the state. "The first imperial patron of Christians, Constantine the Great, cannot be fairly described as a persecutor, but rather as benevolent and liberal; yet, educated in heathenism, he thought it quite right to employ repressive measures for the extinction of idolatry, measures which the Pagans complained of as unjust, but could not regard as cruel in comparison with the ancient hostilities waged against each other by the votaries of hostile gods. Constantine, as a matter of course, discouraged freedom of utterance, where such freedom seemed inexpedient, and denied liberty of worship to idolaters and heretics. His edicts, or constitutions, became part of the civil law of Christian Europe. No fewer than seventy-two such laws, made by Constantine and his successors, against controversialists and heretics, with many more against Jews, Samaritans, and Pagans, may be found in the Theodosian Code, and show how diversities of religious opinion were to be prevented, and the teachers crushed. Confiscation, banishment, death, were the penalties to be inflicted for breach of what Romanists are pleased to call 'Catholic unity.'" Every reader of this paragraph who is not an anti-state churchman should carefully note it, and meditate within himself as to what the fact here stated most surely indicates.



The powers of the Inquisition when in its palmy days were very extensive. A Romish writer says, "The tribunal claims right of jurisdiction over the following persons:—All heretics without exception. All who blaspheme God and the saints. They who utter words of blasphemy when extremely drunk are not to be condemned at once, but watched. If half drunk, they are entirely guilty. They who speak blasphemously or heretically in their sleep are to be watched; for it is likely that their lips betrayed the heresy that was lurking in their hearts. All who speak jestingly of sacred things. Wizards and fortune-tellers. Worshippers of the devil: and it seems that while the Inquisition was in its glory, when the Reformation had scarcely dawned, or where its light had scarcely penetrated, people were known to offer sacrifices to the evil one, kneel down to him, sing hymns to him, observe 'chastity' and fast in honor of him, illuminate and cense his images, insert names of devils in the litanies of saints, and ask them to intercede with God. Such was the condition of many who had known no other church but that of Rome. All who harbor, or show kindness to heretics, being themselves orthodox; very near relatives, however, having slight indulgence allowed them, in some cases, if the inquisitors please. All who look ill on an inquisitor—those ugly looks being indications of heresy, and injurious to the holy office. Persons in civil office who hinder the inquisition and its agents, or who refuse to help them, or allow an accused person to conceal himself or to escape. Any one who gives food to a heretic, unless he be actually dying of hunger: for in this case it is allowable to feed him, that he may live to take his trial, and, haply, to be converted. Experienced inquisitors could detect a heretic by a characteristic unsightliness about the eyes and nostrils."

The terrible burnings of the faithful witnesses of the Lord at the *autos-da-fé* of the Inquisition are painted to the life by our author, so that one shudders to read the description. "At Lisbon, the place of execution was at the water-side. For each person to be burnt, whether dead or alive, a thick stake, or spar, was erected, not less than twelve feet above ground; and within about eighteen inches of the top there was a thick cross-piece, to serve for a seat, and to receive the tops of two ladders. Between those ladders, which were for the use of two Jesuits, there was one for the condemned person, whom they compelled to mount, sit on the transverse piece, and there be chained fast. The Jesuits then went up, delivered a hasty exhortation to repentance, and, that failing, declared that they left him to the devil, who was waiting to receive his soul. On perceiving this, the mob shouted, 'Let the dog's beard be trimmed;' that is to say, let his face be scorched. This was done by tying pieces of furze to the end of a long pole, and holding the flaming bush to his face, until it was burnt black. The disfiguration of countenance, and his cries for 'mercy for the love of God,' furnished great part of the amusement for the crowd, who, if he had been suffering death in a less barbarous way for any criminal offense, would have manifested every appearance of compassion. When 'the beard' was trimmed, they lit the heap of furze at the foot of the stake, and, if there were was no wind, the flame would envelop the seat, and begin to burn their legs; but, as there generally is a breeze on the banks of the Tagus, it seldom reached so high. If there was no wind, he would be dead in an half an hour; but the victim generally retained entire consciousness for an hour and a-half, or two hours, in dire torment, which the spectators witnessed with such delight as

could never be produced by any other spectacle. In short, the burning, or rather roasting to death, was so contrived that the sufferer should be exposed to every spectator, and that his cries from that elevation should be distinctly audible all round." Occasionally a poor wretch would recant, and indeed every cunning device was used to induce such recantation. One of their own order coolly says, "And while fulfilling its office, a few upright men, zealous for the faith, may go to the criminal, and exhort him to return to the Catholic faith, and renounce his errors. And if, after the sentence is passed, and he is given over to the secular court, while they are taking him away to be burnt, or when he is tied to the stake, or when he feels the fire, he say that he is willing to turn and repent, and abjure his heresy, I should think that he might in mercy be received as a heretic penitent, and immured for life, according to some passages in the Decretals" (which are cited), "although I imagine this would not be found very justifiable, nor is great faith to be placed in conversions of this sort. Indeed, such an occurrence did take place in Barcelona, where three heretics impenitent, but not relapsed, were delivered to the secular arm, and when one of them, a priest, had the fire lit round him, and was already half burnt on one side, he begged to be taken out, and promised to abjure and repent. He was taken out, abjured. But whether we did right or not, I cannot say. One thing I know, that fourteen years afterwards he was accused, and found to have persisted in his heresy all the time, and infected many. He then refused to be converted, and, as one impenitent and relapsed, was again delivered to the secular arm, and consumed in fire."

Frequently, a refinement of cruelty was displayed which unassisted mortals could hardly have thought of, the direct suggestion of Satan is evident in many a passage in the Inquisitorial history. Incarnate fiends trod those bloodstained halls. "Gaspar de Santa Cruz escaped to Toulouse, where he died, and was buried, after his effigy had been burnt in Zaragoza. In this city lived a son of his, who, as in duty bound, had helped him to make good his retreat. This son was detained as an impeder of the holy office, arrested, brought out at an act of faith, made to read a condemnation of his deceased father, and then sent to the inquisitor at Toulouse, who took him to his father's grave, and compelled him to dig up the corpse, and burn it with his own hands. Whether the inquisitors were most barbarous, or the young man most vile, it may be difficult to say."

We trust, for the sake of our common nature, that there is some mistake in the description which Gavazzi gives of the Roman Inquisitorial edifice, when laid bare during the short-lived Roman republic. He says, "So short was the time that it remained open to the public, so great the crowd of persons that pressed to catch a sight of it, and so intense the horror inspired by that accursed place, that I could not obtain a more exact and particular impression."

"I found no instruments of torture, for they were destroyed at the first French invasion, and because such instruments were not used afterwards by the modern Inquisition. I did, however, find in one of the prisons of the second court a furnace, and the remains of a woman's dress. I shall never be able to believe that that furnace was used for the living, it not being in such a place, or of such a kind, as to be of service to them. Every thing, on the contrary, combines to persuade me that it was made use of for

horrible deaths, and to consume the remains of victims of inquisitorial executions. Another object of horror I found between the great hall of judgment and the luxurious apartment of the chief jailer, the Dominican friar who presides over this diabolical establishment. This was a deep tray, a shaft opening into the vaults under the Inquisition. As soon as the so-called criminal had confessed his offense, the second keeper, who is always a Dominican friar, sent him to the father commissary to receive a relaxation of his punishment. With hope of pardon, the confessed culprit would go towards the apartment of the holy inquisitor; but in the act of setting foot at its entrance, the trap opened, and the world of the living heard no more of him. I examined some of the earth found in the pit below this trap; it was a compost of common earth, rottenness, ashes, and human hair, fetid to the smell, and horrible to the sight and thought of the beholder.

”But where popular fury reached its highest pitch was in the vaults of St. Pius V. I am anxious that you should note well that this Pope was canonized by the Roman Church especially for his zeal against heretics. I will now describe to you the manner how, and the place where, those vicars of Jesus Christ handled the living members of Jesus Christ, and show you how they proceeded for their healing. You descend into the vaults by very narrow stairs. A narrow corridor leads you to the several cells, which, for smallness and for stench, are a hundred times more horrible than the dens of lions and tigers in the Coliseum.

”Wandering in this labyrinth of most fearful prisons, which may be called 'graves for the living,' I came to a cell full of skeletons without skulls, buried in lime. The skulls, detached from the bodies, had been collected in a hamper by the first visitors. Whose were these skeletons? And why were they buried in that place and in that manner?

”The following is a most probable opinion, if it be not rather the history of a fact:—The condemned were immersed in a bath of slaked lime, gradually filled up to their necks. The lime, by little and little, enclosed the sufferers, or walled them up all alive. The torment was extreme, but slow. As the lime rose higher and higher, the respiration of the victims became more painful, because more difficult. So that what with the suffocation of the smoke, and the anguish of a compressed breathing they died in a manner most horrible and desperate. Some time after their death, the heads would naturally separate from the bodies, and roll away into the hollows left by the shrinking of the lime. Any other explanation of the fact that may be attempted will be found improbable and unnatural.”

The modes by which confessions were extracted by the inquisitors, it would be difficult to condemn too severely. Take a specimen:—A wife of a physician was accused with her three unmarried daughters. "One of these daughters was imprisoned first, but made no disclosure. The inquisitor then tried a novel and horrible method. He had her brought into the audience-chamber, sent his subordinates out of the room, and professed that he had fallen in love with her—that he was resolved to save her life. Day after day he repeated the declaration, and at length persuaded the poor girl that he was indeed her lover. He then told her that, although she knew it not, her mother and sisters were accused of heresy by many witnesses, and that, for the love he

bore to her, he desired to save them; but that, in order to effect his object, he must be fully informed of their case, under secrecy, that he might so proceed as to save them all from death. She fell into the snare, and told him all. His point was gained. Their conversation ended. The very next day he called her to another audience, and made her declare, judicially, what she had revealed to him in the assumed character lover. That was enough. The mother and her daughters were sent together to the flames. And the fiend saw his victims burnt." Shall not God be avenged on such a people as this?

Our author has not condescended to defile his pages with details of the lasciviousness of the holy fathers of the sacred office, otherwise he might have told a tale of the kind which blanches raven locks, and makes men's flesh creep on their bones. Pandemonium was Paradise itself compared with the Inquisition. He does not even dwell upon the horrible cruelties enacted more than is barely sufficient for his purpose, but the whole history is nevertheless harrowing to the last degree.

Even while these wretches crushed their victims, they evidently feared their testimony, and found it needful to check their holy witnessing. The gag, in its most cruel form was always ready. One instance we must not omit:—"Dr. Michael Geddes, when a prisoner was brought out who had been several years shut up in a dungeon where clear daylight never penetrated, saw the poor man raise his eyes towards the sun, and heard him exclaim in rapture, as if overwhelmed with majesty of the object, 'How can people that behold that glorious body worship any other being than Him that created it?' Instantly the gag was thrust into his mouth, and the Jesuits who attended him to the *Terreiro de Paco* were not troubled with any more of his reflections."

Which shall we wonder at most, the endurance of the faithful or the cruelty of their tormentors? Is it not proven beyond all dispute that there is no limit to the enormities which men will commit when they are once persuaded that they are keepers of other men's consciences? To spread religion by any means, and to crush heresy by all means is the practical inference from the doctrine that one man may control another's religion. Given the duty of a state to foster some one form of faith, and by the sure inductions of our nature slowly but certainly persecution will occur. To prevent for ever the possibility of Papists roasting Protestants, Anglicans hanging Romish priests, and Puritans flogging Quakers, let every form of state-churchism be utterly abolished, and the remembrance of the long curse which it has cast upon the world be blotted out for ever.

### *"The Heresy Of Consistent Preterism"*

*by Bro. Doug Newell*

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#### **II Timothy 2:16-18**

Consistent Preterism is a belief that the return of Jesus Christ has already taken place and that all prophecy has been fulfilled. Proponents of this system will have you to believe that it is merely a slight difference of eschatological opinions; however, I contend that it is a dangerous, cancerous false doctrine that has dire consequence to the faith of some who may fall prey to its malicious teaching. It is a form of the same ancient heresy Paul

warned Timothy about in II Timothy 2:15-18 **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some"** (Emphasis DPN). Hymenaeus and Philetus also taught that the future resurrection had already taken place just as modern consistent Preterism teaches today. Unfortunately, it does not stop with the resurrection, but to be consistent they teach that all prophecy is fulfilled. Any prophetic passage in all of Holy Scripture you can name, any future event in God's Word, it has already taken place; everything to the point they teach we are now living in the new Heaven and new Earth. Through the course of this discourse I intend to bring to light this heresy, which I believe to be in many cases, is a damnable heresy, and show why it is indeed a dangerous error, not simply another view of a "non-essential" matter. This is not a new doctrine, and is believed and propagated even among those that call themselves Landmark Baptists. Hymenaeus and Philetus might have taught church truth. You may have heard a hearty amen from them hearing a message on the doctrines of Grace; but they taught a deadly heresy, and there are some who do the same. They say they agree with us on church authority, and closed communion; they say they agree with us on other Baptist distinctives, but spread a dangerous heresy.

First, let's look at some of the major points of heresy that the advocates of Preterism hold that makes this doctrine RANK heresy. Preterism teaches that Jesus Christ came back and fulfilled all prophecy contained in Holy Writ in AD 70. In the year AD 70 Rome destroyed the temple in Jerusalem lead by Emperor Titus, just as Jesus foretold.

### Titus

This destruction is a historical fact and it did happen; but the basis of this teaching is that ALL prophecy was fulfilled at this time. They take the works of Josephus and other secular histories to be their authority on the matter as it is necessary for them to rest upon secular accounts as their foundation and not God's word. Indeed, some of the things in the first 14 verses of the Matthew 24 were fulfilled, but not in total. The first 14 verses of Matthew 24 deal with the entire time period prior to the rapture, and then, up through the first 3 & 1/2 years of the tribulation period. They were not fulfilled in total in AD 70. Jesus mentioned the destruction of the temple in Matthew 24:2 "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Jesus is speaking of the AD destruction of the temple by Rome. But the next verse is very important to understanding the rest of the chapter. Matthew 24:3 **"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"** The disciples after having thought of what the Lord had said asked three questions. Question 1. When shall these things be? Question 2. What shall be the sign of thy coming? Question 3. What shall be the sign of the end of the world? Jesus answers these three questions throughout the rest of the chapter. The rest of the 24th chapter is not dealing explicitly with verse

two, but answering the questions of verse 3. The premise that all things were fulfilled at this time is taken by the Preterists saying that the remainder of the 24th chapter of Matthew deals with verse two and the year AD 70, and this assertion forces all prophecy into that time period by taking scripture out of context, or spiritualizing the scriptures instead of a literal interpretation of scripture. They rest their proof of Christ's so-called AD 70 coming on the historical works of men, and Josephus in particular. You cannot take the scripture and prove such a belief system. A person could read their Bible and learn from the Bible alone the truth of the church and desire to be a Baptist, a person could read their Bible and learn the truth of Sovereign Grace from the Bible alone; however, you could not read your Bible and become a Preterist because they rely extensively on extra-biblical testimony. **"Let God be true and every man a liar."** In order for this theory that Matthew 24 was fulfilled in AD 70 to fit, everything else in scripture has to shift to make room and thus the dangerous descent of this profanation. Preterism must then find someplace to put the time of Jacob's trouble, so they teach the tribulation period was from AD 63 to AD 70. However, dealing with the end of the tribulation God's word says in Revelation 1:7 **"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."** Every eye did not see the Lord Jesus Christ. When He comes, EVERY eye shall see him! Only gross spiritualization of Holy Writ could explain away such passages as "every eye shall see him when He comes in glory". Matthew 24:30 **"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."** It is hard to nail down the whole of Preterism, because like most heresy, there are so many different interpretations. One interpretation of this verse is that Christ's glory mentioned here was the glory of Emperor Titus and the Roman army and that Christ was guiding the army as He did Israel in the wilderness. This scripture is referencing the second advent of the second coming of the Lord Jesus. There will be a sign in heaven, and all the tribes, notice, all the tribes, not just Jerusalem, but from America to Australia, all the people of the earth shall mourn, and they, the whole earth, shall SEE the Son of man coming in the clouds, with power and GREAT glory. You would think that if the Lord Jesus Christ came back in great glory, and an event that the whole world saw and mourned over that it would be documented by every tribe and people on Earth. It is not documented because it has not happened yet.

The most vital point of the Christian faith that Preterism stands contrary to, is on the resurrection, claiming it is already past and even goes so far as to a complete denial of a bodily resurrection, claiming only a spiritual resurrection. In order to make their AD 70 theory fit, their doctrine now has to do something with the resurrection. Preterism, like most dangerous heresy, will use the same words as you and I, but apply their own definition. For example, if you ask a Preterist if they believe in the resurrection, they will answer yes. If you ask them if they believe in the resurrection of Christ, they will say yes; but what they mean by resurrection and what the Bible means by resurrection are two completely different ideas. Preterist, when speaking of resurrection, mean a spiritual resurrection, or the new birth, it has nothing to do with the body, and if you press a consistent



Preterist for an answer they will, if they will be honest with you, deny Christ's bodily resurrection as well. Very deceptive, isn't it? That's why it is dangerous, you must define the terms every step of the way to find out what they truly believe. General questions, unfortunately, will not get you to the bottom of their belief system. Notice, in the frequently asked questions of a prominent website dedicated to Preterism, which we will continue to refer to, concerning the resurrection: "*Preterism does teach the Resurrection of the dead, however it does not subscribe to a physical resurrection of bodies*" (PlanetPreterist.com FAQ ). What kind of resurrection is that? What blatant double talk. Preterism is directly contrary to the Word of God which very clearly and quite often speaks of the bodily resurrection of the saints of God. Romans 8:11 **"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."** The danger of this teaching is if our resurrection is past and if there is no bodily resurrection for us, then there was also no resurrection of Jesus Christ, and if no resurrection of Christ, our hope is in vain! Please read the 15th chapter of I Corinthians. Our future resurrection is tied to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul put himself on the line, his credibility; the faith once delivered, salvation and the work of Christ all on the fact and necessity of the resurrection. If Christ did not rise, then, like a house of cards, it's all coming down. But, He is RISEN, and risen BODILY. You have hundreds of eye witnesses, credible witnesses of the friends of Christ, also the enemies of Christ, most of all, the divinely inspired record of the Holy Scriptures; and I know by faith, the faith given to me by the risen Lord that He bodily arose from the dead. This makes Preterism a damnable heresy. If you deny our resurrection, you deny the resurrection of Christ, if you deny the resurrection of Christ, you are not saved! No matter what you say about doctrines of Grace, the church, Landmarkism, baptism, if you deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, you are on your way to Hell. 1 Corinthians 15:13-20 **"But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."**

Preterism teaches that the time of Jacobs trouble, or the great tribulation period, has already taken place. Matthew 24:21 **"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."** The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 was not the worst tribulation the world has ever seen. For the people who lived during that time, it was indeed terrible tribulation, but can it be said that it was worse than the Sodom and Gomorrah, the Genesis flood, or more recently, WWI and WWII? Can that time be said to be worse than the Jewish holocaust, the millions killed by Communist China, the countless massacres that fill the pages of history? With the innumerable times of tribulation that was before and since that time, it cannot be held that 70 can be

considered the worst time of tribulation. Without question, there will not be a worse time on the face of the earth than that great tribulation period (Revelation 8: 7- 13). **"Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!"** Not woe to Jerusalem or woe to the Middle East, but woe to the inhabitants of the earth. The problem with this philosophy is there is always a slick answer for everything, but not a scriptural answer for it and **"by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."** With this doctrine they must also say that God is finished with Israel, contrary to Romans 11. Consider the words of Duncan McKenzie, a columnist for Planet Preterist. "*The Coming of Jesus in Revelation 19 is referring to the one and only Second Coming at AD 70. With harlot Israel destroyed, Jesus comes and defeats the beast from the abyss.*" They teach that Israel is destroyed. Israel is MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH according to their heretical doctrine; which also causes God to disannul His everlasting covenant with Abraham and David. A slippery slope, for now the logical and natural consequence is that God has denied Himself, lied to Abraham and David, and gone back on His word. The consequences here are dire. Hebrews 6:11-20 proves God's promises are sure for us because they were sure for Abraham, and God is unchangeable and cannot lie. For this cause we have full assurance of hope and we have an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. If the promise to Abraham was no good and could be disannulled, so could the promise to us. But praise God He cannot deny Himself, and His word is sure.

Preterism teaches the Satan is now in the Lake of Fire, that he is out of the picture. If Satan is at the present thrust in the Lake of Fire, what about I Peter 5:8? **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."** According to Preterism, this verse has nothing for us in our day because Satan is bound and merely a historical figure. All the scripture concerning the Devil doesn't apply to us anymore by the accounts of this heresy. It's all historical information. This points us to another great problem with Preterism; it takes away so many promises and warnings in the scripture that are directly related to the second coming of Christ and future events. Notice the scripture that we just quoted. For the Preterist, since the Devil is out of the picture, we have no need to be sober, but let's look at the context of the passage in verses 6-10. **"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."** The challenge for the Preterist is to tell us what is historical and what is not. If the verse in the middle is historical about Satan, what about the sentence before telling us that Christ cares for us? Does he care for us, or only those historical characters that had to resist the Devil? Proper interpretation and plain sense tells us that those whom Christ cares for are also the very same that are to be sober and vigilant. The command to be sober goes with the same

thought as the promise of Christ making us perfect, stabilizing and strengthening and settling us. Who is scripture written for, and how are we to read scripture if the commands of the New Testament no longer apply to us? Denial of scripture is a fruit of Preterism, which leads to picking and choosing what one wants to obey, and casting aside what you don't. I was once told that the New Testament is to be read no differently than genealogies of the Old Testament, it is God's word but you have to pick out what you can use, and view the rest as historical information. That, unfortunately, is their view of scripture, and only the beginning of the errors. There are far too many scriptures that are directly tied to future things to list everyone here so we will consider only a few. Many of our blessings, encouragements, commands and warnings are tied into the teaching of the coming of Jesus Christ, thus making the verses irrelevant to us if what they teach were true. Not only those particular verses, but the entire context of the verse are lost as well as we have seen in our example of I Peter 5. But why stop there, if the context of the passage does not apply, what about the entire epistle? Notice a few scriptures that are linked with the future. The Bible says to look for the Saviour (**Titus 2:12-13**), if He has already come back, then that verse doesn't apply to us anymore which tells us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly and godly in the present world while we are looking for Christ to return. Preterism destroys our hope, consider Romans 8:24-25 **"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."** Please consider the context of this verse, this is not merely hope in going to Heaven, Romans 8:23 **"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."** The preterist believe that the only resurrection is a spiritual resurrection that happens when you are saved; but how can one hope of the adoption, the redemption of our body with a spiritual resurrection? If the resurrection takes place at salvation, how could a saved person be looking towards it? That is how Preterism destroys our hope, you can't hope for something in the past, but you can only hope for FUTURE things. Look in Titus 2:13 again **"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."** Our hope (future) is the glorious APPEARING of Christ, so we have no blessed hope any longer according to their tenets. Also, the weapons of war God gave us are both useless and unnecessary if this teaching is true. Ephesians 6:10-11 **"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."** Why have armour to protect and war against an enemy that is already gone? When pointing out their error, I have found that one of the cries of Preterism is they claim to hold to 'scripture only' and put no value on confessions or creeds, as if to say that they are relying only upon the Scripture. Having a belief that differs from the faith of the historical Baptists is supposed to be a pious badge of honor and an example of their stand for God's Word rather than men; which is good and right, we should never, ever, ever put the words of men above the words of God, but this is a deceptive tactic to hide their error and validate the fact of being opposed to historic Christianity. Beware of anyone who will not put into writing what they believe or those who object to written

statements of belief. We too believe that scripture is sole authority, but as Baptists, we have never been afraid to have what we believe about the scriptures written down for all to see. It is an cop-out to say "I don't live by confessions or creeds or articles of faith, only the Bible"; the person who says that, oft times has a false doctrine or false teaching they are trying to hide or are embarrassed by their belief. This is indeed dangerous teaching for it does away with much scripture.

If what they say is true, we are living in the new heavens and new earth. *"Therefore what makes the Heavens and Earth "new" is not an act of God physically re-creating them, but a renewing and reconciliation of all things in Christ, through his sacrifice, resurrection and return in A.D. 70. The very presence of Christ (his parousia) is what gives the Heavens and Earth a renewed character."* (Planet Preterism). Here is what God says: Revelation 21:1-4 **"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."** Surely we know that God has not wiped away all tears, and we know that there is pain this very hour. We can look out our window and know that New Jerusalem is not here and that Christ does not dwell bodily with us now. Do you live in the world of Revelation 21:1-4? I don't, not yet anyway. I look about and see war, famine, murders, destruction, poverty, pollution, crime, and all manner of sin. I live in a perilous (II Timothy 3:1) kind of world. To say that we live in Revelation 21:1-4 is absurd and preposterous. It is hard to believe that one could say they believed the Bible and hold to such unorthodoxy. If this is the new heaven and new earth, and this is what a life with no pain, tears sorrow is all about, I am of all men most miserable.

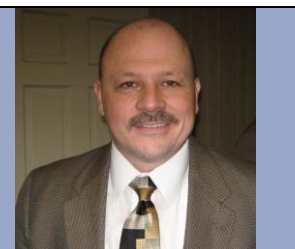
If Preterism is true, there are a lot of unanswered questions. Why preach or baptize? Matthew 28:18-20 **"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."** If all has been fulfilled and we are in the end of the world that means our job is done. Also, the Preterist that does preach the gospel should have many saved when witnessing, because Satan is not here to hinder the gospel (II Cor. 4:1-6). The Bible teaches that the work of the church and preaching of the gospel needs to continue until the end of the world, and being in the end of the world according to Preterism, then why serve God in His church? Why take the Lord's supper? We are to take it **"till he come"** (I Cor. 11:26-27) and if He has come then we should have stopped taking it a long time ago and taking the Lord's Supper would be a vicious, deceptive lie according to Preterism. Why is there no post AD 70 biblical instruction? Since the Bible was penned before the end

of the first century, and all things came to an end in AD 70, why not provide us with some instruction? Why didn't John, or Paul or Peter give us some idea what WE should do once all things were fulfilled? The answer is because when all things are fulfilled, we will be with God, we will dwell with Him through all eternity, and our hope will be realized! In fact, most scholars believe that the book of Revelation was written well after AD 70, some put the date almost 30 years after, thus making John a historian rather than penning a prophecy despite John saying seven times in the book of Revelation that it was a prophecy. Briefly, let me show you some of their so called 'proof texts' of Preterism. Matthew 10:23 **"But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come."** They claim that Jesus was telling the disciples that once they preached over the cities of Israel, Jesus would return. But Jesus was telling the disciples that He was coming after them, as they preached, he would come to them again before they were finished. When you are persecuted in this city go to another, and you won't have preached in all the cities before I come behind you. This is His earthly ministry Matthew 11:1 **"And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities."** They claim that Matthew 16:28 **"Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom,"** refers to his second coming, but he is speaking of what happened in Matthew 17:1-9, the transfiguration. Next, Matthew 24:34 **"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."** Preterist claim "this generation" is the generation standing with Christ as he was speaking. But Jesus was speaking to the generation that shall see the signs he spoke of, not the generation standing with him. Matthew 24:30-34 **"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."** Milburn Cockrell, in his book *An Exposition of Matthew 24* well says "I believe that 'this generation' must be taken literally. This is the natural and normal meaning of the world in the Bible ... Hence the meaning is the generation that lives to see the specific signs of the Great Tribulation and the signs in the heavens will also witness the return of Christ and the setting up of the kingdom."

The Bible is clear on how Christians must deal with Preterism in II Timothy 2:16-18. **"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."** Preterism is expressed as profane, or wicked and heathenish, mixed with vain babbling, or empty sounded fruitless talk. God has ordered us to shun it, to stay away from it because it eats like a canker. It brings death, if left unchecked and its evil

wicked influence spreads. The result of preterism has eternal ramifications, and scripture says it will **"overthrow the faith of some."** This teaching can not be tolerated, it can not be compromised with, and it can never be allowed in the Lord's churches. A teaching that overthrows the faith of some and denies the faith once delivered is dangerous, deadly and damnable.

*Psalm 97:12 "Rejoice and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness"*  
by Bro. Jeff Short



"Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness." ~ Psalm 97:12

God's holiness is commended to our remembrance. It is not the doctrine of God's holiness that we are to remember, but His real holiness. His actual holiness causes the righteous to rejoice and give thanks. They rejoice and are thankful for His holiness. God's holiness is set forth throughout this Psalm. Let us come aside and remember His holiness.

HIS HOLINESS IS SUPREME, for "The LORD reigneth" (Psalm 97:1). None can ascend above God or be comparable to Him. None can even reckon the extent of His dominion—it encompasses all things seen and unseen. Even man's imagination cannot place a figment above God for all the pagan worshipers are confounded by His holiness (Psalm 97:7). How can they figure it? How can they fashion it? How can they make a likeness of it? Though they boast, they utterly fail—"For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods" (Psalm 96:9).

Even the idols must bow to Him, "worship him, all ye gods" (Psalm 97:7). Idolaters make no progress against His holiness; it is even as Paul told Timothy of those who "resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." They fight against God, "But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men" (2 Timothy 3:8-9).

HIS HOLINESS IS TERRIBLE, for "Clouds and darkness are round about him" (Psalm 97:2). His holiness abides in righteousness and judgment. In these, God delights. His righteousness means He is faithful. Of what He has purposed, not one tittle shall fail.

In holiness, He dwells in judgment—pleading the cause of the oppressed, the fatherless, and the widow. He hears the cry of their righteous blood and vindicates them. If God calls you a worm, rejoice—it means He is taking up your cause. For thus He spoke to Jacob, "Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the



Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 41:14). He did not speak to Jacob thus to grind him into the dust, rather to lift him out of the dust. In the Scripture, we find ourselves as weak, full of sores, a frame of dust, a flower of the field, a vanishing vapor, etc. In all this, we are weak and helpless, but He will take us up, plead our cause, and vindicate us with His holy judgment.

HIS HOLINESS IS NOT PASSIVE, for “A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about” (Psalm 97:3). Neither is His holiness contained or subdued. His holiness is then victorious consuming His enemies. What have we then to fear? The earth trembles at His light (Psalm 97:4); “The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth” (Psalm 97:5). Who shall oppose any that are on the Lord’s side?

HIS HOLINESS IS NOT HIDDEN. Even the heavens cannot remain silent or indifferent, “The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory” (Psalm 97:6). The fool says there is no God. The wicked refuse to acknowledge Him and look blindly in the light of the noon sun. However, are not the works of His holiness entered into the eyes and ears of His people? “Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD” (Psalm 97:8). Do you not hear the chorus of birds singing praise to their maker? Do you not see the glory of the sun spreading its light to illuminate the creation of the Holy God before our eyes? Does not the corn and wheat stand in the field waving an offering to the one who is righteous, faithful to send the sun, wind, and rain upon the earth so that it responds by bearing forth its fruits?

HIS HOLINESS IS HAD FOR HIS PEOPLE. “He preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart” (Psalm 97:10-11). What a ground and anchor is the Lord’s holiness! Those who love Him love His holiness and therefore, “hate evil” (Psalm 97:10).

Why then are we troubled? Why then are we downcast? Why then do we presume to be trodden under foot? His holiness is the rejoicing of our heart and the very knife cutting the taut sack, which bursts open with gratitude. His holiness is an impeccable light and there we have fellowship with Him.

What a shame that any of His people should need reminded to remember His holiness and give thanks. May our hearts and minds soar upward in the quiet gray of the morning when we render thanks unto Him for the day He has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in the light of the day that declares His righteousness unto us. “Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness” (Psalm 97:12).

## *“The Earth’s Great Jubilee”*

*by Bro. Milburn Cockrell  
(1941-2002)*



In Leviticus, chapter 25, we have the law stated of the Jubilee Year in Israel. The jubilee proper is treated in verses 8 to 12. The remainder of the chapter (vv. 13- 55) deals with the practical application of this law of jubilee to various cases. In verses 13-28 we have the application of the law to the case of property in land; in verses 29-34, to sales of dwelling houses; and the remaining verses (vv. 35-55) deal with the application of this law to the institution of slavery.

The word jubilee as to its original meaning in the Hebrew Old Testament is of doubtful origin and signification. Some trace it to Jubal (Gen. 4:21), the inventor of musical instruments, and suppose that this year of mirth was named after him from its being a year of mirth and joy. Some Jews say it had its name from the trumpet itself, which they suppose was made of a ram’s horn. JOBEL in the Arabic language signifies a ram. The best scholars derive it from “to bring back, to restore, to return,” because at this time bondmen were freed and mortgaged lands were restored to the original owners. Our English word “jubilee” means “an occasion or season of great joy.” “Jubilant” means “to shout for joy.” Certainly the time when land reverted to its original owner and when slaves were freed was a time of great rejoicing for many Israelites.

### **I. ISRAEL’S JUBILEE**

The Jubilee Year in Israel was without parallel in any nation. Seven weeks of years, each terminating with the sabbatic year of solemn rest for the land, were numbered (49 full years of 360 days). **“And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years”** (Lev. 25:8). The 49th year was a sabbatic year which began with the feast of atonement in the 10th day of the seventh month (Tisri -- -September). When it expired and the day of atonement came around again, at the beginning of the 50th year, was the Jubilee Year in Israel. Throughout the land the loud trumpet was sounded, proclaiming **“liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof”** (vv. 8-12).

### **A TIME OF LIBERTY**

This year was also called **“the year of liberty”** (Ezek. 46:17). The liberty thus proclaimed was threefold. First, there was liberty to the man, who through the reverses of life had become dispossessed from his family inheritance in the land, to return to it again. All property in fields and houses (except those in city walls) which the owner was obligated to sell due to poverty and had not been able to redeem, was to revert without payment to its original owner or his heirs. **“In the year of this jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession”** (v. 13). (See also verses 23-28 and Nehemiah 5:1- 13). There was no way the rightful heir in Israel could be permanently excluded from his estate (v. 23).

Second, there was liberty to every Hebrew slave. In the jubilee he became a free man. **“And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant: But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubilee: And then shall he depart from thee, both he and his children with**

him, shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return” (vv. 39-41).

Third, there was liberty from the toil in the cultivation of the land: **“It is a year of rest unto the land”** (v. 5). This was a most remarkable feature, especially since one sabbatic year had just closed when the jubilee year immediately succeeded. Hence the 49th and 50th years were both sabbatic years.

### A TIME OF ATONEMENT AND BLESSING

The jubilee trumpet was sounded in the close of the Day of Atonement: **“Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land”** (v. 9). After they had been afflicting themselves they were to have joy and comfort. When atonement was made for all their sins, then they would hear the joyful sound of the trumpet of jubilee (Ps. 51:8).

As God forgave the Israelites of their sin debts, they were likewise to forgive their debtors. **“And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him”** (v.35). All oppression ceased out of the land; brotherly love flourished (v.17). Peace and prosperity reigned everywhere: **“And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety”** (v.19). This joyful time was the **“accepted time”** and the **“day of salvation”** to many in Israel. More than at any time in their life, the Israelites saw Jehovah alone as their Redeemer.

The Jubilee Year was designed to preserve the rights of free born Israelites as to their person and property. Jehovah said: **“The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine, for ye are strangers and sojourners with me”** (v. 23). The jubilee prevented permanent alienation from one’s family estate. It preserved genealogies unmixed until the Messiah came. It prevented the covetous from **“adding field to field.”** Also it cherished family associations with places, strengthening domestic feelings and the ties of kinship.

## II. THE MILLENNIAL JUBILEE

Without question, the Jubilee Year in Israel foreshadowed the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth during which the Israelites shall all return to their own land. This will be the time of the Earth’s Great Jubilee. The Jubilee Year followed the day of Atonement. Israel’s enjoyment of the day of real atonement is yet future. As a nation she has never come to see that Christ made an end of her sins.

Forty-nine days separated the Passover from the Day of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-22). The Jubilee Years were separated by 49 years (Lev. 25:8). The time between Israel’s enjoyment of great national blessings and the Earth’s Great Jubilee is 490 years (Dan. 9:24-27). The number 49 is involved in all of these.

### ISRAEL RESTORED TO HER LAND

In the Millennial Jubilee Israel will be permanently restored to her homeland. In Genesis 13:15 God promised Abraham: **“For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.”** The promise is repeated in Genesis 15:18 with the borders stipulated to be **“from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”** Israel has not yet occupied all this land as an everlasting possession. Since it is impossible for God to lie, we know that at some future time God will fulfill His unconditional promise to the seed of Abraham.

The Old Testament prophets often prophesied of this coming event. Ezekiel wrote: **“And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into**

**two kingdoms any more at all... And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children; and their children’s children for ever...”** (Ezek. 37:22, 25). Amos foretold: **“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel... And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD the God”** (Amos 9:14- 15). Isaiah predicted: **“Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever...”** (Isa. 60:21).

### FREEDOM FROM GENTILE OPPRESSION

The Millennial Jubilee is to be a time when Israel is freed from all Gentile oppression. Jesus Christ said Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles **“until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”** (Luke 21:24). When Gentile overlordship of Jerusalem terminates with the Battle of Armageddon, the Lord shall make Israel **“the head, and not the tail”** of the nations on earth (Deut. 28:13). The state of Israel will be the greatest nation in the world because they are to have the greatest King, Jesus the King of the Jews (Matt. 27:37).

The Millennial Jubilee is to be the hour of Jewish supremacy---the finest hours in the history of God’s national people. Isaiah so well described this coming day: **“Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night: that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted...The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob”** (Isaiah 60:9-12; 14-16).

In this wonderful and joyful day of the Earth’s Great Jubilee, the nation of Israel shall see Christ alone as their Redeemer. This is to be when Christ comes to the Mount of Olives with all His saints in power and great glory. The Apostle John said: **“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him”** (Rev. 1:7). The Spirit of grace shall be poured out upon **“the inhabitants of Jerusalem”** as they look upon the One they crucified (Zech. 12:10). The whole nation shall afflict their souls and mourn for the Saviour they rejected and killed (Zech. 12:10- 14). **“And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends”** (Zech. 13:6). In that great day of mourning **“there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness”** (Zech. 13:1). This is Israel’s Day of Atonement--a thing yet future.

Jesus spoke of Israel’s future jubilee in Matthew 24:29-31:

**“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great**

**glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."**

This is not the gathering of the saints to meet Christ in the air at the end of the tribulation as post-tribblers assert. Nor is the trumpet here the Rapture trumpet as others suppose. This is the trumpet which sounds the jubilee for Israel. **"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come, which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the Holy Mount at Jerusalem"** (Isa. 27:13). (See also Isaiah 11:11-12 and Jeremiah 16:14-16). This regathering of the remnant of Israel takes place when Christ comes to earth.

### **THE SIN DEBT CANCELLED**

The nation of Israel has some particular sins. She rejected her Messiah and crucified her King. His blood has been upon them ever since that day. But at the end of 490 years their transgression is finished and an end is made of their sins (Dan. 9:24). Well did Jeremiah write of this coming day: **"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgements and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is the name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, the LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land"** ( Jer. 23:5-8).

Paul mentioned this Millennial Jubilee for Israel: **"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins"** (Rom. 11:26-27). Paul spoke of his conversion on the Damascus road as **"one born out of due time"** (I Cor. 15:8). In the Millennial Jubilee the whole nation of Israel shall be born again in one day's time (Isa. 66:8).

### **A TIME OF GREAT BLESSING AND JOY**

For Israel and the whole world liberty will be proclaimed. There shall be no hard labor, no regret for lost possessions, no bondage, no oppression, no poverty, no wars, limited crime, and plenty of food for all. The whole earth shall enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God. When the year of His redeemed is come, the **"prisoners of hope"** shall hear **"the blowing of the trumpet"** of jubilee (Zech. 9:12, 14). This will be **"the times of the restitution of all things"** (Acts 3:21), the reversal of the fall, Paradise restored.

What a happy day shall be the time of Earth's Great Jubilee! The prophets described it thusly: **"and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"** (Isa. 35:10). Zephaniah wrote: **"Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgements, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more"** (Zeph. 3:14-15). (See also Joel 2:21-27).

### **III. THE GOSPEL JUBILEE**

This Old Testament type has a spiritual as well as a literal meaning. In

this generation the gospel trumpet is to be sounded to the uttermost parts of the earth. It is to announce salvation by the blood atonement of Christ. It proclaims liberty to the captives of sin. It opens prison doors to them that are bound by sin and Satan. It announces the soul rest and forgiveness and peace in Jesus Christ (Luke 4:18-19). The gospel of Christ, when received, puts men right with God and with one another.

First, the jubilee trumpet was the sound of atonement (v. 9). Even so the gospel is the joyful sound of the blood atonement made by the cross of Christ. It says that Jesus died for our sins and rose for our justification. There is no more joyful sound to sinful man than the atoning blood of God's Son.

Second, it was the sound of liberty (v. 10). The gospel trumpet proclaims liberty to the slaves of sin--the liberty of grace and glory. A believer enjoys the liberty of Christ (Gal. 5:1; John 8:32), and he is **"the Lord's freeman"** (I Cor. 7:22). Just as the deliverance of the bond slave in Israel was immediate and complete on hearing and believing the tidings; even so of the believer of the gospel trumpet.

Third, it was the sound of forgiveness (v. 35). Even the debt and poverty of a man did not hinder him from enjoying the jubilee, but made him a more fit subject. Likewise, sin is no bar to God's saving grace. The gospel is for the very poorest of lost sinners. The gospel of grace forgives the very chiefest of sinners. Where sin abounds grace super abounds.

Fourth, the jubilee in Israel was **"a year of rest"** (v.5). The gospel trumpet proclaims rest to those heavy laden with sin and iniquity (Matt. 11:28). It tells them not to rest in their good works, but to rest in the finished work of Christ (Ps. 116:7). Those who believe the gospel enter into soul rest (Heb. 4:1-3).

Fifth, it was a time of restoration (v. 13). By the fall in Adam we lost our inheritance on earth, but the gospel tells us that Christ has regained it for His people (I Pet. 1:3-4). The Saviour of sinners restores our inheritance by adoption (Rom. 8:15-17). All we lost in Adam is restored by the Second Adam. Thank God for the gospel which declares all of this is so!

May this be the day that you will offer your soul because of sin. May the blessed Holy Spirit reveal Christ to your poor lost soul. May this be the day Christ shall become precious to you. **"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"** (II Cor. 6:2).

May this be the day you will hear and obey the gospel trumpet. The psalmist said: **"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound"** (Ps. 89:15). Thousands hear the gospel but only a few know its joyful sound. But blessed are those who understand the meaning of covenant promises and recognize their own personal interest in them!

*Blest are the souls that hear and know  
The gospel's joyful sound;  
Peace shall attend the paths they go,  
And light their steps surround. -- Watts*

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