

The DEFENDER - October 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: His Grace is Sufficient

I have to set aside the troubles of the world for a time as I reflect on the promise of Paul to the Corinthians. The Apostle told them in 2 Corinthians 5:8 that “we are confident, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” Paul wasn't afraid to die because he was confident of spending eternity with Christ. Facing the unknown may cause anxiety, and being separated from loved ones hurts deeply, but if we believe in Jesus Christ, we can share Paul's hope and confidence of eternal life with Christ.

This has been *my* hope and confidence, as I buried my oldest son Jason last month. Just 35 years old, the Lord took him home by way of a heart attack. I miss him terribly, but am content in knowing that death is just a prelude to eternal life with God. And because Jason placed his faith and trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus as his Lord and Savior, I know that I will see him again. Now that's assurance. That's complete and total confidence. That gives me contentment concerning the future.

But I live in the present. And I have an ache in my heart that refuses to go away. But I've found that one day at a time, sometimes one hour at a time, it's bearable. It's bearable because of the grace of God. That grace which He told Paul is sufficient for all things. It's true, although I hope you don't have to lose a child to find that out. I know some of you have, though, so you know what I'm talking about. You know the depth of God's grace. His grace is sufficient for all things because it can be effectively applied to all things, as it's needed. God's grace is not generic. He has grace that's specific to the need. Because He formed you in your mother's womb and knows every hair on your head, He also knows your specific needs. And because your needs are specific to you, His grace is individualized, or customized to fit you at just that particular time.

Although the loss of a loved one may appear to be similar to all of us, it really isn't. I needed His grace to sustain me when my father died in 2004. When my wife died eight months later, I needed His grace again. But because my heart was broken in a different way with her loss, a different portion of God's grace was necessary. So God brought me comfort and strength to endure those losses. Because a child holds a different spot in the heart than a parent or a spouse does, it stands to reason that the grace He provides for that loss is different. Different, but somehow supernaturally the same. Only a God who watched His own Son die can comfort the rest of us during our time of loss.

Rev. David Lewis

The Forbidden Book – Part III

Mass Production of the English Bible

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

The first well-known 16th Century English Theologian who suffered martyrdom for his faith in Jesus Christ was Thomas Bilney. While a student at Cambridge University, he learned that Erasmus of Rotterdam had produced and published a Greek/Latin New Testament. Bilney, in 1517, discovered a forbidden book store, purchased Erasmus's masterpiece, and read it by candlelight under his covers.

Bilney soon argued that HE was the "chief of sinners" and not the Apostle Paul (1 Tim. 1:15), yet he came to peace through God's gift of faith when he read that Jesus came "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Through Bilney's testimony, his professor, Hugh Latimer, came to faith in Christ. Bilney's white-hot faith was a torch set to the mountainous incendiary of discontent building for centuries.

In 1519 Bilney was ordained, and he consistently maintained an evangelical spirit and demeanor toward all classes. He freely distributed William Tyndale's printed English New Testaments. For this "crime" he was burned alive at the stake on August 19, 1531.

There is an important connection between the thousands of Christians that perished in the 16th Century in England and the settling of the East Coast of Wilderness America. The Puritans who abandoned England left primarily for religious freedom. Contrary to revisionist historians, they were an educated people well-versed in English history. Some of the settlers were the very descendants of those martyrs. They brought with them on the Mayflower, and on subsequent crossings to America, the Geneva Bible which was the translation work of William Tyndale.

William Tyndale, who was known as "The Father of the English Bible," was born in 1494 and was educated at Oxford University. He left Oxford in 1519 to become a tutor to the children of the wealthy, influential John Walsh family. During this time, Erasmus's Greek/Latin New Testament was his constant companion. He preached the plain gospel and evangelized in local churches which angered church officials who brought charges of heresy against him. He showed the local populace that scripture teaches that salvation is by grace alone, through God's sovereign gift of faith alone, in Christ's fully finished work alone, and not through the works-righteousness of sacrament-keeping or any degree of good-works (Ep. 1:3-11, 2:1-10; Heb. 9:12, 24-28).

Tyndale was summoned to a conference of clergy and what they charged him with was the very biblically-based evangelical principles that would forever characterize the growing puritan party. Briefly, the puritan's fundamental beliefs were summed up in the Reformation concept that whatever is not taught in scripture or sufficiently proved thereby is not a required article of Christian faith. This revival of scripture-based Christianity was a threat to the sacramentalism that had supplanted it.

Tyndale was unquestionably one of England's most brilliant scholars speaking eight languages so fluently it was said difficult to know his native tongue. At Oxford he was a member of the "White Horse Society" (a local tavern) where Oxford scholars met and discussed topics forbidden at the university. It was nicknamed "Little Germany" because Luther's forbidden works were a constant topic. Thomas Bilney and Miles Coverdale (who completed the Old Testament in English in Geneva) were among the regulars. All of these were martyred except Coverdale who just barely escaped to Geneva where he finished Tyndale's work. This Bible carried the pseudonym "Matthew's Bible" and is known now to history as the Geneva Bible.

Tyndale left for the Continent because his life was in danger for his work of translating the scriptures into the English language. He lived to see his English version of the New Testament mass-produced on the recently invented printing presses that God's providence made possible. With the help of Christian merchants, he smuggled back into England thousands of New Testaments.

Cardinal Wolsey and other powerful potentates who ruled the organized church were outraged that common folk could now read the scriptures in English. For having this forbidden book, and teaching it to children, many were burned alive at the stake. Wolsey began to buy and burn the New Testaments, but he was charged quadruple the price, and the bounty went to produce many more editions. For the producers, the public burnings of Bibles was an advertiser's best dream. Now everyone wanted a copy.

Treachery and deception were no problem for exalted church rulers (remember indulgences?). Through lies and deceit, Tyndale was lured into a trap by a "false friend" in the pay of Bishop Tunstall. Tyndale was captured, given an unjust trial, and burned at the stake on October 6, 1536. His famous last words were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes." Foxe, in his "Book of Martyr's," wrote: "resistance to religious tyrants is obedience to God." Tyndale was obedient.

William Tyndale's work of translation not only brought a revival of the suppressed Gospel of Jesus Christ, it also unified the language of the English-speaking peoples for the first time. Luther's translation of the Bible into German and Calvin's into French had the identical beneficial effect for all people since popular education was greatly aided thereby.

Miles Coverdale and the Scotsman John Knox collaborated in the development and printing of the Geneva Bible while both studied in the free city of Geneva. This version was printed with extensive explanatory notes making it a self-teaching tool for 200 years. It was the Bible of choice for Protestants of all classes. The 1595 edition stated, "The beast from the pit was the Pope." Perhaps this reflects the recent history of the "Babylonian Captivity" of the Church (1309-1376) and the "Great Schism" (1378-1417) where three Popes existed at once, excommunicating each other, and a fourth elected to depose the other three; a disgrace to all Christendom.

Tyndale's final prayer was answered when the bigot Henry VIII, a profligate and life-long reprobate, broke with the Pope who would not grant Henry a divorce from his Spanish queen, Catherine. Undeterred, Henry forced an edict through a rubber-stamp parliament called, "The Act of Supremacy" making himself supreme ruler of the Church in England.

Thomas More, whose hands were stained by the blood of Christian martyrs, had his own head removed for refusal to support the Supremacy Act. If all the world hears the noise when thieves fall out, how much more so when tyrants do likewise?

Amazingly, only a few years after Tyndale's murder (with Henry's aid and consent) Henry ordered the "Great Bible" in English be chained in every church in England. The Great Bible was chiefly Tyndale's translation. God's ways are not man's ways.

In 1604, the Puritan Party approached King James I to sponsor a new printing of the Bible sanctioned by the government. James was favorable because he hated the Geneva Bible with its notes, especially those that condemned tyrants. This is the origin of the 1611 King James Bible.

Later, the Long Parliament assembled a large group of highly regarded theologians, scholars, and professors to produce a Confession of Faith. At Westminster they divided into groups with different assignments. They made use of Hebrew and Greek manuscripts (Textus Receptus), all Bibles produced including Tyndale's and Coverdale's, all Geneva editions, the Bishop's Bible, and all other existing Confessions of Faith. During their six years of labor, they effectively stylized the English language to facilitate memorization of scripture for the people. When the forbidden book became the basis of the people's Confession of Faith, with the long and shorter catechisms, it brought the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with its message of grace and mercy and peace and hope to millions of born-again believers.

In 21st Century America the Bible's influence still remains strong in the hearts of the people (although under strong attack in the last 60-70 years especially in Marxist-dominated universities where Christians are marginalized). The Bible and Christianity were the basis of our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution because the teachings of Christ are the basics of the "textbook of liberty."

The Bible and our American way of life are still worth fighting for and dying for, if necessary.

Keep looking up.



My God Shall Supply

By Nancy Long

Phil. 4:19 -- *"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

Psalm 9:9 -- *"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in the times of trouble."*

Psalm 23:4 -- *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."*

Psalm 30:5b -- *"..... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."*

Psalm 34:17-20 -- *"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."*

Psalm 55:22 -- *"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."*

Psalm 116:15 -- *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."*

Ecc. 3:1-2a -- *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die"*

Isaiah 25:8 -- *"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces for the Lord hath spoken it."*

Matthew 5:4 -- *"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."*

Matthew 11:28 -- *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

Luke 10:20b -- *"..... rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."*

John 14:1-4 -- *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me, In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

John 14:27 -- *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

Romans 8:38-39 -- *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 14:8 -- *"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."*

Romans 15:13 -- *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."*

1 Cor. 6:14 -- *"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His own power."*

1 Cor. 13:12 -- *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."*

1 Cor. 15:42-44 -- *"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."*

2 Cor. 5:1-2 -- *"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven."*

Phil. 3:20-21 -- *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."*

1 Thess. 5:9-11 -- *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do,"*

1 Peter 1:3-5 -- *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

Rev. 21:4 -- *"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."*

We here in our church family and radio ministry have suffered a painful loss. Jason Lewis, the son of Rev. David Lewis (our Pastor and also director of In Defense of Truth), suddenly passed away from this earth, by way of a heart attack, and was ushered into his eternal home of glory on September 7, 2014. Jason was only thirty-five years old.

A little over nine years ago, Pastor Dave lost Jason's mom to cancer. She was just forty-eight years old. Scripture tells us "*it's appointed unto men once to die*" (Heb. 9:27) our days are numbered only God knows the date and time. "*God has reserved to Himself the right to determine the end of life, because He alone knows the goal, to which it is His will, to lead it. It is for Him alone to justify a life, or to cast it away*" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). No one has been given a warranty, no one has been guaranteed, to live to the ripe old age of a hundred No one, in fact, has been promised to live beyond even the next minute.

There's nothing more important than our relationship with Jesus Christ. There's nothing more urgent than knowing assuredly, where we will spend eternity (1 John 5:13). We may not know about tomorrow, so states the hymn, but we **can** know the One who holds it. Quoting from Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins' book entitled, "Embracing Eternity": "*What does it mean to embrace eternity? It means grasping each breath as if it could be your last, living life moment by precious moment with your feet planted firmly on earth, but your heart aimed squarely at heaven. It means learning to embrace the role of dual citizenship -- - living in one world while belonging to another. It is a lifestyle of living like there's no tomorrow, and then dying so that your real life can finally begin.*"

"They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it.

Death cannot kill what never dies." (William Penn)

Nothing, I believe, speaks more directly, more truthfully, and surely gives more consolation and spiritual solace, than the Word of God. There are so many Bible verses that speak on God's comfort, healing, and peace during the time when we've just buried someone we love. None the less, though, the death of a loved one is probably the most difficult thing in life with which we'll ever face. When we mourn when we're hurting and in pain when days seem so very bleak **God** is always there, **God** is always right, **God** is always good, and **God** is the only One who can provide the warmth and comfort of that which is needed so desperately. **He** loves us and **He** cares. "*Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you*" (1 Peter 5:7).

Jason and also Terry his mom, are in heaven today with Jesus. Both gave testimony to the fact that they believed and trusted in the precious, perfect shed blood of Jesus Christ. However, their loved ones continue to remain here in this world without them. Jason was a son, a stepson, a grandson, a brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin, and friend. He will be painfully and heartbrokenly missed. The emptiness will need to be filled, and that will take time Time, though, has its purpose **time** is one of God's most beautiful and precious gifts. Clouds will grow dark, and storms will continue to come, but be assured that "*weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning*" (Psalm 30:5b).

Lord, and Heavenly Father I come to you this day to seek Your face to implore You to supply all our Pastor's needs as well as the needs of his entire family just as you've promised in Your Word (Phil. 4:19). Provide each one of them, during this time of extreme grief with Your strength, Your comfort, and Your peace. Sometimes, I'm sure, it seems almost impossible to look to tomorrow, so please Lord, just take care of his/their needs today.

There are some moments in life when we can find no words, only tears but tears, I think, can be from You tears can be Your gift to us. "*Tears water our growth*", says William Shakespeare. Please, Lord, help us to provide a listening ear, a tender thought, a bit of Scripture Your light anything that's needed to move this family into the direction of Your everlasting arms (Deut. 33:27).

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

I covet the prayers of God's people for Pastor Dave and his entire family that this great pain will be converted into an opportunity for gaining a greater and deeper understanding of our Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Sovereign God.

"Life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight." By -- Rossiter Worthington Raymond

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

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

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 church.

Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM

Luncheon & Forum after our service on **October 12, 2014**—
Join us for food and fellowship!