

The DEFENDER - March 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: Buried Treasure

One of the great shames in Christianity today is that many believers are content with the milk of scripture without ever even desiring the meat which it offers. Please don't misunderstand. As 1 Peter 2:2 tells us, new babes in Christ need the milk of the Word to grow in the faith. But if that's all they get they will never become mature. And the fact of the matter is, like many in society at large, there are Christians in the Body of Christ who have no desire to grow beyond that which is superficial.

Paul addressed this very issue to those in the Church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:3). Their condition was inexcusable, as they had been saved long enough to have grown up. Again, it's the same with many in the church today. They're just looking for a place where their ears can be tickled (2 Timothy 4:3). And unfortunately there are many shallow, unskilled pastors out there who are ready to accommodate them because they themselves don't know how to properly exegete scripture. This of course is a description of those who are no longer content to hear sound teaching but instead are compelled to seek that which makes them feel good. So church services headlined by loud music and motivational speaking have now become all the rage among many Christians today. But how many sitting in those big arenas can give a reason for the hope that is within them? How many can defend the faith which was once delivered unto the saints? Or rightly divide the Word of Truth? Do they have a biblical worldview? And do they even understand that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone?

The visible church may appear to be growing in numbers but it's not growing spiritually. That's the purview of the invisible church, where nuggets of truth are being mined. Mature Christians know that there's buried treasure in the scriptures. And there's always a remnant of believers who want to know more. Jesus commissioned us in Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them as believers and then teaching them to observe those things which He has commanded. This is the highest calling that we as Christians can receive. To spread the Good News and teachings of Christ. And then to teach others to do the same. Paul told Timothy that scripture is useful for teaching and training in righteousness so that the people of God would be equipped and thoroughly furnished for all good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Sadly, not all believers are that committed to God's direction today. Many seem to only want what's in it for them. It is surely a sign of the latter days in which we live. Jesus Himself wondered if He would find any faith on this earth at His return (Luke 18:8). God has blessed us at In Defense of Truth with many defenders of the faith who are seeking an even closer relationship with Him. Our prayer needs to be for continued guidance from God, that His will be done and not our own, always remembering that pride goes before the fall (Proverbs 16:18). I pray the Lord will continue to bless us as we move ahead, not knowing what tomorrow will bring, but content in knowing the One who does.

Rev. David Lewis

Not Wrath But Rapture Part II – Confirmed by the New Testament

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump ...” (1 Cor. 15:52).

“Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven ... the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive ... shall be caught up ... to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:16-18).

Our Lord told the disciples of a coming “great tribulation,” so dreadful that no flesh would survive, “but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened ...” as lightning shineth ... “so shall the coming of the Son of Man be The sun be darkened ... the moon ... not give her light ... stars shall fall ... the heavens shall be shaken” (Matt. 24:6-7, 21-42; Luke 21:8-11, 20-28).

The “great tribulation” will center particularly on the land of Israel and the gentile nations and especially their armies that come against Israel in the “latter days.” Scriptures that point to those days yet future include: modern rapid travel “many shall run to and fro” and learning is greatly advanced “and knowledge shall increase” as never before (Dan. 12:4); constant warfare will be increased (Mark 13:7-8); a universal global economic system will be in place requiring all to have a mark (Rev. 13:16-18); famines will increase (Luke 21:11); the ancient deserted and depopulated nation of Israel was to be reborn “in one day” – May 14, 1948 (Is. 66:8); Jews would regather to their covenant land from the “four corners of the earth” (Is. 11:11-12) to be no longer divided into two kingdoms (Ez. 37:21-28) in the “latter years” (Ez. 38:8) when the fig tree sprouts “the kingdom of God is at hand” (Luke 21:29-31). Israel, a desert wasteland, will again blossom and her vineyards restored (Is. 27:6, 35:1-2; Ez. 36:34-36, 38:12-13; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13-15). Many, many more prophecies could be added and these can only be yet future.

Our Lord in John, chapter 14, announced an aspect of His return not found in any of the synoptic gospels. He spoke of returning, not leading an army to do war, but to “receive you unto myself.” This can only be the rapture (1 Thes. 4:16-18) and is completely distinguishable from His coming as the Son of Man to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3-4) “to fight against those nations” that come against Israel “in that day,” a day yet future when Jerusalem shall be “a cup of trembling” unto all people (Zech. 12:2-

3). This time of great tribulation is not the sign for God's adopted children for whom Jesus will return "as a thief in the night," "in an hour that ye think not" (Matt. 24:36-44; 1 Thes. 5:2). The Lord said, "Because thou hast kept the word ... I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world" (Rev. 13:10-11) "the dwellers on the earth" are left behind to endure God's wrath.

The Apostle Paul effectively showed the differences between these two distinct groups of those who "are enemies of the cross of Christ" and those who actively "look for the savior," "who shall change our vile body ... like unto his glorious body .." (Phil. 3:17-21). Clearly the expectation of Christ's sheep and their imminent hope is that Christ first comes for His church. As Paul explained to the Thessalonians, their hope is in Christ's coming for them (1 Thes. 4:16-18) as a thief in the night FOR his saints, not when He returns for battle WITH His saints for Christ delivers His sheep "from the wrath to come" (1 Thes. 1:10). Believers have the "blessed hope" of Christ's "glorious appearance" to take them home as pictured with Enoch of old (Gen. 5:22-24) or Elijah (2 Kings 2:11). The church, the body of Christ, will be taken up by the power of the creator of the universe at His pleasure (Ep. 1:9-11).

The Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Thessalonians, advised believers to discern between the day of the Lord (when judgments will be poured out on all the earth) and the day of Christ (when believers will stand in their glorified bodies at Christ's judgment seat). The return of the Lord had a large place in the minds and hearts of the Thessalonians. Sadly some had been deceived to believe that they had missed the rapture and were unsettled. Paul wrote, "Now we beseech you ... by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ... that you not be soon shaken ... that the day of Christ is at hand" (somehow it was past in their minds). He encouraged them not to look for the day of the Lord (tribulation, etc.) but for the Savior to deliver us from that wrath to come. We are still to gather together in full expectation of our homegoing with Christ. "Let no man deceive you ... for that day shall not come except there come a falling away (apostasy) first AND that "man of sin be revealed" (2 Thes. 3:3-12).

Even more to this point of Paul, a complete full blown apostasy will never bloom as long as the church of Christ is in the world because the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). Neither Christ nor the Holy Spirit will ever leave or forsake the church on earth. So while there may be here and there pockets of apostates, they will not fully reign until the rapture and the Holy Spirit departs (He resides in the hearts of believers).

The prophesied "man of sin" will be self-deified and will refuse to acknowledge the God of Jesus Christ's teachings. He will demand worship for himself. He will commit the "abomination of desolation" spoken by Daniel and reaffirmed by Jesus (Matt. 24:15). This truly is when the day of the Lord will commence, and the one "who hinders for a time" the full manifestation of evil events prophesied will cease to do so at the time

set by God (2 Thes. 2:1-12). There are many views as to what or whom hinders but the most widely accepted is that the one “taken out of the way” is God the Holy Spirit. He will remain as long as Christ’s church remains on earth. Believers have been promised victory, “the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed ... and this mortal shall have put on immortality” (1 Cor. 15:50-58).

As to Christ’s millennial reign on earth, there are two aspects: earthly and heavenly. The saints of the past and this present era (from Pentecost to the Lord’s coming) that are a part of the body of Christ will be caught up in the rapture, before the tribulation begins. The prophets had predicted that Israel’s long awaited messiah would be rejected (Is. 53) and Israel would be set aside (Zech. 7:13-14) until Israel’s future repentance (Hos. 5:15). Now Israel will pass through “Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7) and finally acknowledge the crucified one as their Lord (Zech. 12:10-14, 13: 6-7). When Jerusalem is surrounded by armies, Christ will appear and deliver them and Christ will then reign on David’s Throne (Zech. 14; Amos 9:8-15). In Romans II, Paul speaks of these broken branches, “God is able to graft them in again,” once the fullness of the Gentiles be come in” (11:17-25).

One of the mysteries of Deuteronomy 29:29, that Jesus confirmed in His prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem, was the long period of gentile supremacy that then ends when Christ personally reappears. “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24; Dan. 9).

Since 70 A.D. Jerusalem was trodden down by the Gentiles and was only restored to Abraham’s blood descendants from Jacob after the 1967 Six Day War.

The Antichrist will attempt to do what Hitler attempted but Jesus Christ himself will vanquish him and his armies and save the remnant of Israel. Keep looking up.

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



**Don't forget to
"Spring Forward."**

**Daylight Savings Time is
2 AM—March 9, 2014.**

Take Time to Be Holy **By Nancy Long**

*"Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, And feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children; Help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek."*

*Take time to be holy, The world rushes on;
Much time spend in secret With Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus, Like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness to see.*

*Take time to be holy, Let Him be thy guide,
And run not before Him Whatever betide;
In joy or in sorrow Still follow thy Lord,
Thou soon shall be fitted For service above.*

*"Follow peace with all men and **holiness**, without which no man can see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).*

William Dun Longstaff, wealthy English businessman (1822-1894), felt inspired to write a personal poem, after hearing a sermon based on the words in 1 Peter 1:16 -- *"Be ye holy; for I am holy."* Following are words of the preacher that day that left a strong and lasting impression on Longstaff *"My text is found in 1 Peter 1:16, 'Be ye holy, for I am holy.' If you will turn in your Bibles to the Old Testament, and read Leviticus 11:44, you will find the words which St. Peter quoted in his first letter in the New Testament. For the writer of the third Book of Moses said these words in that passage, 'For I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves, therefore and be holy, for I am holy.' The forty-fifth verse concludes with the very same admonition, couched in these words, 'For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: you shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.'" As a result of this message, William Longstaff began to see the importance of living a holy life committed his days to it making it his personal endeavor and life's goal.*

Holiness is a way of life. Holiness is the desire to be more like Christ, in thought, word, and deed. Holiness being set apart for the Master's use. *"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God"* (Psalm 42:1). Pursue holiness seek after it strive for it aspire to attain it make it your life's resolve!! *"He hath shown thee, O man, what is good; and what doeth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God"* (Micah 6:8)?

The apostles Peter and Paul challenge and exhort us believers to do whatever is required to be a holy man or woman to live a separated life *"Wherefore come out from among them,*

and be ye separate, saith the Lord" (2 Cor. 6:17a) to "set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2).

Being holy doesn't just happen over night it "takes time to be holy". "Time" that precious commodity of which no one seems to have enough, despite all our modern conveniences and contraptions that are geared to save "time", and allow us to accomplish more in the same amount of "time". The real things of worth, however, the things of value today, as well as eternally, are often pushed to the background perhaps because they **do** take so much "time". Relationships, for example, like little seedlings, take time to develop, time to nurture, and time to grow and mature. Relationships between spouses, between friends, and most importantly our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, will take "time". He has done the work by shedding His precious, perfect blood, paying the price for His elect to be brought back into a right relationship with God. "It is finished", Jesus said. We believers have been bought and paid for. We are no longer our own we are slaves to Christ we are new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). He did all the work, and He's promised to finish that work He's begun (Phil. 1:6). For that gift of love, mercy, and grace, we can be assured, we can be confident and we can be forever grateful!!!

It's all about Him, and not about us! The Lord is gently moving us, His children, through all the days of our lives He is molding and shaping us into the image of His dear Son. There is a responsibility, though, on our part. *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33)) "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths (Prov. 3:5-6) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1Cor. 10:31) "Be still, and know that I am God " (Psalm 46:10).*

"Take time to be holy", as the hymn states make it a priority!! Feed on His Word. Take delight in the law of the Lord, and meditate on it day and night (Psalm 1:2). Hide God's Word in your heart memorize it (Psalm 119:11)! Seeking holiness is deliberate and intentional active on our part.

The scripture, *"Be ye holy, for I am holy"*, convicted William Dun Longstaff to not only compose a poem, which later became a hymn, but to make those words his very own reason for being. Take time, pray often, abide always, feed on, and digest His Word. We have the instructions. We will be abundantly blessed, more than we could ever ask or even think, when we choose to follow (Eph. 3:20).

As the Lord continues His work in us, to fit us for heaven, let us be willing servants, submitting to His very best knowing that *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).*

From our Moment of Truth archives...

From 3/7/14:

Despite an occasional spike in well doing, America is rapidly on the decline. We've become a secular humanistic society in which God is not welcome. We have turned our backs on the very One who made us great to begin with.

In spite of all of His blessings of natural resources, resulting in great wealth, we have become an amoral society, while thumbing our nose at the only One who truly cares about us. We murder 4000 babies a day in the womb and soon will be legalizing infanticide to rid ourselves of live babies of inconvenience. We live in sin with both same sex and opposite sex partners, and of those who **do** get married, over half end in divorce. We consume more alcohol and drugs than the rest of the world combined, we've legalized gambling, and we blaspheme the name of God whenever we get mad. As if it's His fault that we're in the shape we're in.

If we don't turn back to God, and soon, we'll just be inviting disaster. His judgment is already upon us. How far behind can His wrath be?

From 3/3/14:

A year and a half ago I broadcast my first Moment of Truth on WCBM in Baltimore. The subject matter was Chick-Fil-A CEO Dan Cathy's stand for Christian values, which came under immediate attack from liberal politicians and their lapdog press.

Now, 18 months later, I have another story about Chick-Fil-A. During the recent snowstorm in the south, thousands of people were left stranded on icy highways in Birmingham, Alabama. And thanks to the kindness and generosity of Chick-Fil-A store owner Mark Meadows, many of them were able to find food and shelter from the storm. Meadows sent his employees out with hundreds of free sandwiches and opened up his dining room for anyone who needed a place to sleep. The next morning they gave everyone there a free breakfast. Mr. Meadows was just following the biblical values that others criticize them for. Matthew 25:35 says, "For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in."

Did you hear about Chick-Fil-A's kindness to others on the national news? Well did you?

I didn't think so.

We Now Have an App !!

If you have an Android smartphone or Apple iPhone, you can get the best parts of our website in one **FREE app ! Go into your App Store or Play Store, type in "Cub Hill Church," and download.**

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.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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In Defense of Truth is heard in Baltimore on:
WRBS AM 1230 - Sunday at 6:30 a.m.

Listen Online:

<http://www.InDefenseOfTruth.org/broadcast> for details.

Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"
airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time
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!

Join us **Friday night, March 21st, at 7 PM** for another indoor movie night. We'll be showing "WWJD," a powerful story of 4 backslidden Christians who decide to walk "in the steps of Jesus." Join us for this **free** time of fellowship. Pizza will be served.

Call 410.661.9419 to RSVP.