

The DEFENDER - September 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: Filling the Vacuum

Barack Hussein Obama is not responsible for all of the world's problems. But his inaction and apparent apathy have helped to fuel the chaotic state in which our world finds itself today. His foreign policy is weak and without direction, causing our allies to question our commitment to our friends while at the same time emboldening our enemies. He has drawn red lines and ignored them. He has made promises and broken them. He has pushed reset buttons and hot buttons. He has weakened our military and our presence around the world. And perhaps worst of all, he has created a vacuum. Everywhere there used to be a strong American presence, someone else is now filling the gap. When people sense weakness in a vacuum, they seek to fill it.

Vladimir Putin pretty much does what he wants, as he seeks to rebuild the Soviet Union one nation at a time. Just ask the people in the Ukraine. China is flexing its military muscle in the South China Sea, while rapidly building the largest military in the world. Just ask the people in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. Libya has been fragmented and is being run by thugs. Iraq and Syria are being overrun by the Islamic State (IS). Egypt has lost control of the Sinai. Boko Haram roams freely throughout Nigeria, Mali, Niger, and Algeria. Anarchic conditions like this offer safe havens for terrorists. Barack Obama has been fiddling around on the golf course while the Middle East and North Africa are burning.

The Islamic State has produced a map showing the immediate future of their caliphate. A five year plan shows a strong presence throughout Western Europe. They've already made inroads into Spain and Austria. Barack Obama is not responsible for all of this. But without US military presence around the globe, the vacuum he's created will be filled by aggressors. While we're eliminating our Navy's warships and slashing our Army and Air Force's strength, the Islamic State forces have 80,000 jihadists, oil wells and refineries, plenty of money, and captured US weapons at their disposal.

The Bible is clear that Muslim jihadists will not conquer the world. But they do have an apocalyptic, end of days strategic vision that is driving them to slaughter anyone who gets in their way. It's also just as clear that the United States is nowhere to be found in future prophecy. How close we are to that point in history is anybody's guess. What we do know, however, is that Israel not only is in all endtime prophecy but will be the ultimate victor. God will complete His great plan of redemption by opening their eyes and hearts to receiving Jesus Christ, their Messiah.

Until then, however, there is little evidence that human nature has changed. What drives Mr. Putin, the IS, and Boko Haram are the same sinful desires that have driven mankind down through the centuries. Having said that, it would do well for America to remember Solomon's warning in Proverbs 14:34. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Rev. David Lewis

The Forbidden Book – Part II From Wycliffe to Wittenburg

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

God, by grace and providence, preserved His soul-saving Word despite centuries of theological darkness and men's apostasy. John Wycliffe, known as the "Morning Star" of the Reformation, had been a Master of Balliol College at Oxford in England (1362-1372). Wycliffe was an honorary Culdee after the influence of Columba who established a Bible College and led an evangelical movement from the island of Iona off N.W. Scotland in 563 A.D. Columba influenced Europe for over 700 years. Wycliffe, in turn, with his writing, teaching, and preaching influenced Europeans with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the 14th Century. There had been other reformed-minded clerics before Wycliffe just as there were Christians before Antioch (Acts 11:26).

The Lord has never lacked for a true witness from believers able to penetrate the alien accumulations of unscriptural theologies and practices (Matt. 16:18) through reliance upon the forbidden book. There were notables throughout history who trusted and preserved the scriptures and made them available. Peter Waldo (1176), a rich merchant, gave his money and the gospel of Christ to the poor. He and his followers learned scripture by heart and went about, two by two, preaching. They discarded the non-biblical concepts of purgatory and masses for the dead. They taught that prayer in a house or barn was as effective as in a cathedral and any knowledgeable of Christ's gospel could preach and teach.

To oppose this preaching, new orders were formed in the established church, such as the Franciscans and Dominicans, which became armies of the Pope. The followers in the evangelical movement founded by Peter Waldo became known as Waldenses and were so numerous in parts of France and Spain that armed troops were sent to annihilate every man, woman, and child. Waldenses fled for refuge into the valleys of the Alps. They took the forbidden book with them.

Around 1350 there arose in the Netherlands and Germany another attempt to reform the "Church." Gerhard Groote formed "The Brethren of the Common Life," and these men and women were strong believers in education especially in that of the Bible. Martin Luther spent time in one of their schools in Magdeburg. So, too, did John of Wessel, Thomas A. Kempis, and the highly renowned Erasmus of Rotterdam. These schools pointed to the errors of such unscriptural doctrines as purgatory, transubstantiation, indulgences and, most significant, that the Pope was the direct apostolic successor of Peter.

Various of these Christian educators and their political patrons had their conflicts and intermittent struggles with kings, emperors, and popes and were many times able to take advantage of these to restore and republish the recovered original teachings of Christ and His Apostles. Particularly fortuitous was the decline in the power and prestige of the Papacy when popes resided in Avignon, France (1309-1377), a period known as the “Babylonish Captivity.” Louis, King of Bavaria, allowed the advance of various principles of reform that greatly aided those advancing the evangelical teachings of the forbidden book. The concept of “sola scriptura” (the Bible alone for doctrines and practices in Christianity) was, and is, binding on every Christian, including popes. Scripture gave no greater power to Peter over other Apostles and was silent as to any line of successors for Peter alone.

Indeed, there is no conclusive proof that Peter was ever in Rome at all (see Paul’s epistle to the Romans wherein he greets by name 30 individuals and never mentions Peter and makes no mention of Peter as Bishop there). Christ alone is the rock of the Church and only He holds the keys of His Church and Kingdom. Peter indicated that we are each a part of “a royal priesthood” of “lively stones” set upon the true rock of Jesus Christ the “chief cornerstone” in the spiritual edifice of the TRUE church, the “body of Christ” (1 Peter. 2:4-10; Rom. 16; Matt. 21:42; Ep. 2:19-22; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Ep. 4:12, Col. 1:24).

Our elders, deacons, and preachers are our Fellow-Servants and not exalted rulers. Scripture knows nothing of princes and prominent potentates in Christ’s Church. Our pastors administer the two sacraments established by Christ (Baptism and Communion) for us but never OVER us. God alone can forgive sins so that man-made absolution is a delusion. No reprobate can receive forgiveness from men’s pronouncements nor can a born-again Christian lack God’s blessings without them. The “middle wall of partition has been broken down,” the “veil rent in two,” and we come to God by Christ’s finished work that we rely upon through repentance of our sins (Heb. 6:19-25, 10:17-23; John 14:6; Heb. 9:11-15).

The heroes of the faith, such as John Wycliffe, were ahead of the time when God would cause a general, widespread return to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Wycliffe saw the dire need for scripture to be published in the people’s language. Although only in longhand, Wycliffe was able to survive and thrive because of Edward III’s opposition to papal demands. Wycliffe assailed the errors and abuses in the visible church.

Wycliffe particularly stirred the controversy regarding transubstantiation. He called this invention of men as more analogous to the ancient pagan Babylonian rituals of blood-practices condemned in the forbidden book (Acts 15:20, 24-29). In 1408, the Archbishop of York convened an assembly of church authorities to condemn Wycliffe and his English Bible. This action initiated an era of repression, torture, and murder of

Christians that continued until the reigns of Henry VIII and his children. Men were burned at the stake for teaching their children the Lord's prayer and the Ten Commandments in English. After 40 years from Wycliffe's death, church princes had his bones exhumed and burned which was ordered by Pope Martin V. Yet the "gates of hell" will never prevail against the true Church of Christ (Matt. 16:18).

Next to strive for reform was John Hus of Bohemia who was burned alive at the stake at Constance after his "safe-conduct" guarantee was treacherously broken. Savonarola in Italy suffered a similar fate by an outraged pope. Still the pages of the forbidden book continued to enlighten, and God raised up giants such as Erasmus of Rotterdam (who caused the New Testament to be published in scholarly Greek) and Martin Luther in Wittenburg who published the Bible in the German language. Luther went further than Erasmus and the saying was, "Luther hatched the egg that Erasmus laid." These men both testified that they had, at the outset, no idea how far God was going to use their efforts. Luther said had he known the full extent of his nailing the 95 Theses to the Church door, he simply would not have had the courage to do so even though he knew he had the truth of God's Word as his guide.

Finally, the entrenched darkness in the medieval church began to be dispelled by the light of the forbidden book which now had many patrons willing to see God's Word in the hands and hearts of the common man who now knew more of truth than the vilage priest.

For the English-speaking world, the next great voice and educated author was, in the tradition of John Wycliffe, William Tyndale who was born in North Tibley in England in 1484. He, like so many others, was blessed to possess the Greek/Latin New Testament made possible through the work of Erasmus of Rotterdam.

Keep looking up.



The Solid Rock

By Nancy Long

*"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.*

*His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.*

Refrain

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand."*



Edward Mote (1797-1874)

Edward Mote, certainly not as recognizable a hymn writer as John Newton, Isaac Watts, or Fanny Crosby, but important, none the less. Mote was born on January 21, 1797, in London, England, to relatively poor parents, who managed a pub there. Neither one of them had any interest in God at all.

Growing up, young Mote was left, for the most part, to his own devices. He attended a school where the Bible was not taught, not allowed, or not even permitted. Quoting from Edward Mote, in writing about his boyhood, ***"My Sundays were spent in the streets. So ignorant was I that I did not know that there was a God"***.

During his adolescence, Mote became a cabinetmaker's apprentice. He loved the work, and, as well, I'm sure, relished the attention. He kept at this skill, and ultimately developed into a master craftsman of that trade.

In God's Providence, though, during the time of Edward's apprenticing, he began to attend church. Approximately the same time, he heard the preaching of Reverend John Hyatt at Tottenham Court Road Chapel. Sometime during those next months, God set His love upon Edward Mote, opening up his eyes, ears, and heart to the truths of the Gospel. The words he had heard, struck a responsive chord in his heart. Mote no longer was ignorant He knew, that not only there was a God, but that that God **"commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (Rom. 5:8).

One day, in the year 1834, while making his daily walk to work, and contemplating God's amazing love and grace, the chorus of what later became known as "The Solid Rock", and also verse one, came to his mind. Soon, after meditating at length on the same subject, the Lord brought to his thinking the words to the rest of the poem. The music for Mote's text wasn't composed until 1863, by William Batchelder Bradbury, one of the first composers of early American gospel music. Interestingly, there's an optional tune as well, written by John B. Dykes, to which the hymn "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" ("The Navy Hymn") is generally sung.

Edward Mote was baptized at the age of 18 was led to write the words to "The Solid Rock" at age 37, but was not called into the ministry until the age of 55. He was a professional cabinetmaker, and a faithful churchgoer, but was not called, by God, to preach until his mid-fifties. And preach he did, at the Rehoboth Baptist Church in Horsham, West Sussex, not missing a Sunday for the next 21 years all the while, preaching Christ, and Him crucified. Just prior to his death, in 1874, Edward Mote said, **"I think I am hearing Port. But the truths I have preached I am living upon, and they will do to die upon, Ah! the precious blood! the precious blood which takes away all my sins; it is this which makes peace with God."** He surrendered his pulpit in 1873, due to sickness, and died the following year.

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11).

Edward Mote had the security and the assurance of life eternal with Jesus. His confidence and faith were not in his own merits or works, but in the perfect, precious shed blood of Christ. It is in the immutable, changeless, absolute promises of God, unto salvation, that grant us the certainty of an eternity in heaven with God. Who, but God, can change a heart. Who, but God, can quicken a soul. The Solid Rock of Jesus fortifies and strengthens is the foundation of the Christian life. **"On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand."**

"Life without Christ is an endless hope; without Him is a hopeless end." (Anonymous)



9/11 Outdoor God & Country Service

7-9 PM @ Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Keynote Speaker:

William Federer of the “American Minute”

Also Featuring:

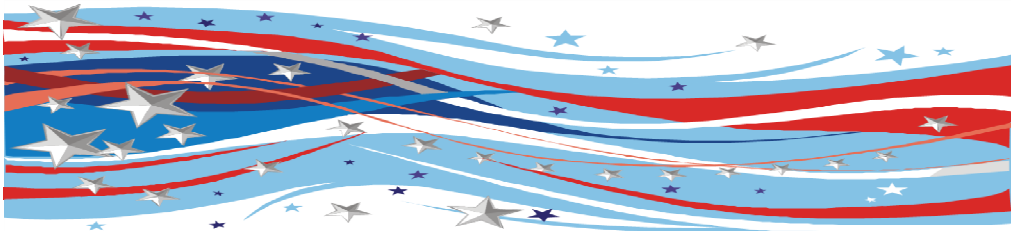
Rev. David Lewis—Pastor, Cub Hill BP Church
Michael Peroutka—Institute on the Constitution
Rabbi Neal Surasky—Chosen People Ministries
and Special Music

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY
EVENT!**

FREE FOR ALL AGES

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(In the event of inclement weather, we will move indoors.)



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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We are now on internet radio: www.evangelismradio.com (various times).

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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!

Thursday, September 11th (7-9 PM)

God & Country Service

Keynote Speaker: William Federer of the "American Minute"