

The DEFENDER - January 2014

“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



From the Director's Desk: Happy New Year!

2014 brings us another year closer to the Rapture. As exciting as that prospect is, this article isn't so much about that glorious moment as it is about the state the world will be in when it happens. The generation of believers which will hear the trump of God and rise with the dead in Christ to be forever with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17), will also be living in a time so bad that it will incur the wrath of God. Jesus said that except the days be shortened, no flesh would be saved (Matthew 24:22). It doesn't take much imagination to see that we may be fast approaching those Tribulation days.

So how close are we? Recognizing the condition of mankind in those latter days, Jesus asked in Luke 18:8 if He would find any faith left on earth at His second coming. I don't know how close we are to the Day of the Lord, but there sure doesn't seem to be much faith evident, even now. I realize American Christianity is not the final indicator of faith worldwide. And I also know that God's will isn't predicated on the actions of America's Christians. But I think we can somewhat gauge the impact of the Christian faith on the world by looking at America as a microcosm of it. Although 80% of Americans (252 million) claim to be Christian, only 45% (142 million) claim to be born again. That figure seems high to me, and only God knows for sure. But if over 140 million Americans were truly walking with the Lord I would think our country would be giving the world a better witness for Christianity. 10% of the world, or 600 million people, claim to be born again. So that means that the United States accounts for roughly 23% of the world's believers. It's debatable whether one in four is a fair number to evaluate where we stand, but in spite of our formidable numbers we haven't impacted our culture in a way that is pleasing to God. The secular progressives in our nation have mainstreamed vulgar language and same-sex marriage, while doing everything they can to vilify Christianity and remove God from the public sphere. Each year the slide continues, with no apparent backlash from the Lord's people. Until now, perhaps. Phil Robertson, of Duck Dynasty fame, may have awakened a sleeping giant by taking a stand against the Christian bashers in our society.

But is it too late to make a difference? Although many are still being converted in these latter days, the prophecies of the weak and powerless end times Church, which Jesus referred to, appear to be coming true. Many Christians still sit on the sidelines, rather than actively living out their faith. Unfortunately, believers today carry far less influence when it comes to determining the course which humanity follows. So let's welcome in the New Year of 2014, and pray it hastens the return of our Lord.

Rev. David Lewis

Strong Delusion in the 21st Century – Part II

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

“God shall send them strong delusion” (2 Thes. 2:3-12).

“... the enemy shall come in like a flood” (Is. 59:19).

“He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man ... the tares are ... of the wicked one ... the devil” (Matt. 13:37-43).

“When these things begin ... your redemption draweth nigh ...” (Luke 21:28).

As “sons of God” (John 1:12-13), we believe the infallible Word of God with an unswerving certainty yet lack anything like complete understanding. We do know, by the Spirit of God within, that God’s Word accurately indicates that our Savior sovereignly saves some out of Adam’s fallen race. Christ, by His finished work alone, saves those chosen to eternal life from “before the foundation of the world” (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16; Ep. 1:4).

Without the scriptures, it is beyond human comprehension that an all powerful, infinite and Holy God would welcome into His own family those so dead in sin’s depravity that there is “none that understandeth,” “none that seeketh after God,” and “none righteous ...” (Rom. 3:10-18, 23).

In spite of Satan’s lie that we are “gods” (Gen. 3:1-5), we are limited and lost, “born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7). Those that God has called out of lost humanity are blessed by the indwelling Spirit of God by whose guidance we now can understand; God’s Word and eternal plan of salvation for those HE calls (Acts 13:48) that HE justifies (John 6:63-65, 10: 27-28; Rom. 8:1, 29-30).

One of the believers’ greatest inheritances as resurrected sons of God (Rom. 6:5; Ep. 2:5-6, 10) is our adoption, by God, as His children (Ep. 1:4-6) and our ardent joy knowing that the eternal Son of God, who created everything (Col. 1:12-18), intercedes for each of us (1 John 2:1) and the Holy Spirit as well (Rom. 8:26-27). God the Father warned Satan in the hearing of our first parents that He would providentially cause enduring enmity between Satan and his seed and the woman and her seed (Christ). Thus it has been and will be so until the second coming of Christ (Gen. 3:15; John 14:3). Christ cautioned that just before His return “many false prophets shall rise and deceive many” (Matt. 24:11).

In last month’s Defender, we identified several of Satan’s modern era

emissaries that were purveyors of New Age mysticism, occultic Mind Sciences, New Thought Spirituality, and other “doctrines of devils” (1 Tim. 4:1).

It was also observed that some, calling themselves “Luciferians,” were forerunners of today’s false teachers. Madame Helena Blavatsky founded the New Age Theosophical Society and a close associate, Alice Bailey, founded the “Lucis Trust” (first named The Lucifer Trust). Other Luciferian worshipers were noted, such as Albert Pike and Aleister Crowley. These and other occultic trailblazers are reputed to be stage-setters for the woman who rides the beast of Revelation, Chapter 17. Many theologians believe that this woman represents the coming One-World, satanically dominated religion and the beast, the revived Roman Empire – the New World Order.

Satan’s primary strategy has always been to plant seeds of doubt and distortion by counterfeiting God’s Word (Gen. 3:1-7, John 8:44). A 21st Century example of spiritual subterfuge is the teaching in Word/Faith circles of the Rhema vs. the Logos. The late heretical Word/Faith “father” Kenneth Hagin taught a non-biblical doctrine that the Greek word Rhema refers to our ability to have anything we confess if we enlist the “faith-force.” “Name it and claim it,” it has been called. This false distinction between Rhema and Logos emerged in spite of these two words always being considered synonyms for the word “word.” In no reliable New Testament dictionary or Greek lexicon, untampered with, does a claimed distinction between Rhema and Logos appear.

Another diversion of Satan from the 19th and 20th Centuries was the formation of the New Age cult of Christian Science. Mary Baker Eddy, a disciple of psychic “healer” P. P. Quimby, added to Quimby’s teaching Eastern pantheism’s concepts and claimed that sickness, death, and even our physical bodies do not exist – they are only imagined. She did not mind that she could only entice a few hundred thousand to follow her absurdities because it did pay well. It paid so well that rivals sprung up and Unity School of Christianity and other Mind-Science cults arose.

Lest any think these New Age groups are harmless, consider that Oprah Winfrey is a devotee of Unity and used her TV show to promote New Age and occultic guru’s like Shirley MacLaine. Also, Robert Schuller of Crystal Cathedral notoriety, TV’s original “happy talker,” has associated himself with Unity, calling for a united front against “Christian fundamentalism.” Schuller was himself mentored by Norman Vincent Peale (The Power of Positive Thinking guru) who absorbed his “New Thought” beliefs from Ernest Holmes and his school of Religious Science. “America’s Pastor” Rick Warren was mentored by Robert Schuller in Church growth techniques, not using biblical methods, but business management principals; another topic for another day.

E. W. Kenyon, like Mary Baker Eddy, followed in the footsteps of P. P. Quimby and Kenyon’s New Age theories and practices became foundational in the Word/Faith

Positive Confession movement. Kenyon was also schooled in New Thought and occultic concepts at Emerson College of Oratory at Boston in 1880. Kenyon learned mind-science meta physics there, such as “the spiritual realm is the cause of all physical realities,” and that these could be controlled by a “properly trained” human mind. Indeed, Kenyon taught our realities can be controlled by our spoken words. This modern era form of sorcery is the origin of the prosperity “gospel” of the Word/Faith practitioners on cable TV. Ken Hagin was first to introduce this “faith-force” teaching into certain branches of America’s Church scene.

Since primarily the second half of the 20th Century, multitudes who name the name of Christ, have been inculcated with a wildly distorted perception of Christianity. Those outside, viewing the line of teachers on cable TV, see Christianity as a gospel of greed and Christian leaders as con artists. They don’t hear the true gospel of Jesus Christ but rather “another gospel,” a counterfeit. The hyper-faith movement is every bit as cultic as the teachings of Joseph Smith (Mormonism), the Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Christian Science and its offshoots.

Consider some of the outrageous statements of Word/Faith teachers:

“Satan conquered Jesus on the Cross.” – Kenneth Copeland

“You’re not looking at Morris Cerullo ... you’re looking at Jesus.” – Morris Cerullo

“Never ... go to the Lord and say “If it be Thy will Don’t allow faith-destroying words to be spoken....” – Benny Hinn

“You are in Control! So ... who no longer has it? God!” – Frederick K. C. Price

“Man was created on terms of equality with God ...” – Kenneth E. Hagin

Unity and power in Christ’s church does not exist apart from the essentials for which the martyrs gave their lives. Christ warned, “beware of false prophets.” He also promised, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me ...” and “of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing ...” (John 6:37, 39).

Keep looking up.

Chief Source: Not Wrath But Rapture – H. A. Ironside

The Steps of a Good Man are Ordered by the Lord By Nancy Long

The year of 2013 is nearing its end and 2014 is about to begin. I would suspect that the year past has been an exciting and happy one for some of you, full of growth and abundant opportunities, and even some unexpected challenges that have added to your excitement. I would also assume that for others of you, the year past has brought sadness and hard times, as a result of some unexpected challenges days which have driven you to trust in, and accept, God's sovereignty as good, perfect and right, and have caused you to rest in the everlasting arms of Jesus (Deut. 33:27).

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way" (Psalm 37:23). As we begin a new year, my thoughts have been repeatedly drawn to the above Scripture. The Lord God Almighty, maker/creator and sustainer of heaven and earth directs takes authority of and controls the steps of a "good man", a righteous man, a saved man or woman. Isn't that an awesome concept?! Isn't that an astounding truth on which to reflect?!

The Lord has a plan. He has a ***perfect*** plan, and we Christians are the workmanship of God ***"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"*** (Eph. 2:10). We are being used as His instruments to help to accomplish His ultimate purpose! We are His hands, to do we are His feet, to go. We are the lights by which others can be led to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God has decreed, prepared and appointed us (before the beginning of time) unto good works, with a design that we should be fruitful in them. With the help of the Holy Spirit, who resides within, and is producing a change in each believer, we are being enabled to walk in a way that is pleasing to Him.

I pray, that we who name the name of Christ, take seriously the responsibility for each step we take, that we walk worthy, with humility, of the vocation unto which we have been called (Eph. 4:1). I think of Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with ***all*** our hearts, acknowledge Him in ***all*** our ways, and ***all*** the things we do, and He has promised to direct our paths. He will give ***His*** guidance in the steps of each of our lives, and take us to our final end (Phil. 1:6). That's a guarantee!!

If God is near enough to be able to give us help and direction to recognize even the smallest details of our lives, to understand our thoughts, and to care so much about the things we do that He delights in them then we should be all the more desirous to live a righteous life, to live a life that gives pleasure, and glory as well, to our Creator. Our days have been numbered each of our steps having been planned. We can be certain, and walk with assurance that He ***will*** make our paths straight.

At the beginning of this new year, we see a clean page: ***"We will open the book. It's pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. This book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's Day."*** (quoted from English poet, Edith Lovejoy Pierce)

Defender friends, I challenge each of you, as I take the challenge myself, to look at your life and the steps He's brought you through to this point. If you've seen the hand of God in your days thus far, it ought to build your faith and confidence, and give you the encouragement to know, beyond any shadow of doubt, that He will carry you all the way home. Trust and obey, for there is ***no other way!!***

I pray you have great expectations for the future, having the conviction that God sustains, and by Him all things consist (Col. 1:17). May every step you take lead you closer to the One who created them. May each of those steps be ones in which He delights.

***"Another year is dawning -- a path unknown, untried.
'Twould fill me with forboding, had I no hand to guide;
But He who walked beside me, all through the yesteryear,
Whatever may betide me, has promised to be near.***

***Another year with Jesus! Ah, then, no dread I know;
His love is ever precious, how 'er the winds may blow.
E'en when the storm is fiercest, in Him my soul may rest,
And find sweet peace and comfort upon His lovely breast.***

***Another year to trust Him -- yes, I can trust Him still,
Who has never yet failed me -- as I have sought His will.
His rod and staff He giveth, to be my strength and stay,
And tenderly He leadeth along the homeward way.***

By - Avis B. Christiansen, poet and hymn writer

God bless you, Defenders. Happy New Year!!



The following are Moment of Truth radio spots which were broadcast by Rev. Lewis on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day this year.

December 31, 2013

What will our government think to do to us in 2014? As we look back on this year we can see a multitude of new rules and regulations designed to separate us from our money and our freedoms. Obamacare was the worst, as it caused millions of Americans to lose their insurance policies. Mortgages will now be micromanaged by the federal government. The new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has issued hundreds of pages of new rules restricting mortgage writing. The FDA wants to ban all trans fats in our food. The cost to us will be in the billions as well as the loss of some of our favorite foods. Then there's the one trillion dollar farm bill which requires a \$0.15 tax on every fresh Christmas tree you buy to fund a promotion campaign for the Department of Agriculture. Our Lord instructed us to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, but also unto God that which is His. Maybe if we paid more attention to God instead of attacking Him or ignoring Him, He would have mercy on us and bless our land. It's a New Year's resolution worth considering.

January 1, 2014

Happy New Year to one and all! The year 2014 brings us one year closer to the return of our Lord, and the best thing I can say about that is it can't happen soon enough. That's the good news. The bad news is that the Bible tells us the world will grow more and more evil leading up to that time. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24 that those days will be "as the days of Noah," and we know what went on then. God brought a worldwide flood because the wickedness of man was great in the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of men's hearts was only evil continually. I don't see much difference between then and now. Do you? Patrick Henry once said "Bad men cannot make good citizens. It is impossible that a nation of infidels or idolaters should be a nation of free men. It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains." So there it is America. There's nothing mankind can do to make our world a better place. Only God can help us. My prayer on this New Year's Day is that more Americans would realize that.

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Every Tuesday afternoon, from 1:30-2:30 PM, we are studying "Prophetic Signs of the End Times." We meet in the Fellowship Hall @ Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church, 2927 Cub Hill Road, Baltimore, MD 21234.