

# The DEFENDER - June 2015



“... 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: Beware the Church

Anyone who has read “The Defender” front page for any time at all, knows that I'm not afraid to point out the incompetency of the Obama Administration, as well as the agenda which I believe they are following. As a student of Bible prophecy I believe we are heading full speed ahead toward the Great Tribulation. When asked my opinion of Barack Hussein Obama as president, I'm quick to tell people that I believe he is God's man for the job. In other words, God, who places all leaders in positions of power (**Daniel 2:20-21**), has providentially ruled that Mr. Obama would preside over the weakening of America (**Proverbs 21:1**). Since he has been in office we've lost many freedoms, many jobs, and many lives to terrorist aggression, not to mention the respect that we've lost around the world. Our enemies no longer fear us and our allies no longer trust or respect us. Our military and our economy have been significantly weakened, as have our moral foundations. Perhaps worst of all, we no longer are the trusted ally of Israel that we've always been. This has fueled speculation that because of Israel's increased vulnerability, she is now an easier target for those who have threatened to annihilate her. All the more reason for the church to offer support and prayers for the Lord's people.

But there's more. The Bible is clear that as history draws to a close, there will be a great falling away from the truth within the church (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**). Ultimately, the visible church, led by the False Prophet, will help to usher in the one-world government. With the rise of global persecution, true Bible believers may ultimately be forced “underground” for fellowship and worship. Jesus said His disciples were like sheep in the midst of wolves, needing to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (**Matthew 10:16**). We find ourselves in a similar situation in the world today. But even more than that, we need to beware of the enemies within the church. As political correctness pushes more and more liberal Christians into the big tent of ecumenism, true believers will be targeted. Christian orthodoxy will be labeled as hate speech. We who place the Gospel of Christ over and above everything else will be watched carefully. When we back off from supporting the political agendas that the false Christians are promoting, we will be labeled as hateful, intolerant, and homophobic.

Well known names within the visible church, such as Rick Warren and Pope Francis, have endorsed global movements such as income redistribution, climate change, and same-sex marriage. These are all issues that will force the true church to take a stand, one for which true believers will be persecuted. In the grand scheme of things, the above issues aren't about money, weather, or sex. They're about people control and getting rid of Christians. What they don't know is that this world is not our home, and when we finally are removed from society (the Rapture), we'll be glad to go.

*Rev. David Lewis*

## **“Another Jesus” Calling (2 Cor. 11:4) Part 1 – New Age in Old Wineskins**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

False teachers and self-appointed “prophets” and “apostles” who practice contemplative meditation (a New Age standard) and other extra-biblical innovations may find the spiritual presence they encounter is NOT from God. Some of these perhaps well-meaning but misguided “seekers” have thrust themselves into leadership roles in churches and elsewhere. The great danger for them and those they influence, is their ignorance of the Holy Spirit’s warnings in scripture regarding occult activity by followers of God and Jesus Christ (Matt. 7:15-20).

Peter warned us to “make your calling and election sure” (1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Pet. 1:10). Sadly, many only think they belong to Christ (Matt. 7:21-23). Those who are “practicing the presence of God” better be absolutely certain any voices heard are not from “the rulers of darkness of this world” (Ep. 6:10-13).

Early on, the Lord’s command to Israel was “NOT to learn the abominations of other nations or adopt their idolatry; there shalt not be found among you anyone that ... useth divinations ... or a consulter with “FAMILIAR SPIRITS” (Deut. 18:9-12; Lev. 19:31, 20:6; Is. 8:19-20). The Apostle Paul confronted a “damsel possessed” by a demonic spirit of divination and cast the demon out by the power of Jesus’ name (Acts 16:16-18). Also, Paul warned Timothy that in the LAST DAYS “some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits (encountered during contemplative meditation?) and doctrines of devils” (1 Tim. 4:1).

Warren B. Smith, a former adherent of New Age occult practices (now a born-again Christian) became an author who exposes these last days’ spiritual deceptions. In his book, “Another Jesus Calling,” Smith documented his deep concerns with Sarah Young’s bestselling book “Jesus Calling.” Sarah Young reported that “Jesus Calling” was inspired by the book “God Calling.” She said her journey with “Jesus Calling” was made possible by reading “God Calling.” Somehow Young and her “Christian” publisher missed the fact that “God Calling” was a “channeled” book that originally sold out of New Age bookstores. They also missed Jesus’ warning concerning these last days, “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in MY NAME, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matt. 24:3-5).

Occultic channeling occurs when someone goes into a trance or a meditative state that opens one to involvement with a spirit entity that transmits to them occult knowledge or power. Forms of occult activity can occur such as automatic writing, narrated visions, and inner voice dictation (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15).

Those involved with the occult practice of channeling “familiar spirits” admit that it originates through meditation (yoga is not safe!), relaxation (mind-numbing mantras), visualization (manipulating reality), hypnosis (surrendering control of the mind), altered states of consciousness and on and on. Another name for channeling is mediumship. Contemplative meditation is one of the dangerous portals into New Age occultism’s spirit controlled channeling. “God

Calling” is such a portal and incredibly the publisher offers it as “The Classic Christian Devotional” and that it also was inspired by Jesus Christ Himself.

The authors of “God Calling” (in 1932 in England) are not listed by name but as “Two Listeners.” Like the modern New Age channeled text, “A Course in Miracles,” the “God Calling” authors claimed that the messages they received were from Christ Himself!! Characteristically, all these volumes contain denials of biblical teachings such as “God Calling.” “I, being God, can recognize God in man,” which is pantheism. Also, on pages 157 and 216, the atonement is denied (see the Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs).

Panentheism refers to the antibiblical belief that the world and all finite entities (including man) are within God but that God is more than the world. The practicing of New Age mediumship – including channeling by familiar spirits – is expressly forbidden by scripture (Deut. 18:9-12).

Sarah Young wrote that it was “God Calling” that impelled her to seek to receive her own messages and was delighted that “Jesus Himself” was her spirit guide. In the Introduction in the earlier editions of “Jesus Calling” she reported that “God Calling” “became a treasure to me.” As Warren B. Smith pointed out, however, that statement has now been deleted with “no apology, no explanation, and no warning.” All mentions of “God Calling” were removed from “Jesus Calling.”

While many Christian leaders have remained silent about “Jesus Calling,” not so the secular media who took Sarah Young and her publisher to task for unprofessionally and surreptitiously deleting problematic material. The unexplained changes, reports Warren Smith, caused some former supporters to stop using “Jesus Calling.”

World Net Daily published two articles: “Top Christian Bestseller (over 10 million copies sold) Accused of Heresy” and “Is Hit Book ‘Jesus Calling’ Pushing New Age?” Charisma magazine ran a similar article titled, “Critics Accuse ‘Jesus Calling’ of Mixing Truth with New Age Error.” For Sarah Young and her publisher, Thomas Nelson, to remove all references to “God Calling” with no explanation is the height of spiritual irresponsibility Smith contends. Now the New Age book “God Calling” sits next to “Jesus Calling” in Secular AND in Christian bookstores.

According to Warren B. Smith, recent editions of “Jesus Calling” removed all references to having received “messages” or the word “message.” These are now changed to “writings” and “devotions” gleaned in “quiet moments.” If contemplative meditation that leads to hearing voices is harmless (it is extremely harmful) why try to hide the claim that “Jesus” gave Sarah the messages found in “Jesus Calling” and deny a seducing familiar spirit was involved?

Since Warren B. Smith brought to light unbiblical contradictions in “Jesus Calling” in his book, “Another Jesus Calling,” Sarah Young and Thomas Nelson have worked to delete the statements that were obvious contradictions to scripture and not to mention a slight to “Jesus.”

Smith’s position is that Sarah Young has been listening to and following a deceptive spirit (1 Tim. 4:1) or her own confused thoughts (1 Cor. 14:33) and that she is first deceived and has deceived others (2 Tim. 3:13). Believers must always first “study to show themselves approved

... rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) and “hiding the Word of God in their hearts” (Ps. 119:11; 2 Cor. 3:3) by reading the Bible’s 66 books and memorizing scriptures written by men under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21) and there will be no need to hear any voice but His.

Thoroughly furnished now (2 Tim. 3:16-17) we may “test the spirits to see if they be of God or not and avoid the false prophets gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1-4), who are those who cause divisions (Rom. 16:17-18).

Warren B. Smith concludes that, since the impetus for “Jesus Calling” was the channeled occult New Age book, “God Calling,” this is the explanation why Young’s “Jesus” slanders Abraham. She wrote that Abraham was a man with “undisciplined emotions” and was guilty of “son worship” and of “idolatry.” Many believers who know the scriptures have been repelled by these unsupportable extra-biblical remarks.

Smith contends that Young and Thomas Nelson only made the problem much worse when in later editions they changed the names Abraham and Isaac to Jacob and Joseph. Perhaps, as Smith indicated, this was done for damage control after criticism was stirred by the harsh extra-biblical demeaning statements about Abraham and Isaac. Warren Smith also pointed to the “Jesus” of “Jesus Calling” who said that he was “born under appalling conditions” in a “filthy stable” and that that night was “a dark night for me.” If Smith is correct in his assessments, there was no dark night for the true Jesus of Scripture (who never hinted any such thing) but it will be so for “Another Jesus” (2 Cor. 11:3-4) whose dark night will be in “Outer Darkness” (Matt. 8:12, 22:13, 25:30).

God’s Word is not to be added to or altered in any way. It is living truth in the only Divine Son of God and filling our minds with it we come to love Him. As Jesus described the end times to His disciples, His first utterance to them is even more important today, “Take heed that no man (or woman) deceive you ... many shall come ... saying, I am Christ: and shall deceive many” (Matt. 24:3-5).

Keep looking up.

**Main Source:** “Another Jesus” Calling  
**Author:** Warren B. Smith  
**Publisher:** Lighthouse Trails Publishing  
Eureka, Montana  
**Contact:** [www.lighthouse Trails.com](http://www.lighthouse Trails.com)  
866.876.3910



# **The Brevity of Life**

**By Nancy Long**

1 Chron. 29:15b -- *"..... our days on the earth are as a shadow,  
and there is none abiding."*

Job 7:6a and 7a --*"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle .....  
O remember that my life is wind ....."*

Job 8:9 -- *"(For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our  
days upon earth are a shadow:)"*

Job 9:25a -- *"Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away ....."*

Job 14:1-2 -- *"Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.  
He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down:  
he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not."*

Psalms 39:4-5a -- *"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my  
days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.  
Behold, Thou hast made my days as an handbreadth ....." "*

Psalms 78:39 -- *"For he remembered that they were but flesh;  
a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again."*

Psalms 90:12 -- *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply  
our hearts unto wisdom."*

Psalms 102:11 -- *"My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am  
withered like grass."*

Psalms 103: 15-16 -- *"As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the  
field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is  
gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."*

Psalms 144:4 -- *"Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that  
passeth away."*

Isaiah 40:6b-8 -- *"All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the  
flower of the field : The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:  
because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the  
people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:  
but the word of our God shall stand forever."*

James 4:14 -- *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."*

1 Peter 1:24 -- *"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away."*

I believe the topic that human beings en masse, enjoy talking about the least, is the subject of "death", especially when it comes to their own ..... and sad to say, this includes born again believers as well. Time, though, whether we try and busy ourselves with things of this earth, and ignore the truth, or not, continues to march on, doesn't it? And time indeed, is running out ..... for each and every one of us.

The Bible speaks a lot about the briefness of life, especially when laid alongside of eternity ..... eighty years, or ninety, or perhaps even one hundred years ..... all short, all fleeting when compared to eternity, timelessness ..... something that will never, never, ever end.

Scriptures, in both the Old and the New Testaments liken our days, by using words, such as shadow, wind, fading flowers, or withering grass ..... and vapor. "Vapor" ..... steam, mist, condensation ..... literally here for seconds ..... then gone! We have all seen "vapor". It's a great visual. Vapor or steam, escaping from a tea pot and rising into the air, but disappearing almost as soon as it appears ..... comparing that to each new sunrise, then the setting of that same sun, it seems, happens in a flash. Another day retired from sight ..... another day vanished ..... all that remains are the memories.

Our days being ambiguous and uncertain, it's imperative then, we make every moment count. Not to panic, or to be anxiety driven, but calmly recognizing and acknowledging that our God in heaven is in complete control of all life and death. God, the Creator, has appointed and planned each one of our days before the foundation of the world (Heb. 9:27a).

Our days are uncertain, yes ..... we have no promise, no guarantee of tomorrow ..... that's a given. Actually we have no surety of our very next breath. We have not been given the ability to see around the closest corner ..... we aren't privy to what the following second, minute, hour, or day holds ..... but praise God, we are able to know with complete confidence and assurance, the One who holds it.

God has absolute, perfect, without limits, sovereign rule and control over all life. He can do, and will do, and does do, what is right and good ..... *"according to the good pleasure of His will"* (Eph.1:5b).

Our lives are insignificant, trivial, and really unimportant, at least when considering the bigger picture God has in place. David recognized this in Psalm 39 when comparing the frailness of his life to a handbreadth ..... a linear measurement approximately the width of the palm of a hand, very, very small.

My husband and I have been blessed with four generations of family to love. We have raised five children, who in turn have either raised, or are presently raising, our seventeen grandchildren. Some of these grandchildren are now bringing up our (soon to be) seventeen great grandchildren.. Turn around, it seems, and one generation has swiftly moved from infancy to adulthood, then the next, and now the next. Years speed by faster than one would care to think, or even imagine ..... so the title of one country song has said, **"Don't Blink"** *"For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (James 4:14b).

We Christians are just pilgrims ..... we are sojourners in this world , and are truly just passing through. We have been put on this earth for one purpose, and one purpose only, that being to please and glorify God, and to spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those whom we meet ..... with our words, and also with our testimony.

Life is extremely precious, a free gift given by Almighty God. Each breath we are privileged to take, we need to relish, savor, appreciate and enjoy. *"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psalm 118:24). Use your days wisely, consciously being aware of just how limited they are. Please don't take your God given gift of time for granted, presuming there will be another tomorrow. There just may not be.



*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.*

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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!

Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Tuesday Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 PM
Summer Movie Night <b>(June 26th—outdoors!)</b>	8:00 PM