

# The DEFENDER - March 2016

“... 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: After The Resurrection

My favorite day on the Christian calendar has always been Easter, no matter on which date it happens to fall. Resurrection Sunday, as it is more appropriately known, is the day in which we celebrate our Savior's victory over death and the grave (**1 Corinthians 15:55**). When Jesus died on the cross He saved us from our sins. When He arose from the dead and ascended back into heaven, He prepared the way that we might follow (**1 Corinthians 15:20**).

Many would say that is certainly enough for any of us to ask, and they would be right. What greater gift could mankind possibly receive than salvation with its promise of an eternity in heaven? But because our God is a God of abundance, there is more. When Jesus returned to sit at the right hand of His Father, He didn't leave us alone. He sent the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, to live within us and give us the power to be witnesses unto Him throughout the earth (**Acts 1:8**). And just as Jesus handpicked His disciples (**John 15:16**), He also chose us (**John 6:44**). We've been chosen to be a witness for the Lord. And in choosing us and giving us the power of the Holy Spirit, we've also been given the boldness and courage to do so, along with confidence, authority, and insight.

We need these attributes, especially in this day and age. The world is drifting farther and farther from God. And not in the sense that people just aren't interested. There's that, but there's also an open hostility toward our Lord and His people. We need godly wisdom and discernment in our daily walk. And we can be confident that the Holy Spirit can and will help us along the way. People need to be aware of sin. Nobody talks about that anymore. Certainly not in the world, but not even the church. The Holy Spirit, through our witness and testimony, reproves, or admonishes the world of sin (**John 16:8**). Do you think that would happen on its own? If it did, the world would be getting better, not worse. And it's obvious *that's* not happening. Which brings us full circle, back to our high calling from God Himself, which is to be effective in evangelism; spreading the Gospel. And just as the disciples were empowered to do, so are we. Just the fact that the world is in the shape it is should motivate us to live in obedience to the Lord, opening our mouths whenever we have the opportunity to witness our faith. The resurrection of Christ fired up a group of His followers to turn their heretofore non-committed, unfocused, timid lives into dedicated, purposeful, firebrands who turned the 1<sup>st</sup> century upside down and inside out. As followers of Christ today, can we do any less?



Rev. David Lewis

# **A Woman Rides the Beast**

## **Part I – Setting the Stage**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

“He carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness, and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-colored beast full of names of blasphemy having seven heads and ten horns” (Rev. 17:3).

The angel was making the announcement in Revelation chapter 17 that advised the Apostle John he would be shown the judgment of the “great whore that sitteth upon many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication” (vs. 1-2).

John reported that the woman in the vision was “arrayed in purple and scarlet ... decked with gold ... having a golden cup in her hand.” John described the woman as being drunken with the blood of the saints ... the martyrs of Jesus (vs. 4-6).

Scholars who interpret the foregoing verses as descriptive of future events indicate that the woman astride the beast represents a world-wide all-powerful, all-encompassing, unified religious system comprising all major religions. This unified world religion will be closely allied to an equally powerful political system which theologians designate as the Revived Roman Empire. The Woman and the Beast will oppose and persecute the true remnant church of Jesus Christ which will be falsely designated a subversive organization.

Biblical separation mandates the purity of doctrine and worship and the repudiation of false teachings and apostasy. During the whole of the Christian era, believers have refused fellowship with those who teach another gospel. Today, however, we hear of the Emergent Church and left-leaning neo-evangelicals calling for affiliation with mainline denominations known for harboring apostate clergy and their unbiblical teachings. Some neo-evangelicals are in dialogue with New-Agers, Hindus and Buddhists.

Christians who refuse to abandon the belief that the Holy Spirit guided the prophets and apostles to pen the Word of God without error are charged with divisiveness. The liberals act as if the Sixteenth Century Reformation was a mistake and the millions who perished for refusing to participate in unscriptural practices died in vain.

The gospel has never changed and certainly needs no supplementation from New Age or Hindu teachings. Further, none may claim orthodoxy simply by reciting the Apostles Creed. The maintaining of rites and rituals does not excuse apostasy nor offer a shield from God’s judgment (II Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:7, 11; II Thess. 3:14).

Believers, guided by scripture and aided by the Holy Spirit, proclaim the whole counsel of God and an unabridged gospel of Jesus Christ. They declare that Christ’s righteousness covers the sins of all genuine penitents by an unearned, undeserved gift of faith through grace alone apart from man’s ineffective righteousness. Only after God’s regenerating grace creates a “new creature” in Christ Jesus do works of man’s righteousness matter (Prov. 21:4; Rom. 9:15; Eph. 2:8-9).

All humankind fell with Adam so that scripture records that all have sinned and none are righteous. All are stillborn spiritually and are “dead in sins” until being born-again (Rom. 3:10-18, 5:12; Eph. 2:1-5).

No rite or ritual nor anything made by man can atone for a single sin. Only the work of a sinless kinsman redeemer Jesus Christ, by His shed blood on Calvary’s cross, is sufficient and effectual to propitiate the wrath of a Holy God. Acknowledgement of Christ’s title and work and repentance of sin is man’s part (Rom. 10:9-10).

When Jesus shed His blood it was as a man and not as a babe in the arms of the “Queen of Heaven.” The Virgin Mary is neither a queen of Heaven nor the mother of God. Mary gave birth to Jesus of Nazareth but it was the Holy Spirit that effected the conception of Christ, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. Just as with the Trinity, the two natures of Jesus Christ are beyond man’s finite mind. Fortunately it is not beyond believing for those regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus saith the Lord (Isa. 9:6a, 7:14; Luke 1:35).

Furthermore, the title “Queen of Heaven” has a derogatory spiritual connotation and should never be applied to a virtuous woman such as Mary (Jer. 7:18, 44:17-25).

Similarly, the coming one-world religious declension will be characterized by just such non-biblical beliefs and teachings. Unsanctified practices such as prayers for the dead and to departed saints and angels and contemplative or meditative prayer to reach “spirit guides” and familiar spirits will be offered by the woman astride the beast. Jesus warned against praying amiss and gave an outline known as the Lord’s Prayer to assist believers (Matt. 6:7-13, 23:14; Lev. 19:31, 20:6; Isa. 27:7-9).

As early as the times of Christ’s apostles, they were obliged to pen epistles to churches to counter false teachings that were subverting biblical teachings and Christ’s gospel. Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude warned congregations to guard against theological wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matthew 7:15).

Over time, the world was plunged into a long night of spiritual declension and darkness. Not until the Sixteenth Century Reformation era was Christ’s simple biblical gospel restored to prominence. For Christians, the revitalized rallying cries were Sola Fide (faith alone) and Sola Scriptura (Scriptures alone for faith and practice). Whole countries were restored to the light of scriptural teaching unadulterated by man’s deviations. Missionary efforts were established to properly fulfill the Great Commission to preach the untainted gospel worldwide (Matt. 28:19).

Satan and his minions did not long remain in dormancy. Now that God’s true word has been widely disseminated, the new unholy plan of attack was to discredit the ancient documents at the seminary level. Destructive Criticism (an illegitimate use of critical analyses of ancient documents) turned many hearts against the infallibility and inerrancy of the Word of God in the original autographs penned by the prophets and apostles. The leaven of Destructive Criticism and other theological promiscuity has led to the corruption rampant in seminaries and denominations today.

The prophet Daniel had foreseen a beast with ten horns six hundred years before John's vision on Patmos. Many scholars believe these beasts represent a revived Roman Empire to be ruled by the Antichrist and the woman who rides the beast is a coming religious confederation of apostate Christianity and the world's pagan religions.

Fulfilled prophecies such as those consummated at Christ's first advent speak to the absolute reliability of those yet future. The Bible has been assessed to be thirty percent prophetic making it unique compared with writings in other religions which have no fulfilled prophecies. No surprise since only the Bible is the God-breathed Word of the One true and living God and His prophetic pronouncements are a solid proof of authenticity

No prophecy with minute details as found in the Bible, foretold the coming of Buddha or Mohammad or any coming anti-Buddha or anti-Mohammad. Even Satan knows the only teachings that need counterfeiting are those from God's Word, especially those of God the Son, Jesus Christ.

The Creator Jesus Christ gave mankind the only object to which to direct faith and worship that is authorized. He has in all times raised up men and women of true faith as object lessons for all believers. He chose a patriarch, a people and a nation to receive and preserve the oracles of God and to protect a pure bloodline to the world's Savior. He is still calling out those as part of His church who continue to spread the truth and raise God's standard in the face of unbelief and apostasy (John 1:1-3, 14).

The woman and the beast may be coming and the time may be very near, but Someone else is also coming. Keep looking up.

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## **How Great a Love**

**By Nancy Long**

Jeremiah 31:3a -- *"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying  
Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love ....."*

Mark 15:25 -- *"And it was the third hour, and they crucified Him."*

Luke 23:33a -- *"And when they were come to the place, which is  
called Calvary, there they crucified Him ....."*

John 3:16a -- *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only  
begotten Son ....."*

Romans 5:8b -- *"..... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

Eph. 3:18-19a -- *"..... to comprehend ..... what is the breadth, and  
length, and depth, and height ..... and to know the love  
of Christ, which passeth knowledge."*

Phil. 2:8b -- *"..... He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto  
death, even the death of the cross."*

### He Grew the Tree

He molded and built a small lonely hill,  
That He knew would be called Calvary.  
Then He made the seed that would grow to be,  
Thorns that would make His Son bleed.  
Then He made a green stem, gave it leaves and then,  
Gave it sunshine and rain, and sheltered it with moss.  
He grew the tree He knew would be  
Used to make the Old Rugged Cross.

With tears in His eyes GOD looked down through time  
Saw Him spat upon, rejected and mocked.  
Still He grew the tree, that He knew would be,  
Used to make the Old Rugged Cross.

**Chorus** -- Nothing took His life, with love He gave it,  
He was crucified on a tree that He created.  
With great love for man, GOD stayed with His plan  
He grew the tree, so that we might go free.

**Tag** -- He grew the tree that He knew would be,  
Used to make the Old Rugged Cross.

Such love is beyond the realm of possibility for any human mind to grab hold of ..... to comprehend ..... *"but God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"*(Rom. 5:8).

The love of God, so states the song, *"is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell"*. The love of God is "rich" (plentiful, generous, prolific, fruit-bearing, overflowing, excessively abundant). The love of God is "pure" (sinless, stainless, spotless, unadulterated, genuine, real). The love of God is "measureless" (endless, infinite, unlimited). God's love is strong, secure, matchless, unequalled, steadfast, and will last "forever" (always, for all time, and beyond ..... **eternal**)!!

Over two dozen descriptive words I've used in the above paragraph ..... all feeble, none even near sufficient. Just mere words, though, fail to make clear, or are vivid enough, to convey the message regarding the awesomeness and depth of God's love. Any terms, concepts, or expressions used to describe something we have no ability to understand, conceive, or grasp, are extremely lame, lacking, inadequate, weak, and left wanting, to say the least.

God, in His sovereignty, has had a plan in place from before the beginning of time, which included Jesus Christ, His Son, leaving the glories of heaven, in order to come to this sin sick place we call earth. He was born of a virgin. He lived an unblemished, flawless, perfect life. He came, willingly leaving His home in heaven, for one purpose, and one purpose only ..... that being to ultimately die a merciless death on a cruel cross, in order to pay, with His pure, spotless, sinless blood, the required price ..... for **"sin"**.

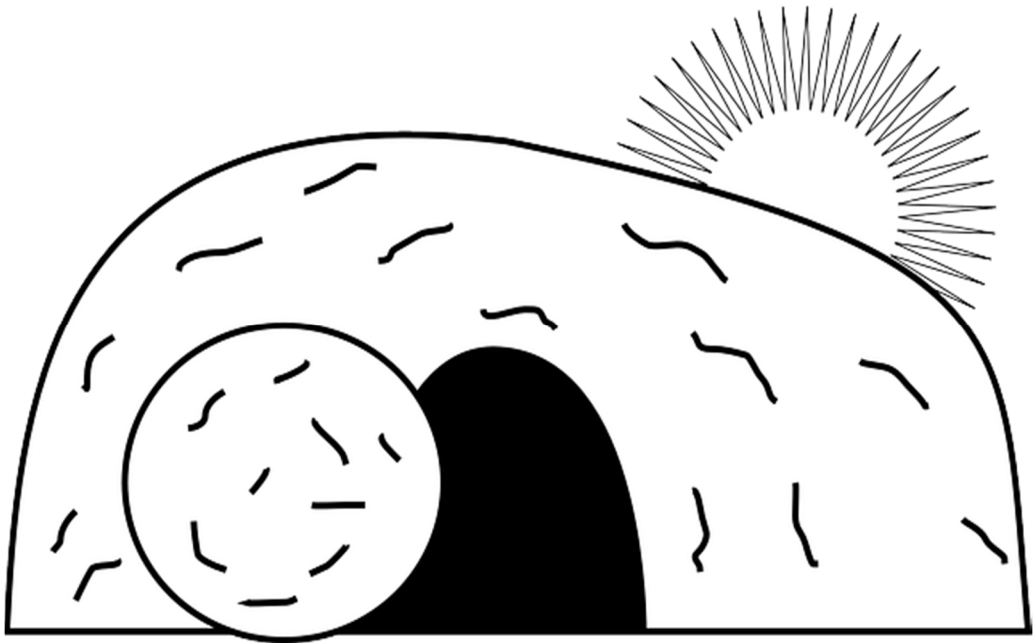
***"Nothing took His life, with love He gave it.  
He was crucified on a tree that He created.  
With great love for man, God stayed with His plan;  
He grew the tree so that we might go free.***

***He grew the tree, that He knew would be,  
Used to make the Old Rugged Cross."***

Such intense, overpowering, overwhelming love should cause each of us to pause, marvel, bow our heads ..... and give thanks.

Happy Resurrection Day, my Defender friends.

*He's  
Risen!*



# **Why Christians Should Pay Attention to the Wiretapping Issue**

**By Kevin Bruffey**

In recent years, especially thanks to controversy regarding the Patriot Act and efforts to fight the War on Terror, wiretapping has been a major issue. The Obama Administration through the help of the phone companies has been collecting everyone's phone records. We've been told that only those who are criminal suspects are having their phones tapped.

While we as Christians insist on the reality of truth and reject moral relativism, we must remember that we live in a moral relativistic world. This is important to note because the perception of a criminal from last century differs from one today and I venture to say one in the future. About eighty years ago there was concern over the "Mob," then in the fifties during the "Red Scare" there was suspicion over Communists. As time went on people wanted to get the drug lords. Now people want to go after terrorists.

The activity amongst all these groups has led to different approaches on how to deal with problems arising from each. There are some who have no problem using wiretapping to gain information from people such as these. Controversy often arises when it comes to warrants. Was a warrant gained before the wiretapping took place, or is one even necessary?

In actuality, the Fourth Amendment to our Constitution does require a warrant. Specifically, the warrant must be issued under oath with a description of the place to be searched. Considering, the last part, regarding the place to be searched, I must question wiretapping's legitimacy at all. I wonder when we took the liberties to play with words to the extent that tapping a phone line constitutes a 'place.' These days, a person could be anywhere and there are some who will do anything to tap their conversations regardless of location.

Drawing these conclusions from the Fourth Amendment may frustrate some. In fact, I'm frustrated. We need the tools to apprehend criminals to keep everyone safe and I, like others, detest the thought of a crime that could have been prevented. However, a major concern is giving the civil government a tool it shouldn't have.

While, on the one hand, those who support wiretapping, including those who support acquiring warrants first, will insist crimes were prevented through tapping



phone lines. As this may be true, we must ask if the ends justify the means. The Fourth Amendment says the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated. While there is mention of warrants in this amendment, it's clear that a person's privacy should be secured.

I mentioned some types of criminals most people agree the authorities should pursue, including Mob bosses, drug lords, and terrorists. Many people have tolerated wiretapping because they believe these sorts of criminals deserve to be apprehended, so if wiretapping helps solve the crime, then it's fine. In naming these sorts of criminals, it's important to consider a term I referenced earlier which is relativity. For one, threats legitimately change. The Mob may not be the same threat as they were in the 1920s, when they profited from bootlegging. Secondly, using the example of Communists, people can be deemed a threat based on their ideology.

As Christians, we can see how people are currently, and have in the past, opposed us for our beliefs. We can go back to the book of Acts and read accounts of the Apostle Paul who was then Saul persecuting Christians. In the Old Testament attempts were made at the lives of Daniel and his friends for standing by God. Currently, in the Middle East Christians are being murdered and thrown in jail for their faith. Totalitarian governments, including the former Soviet Union and China, saw Christianity as a threat. In the U.S. Christians' liberties are threatened in such ways that bakers are being fined for refusing to bake cakes for homosexual weddings while clerks of courts are being detained for not issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples.

While there is a strong resolve amongst many Christians in the battle to retain our religious freedom, we don't know what lies ahead. Privacy and Fourth Amendment issues, as I've discussed, could become a growing problem. I never want conditions to arise in which I must concern myself with someone listening to my phone conversation as I discuss details for the next Bible study. While that may sound paranoid, you never know how much of a threat Christianity may pose to the bureaucrat who has control over the phone records. We must also see the denial of rights to a group who we may feel are guilty, as serious; for when their rights are denied, whether it be through wiretapping or torture, our rights are denied as well because of the precedent being established. In other words, if it can happen to them, it can happen to us.

In our society the civil authorities will always be charged with protecting the citizenry. As discussed, the Fourth Amendment provides a constraint in which they can

operate. A good comparison would be a wide receiver sprinting down the field trying to catch the ball so he can ultimately score a touchdown while at the same time bearing in mind the rule that he can't physically prevent the defender from catching the ball. The Fourth Amendment, like the other amendments in the Bill of Rights, are designed to limit the Federal Government so that our rights are not infringed. If the goal for the civil authorities is to protect the citizens' collective welfare, it only makes sense for them to operate under the constraints of the Bill of Rights. Sacrificing individual rights to preserve the greater good will only destroy the initial purpose. Benjamin Franklin said it best, "they that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."



### **Founder's Quotes**

*"Bad men cannot make good citizens. It is impossible that a nation of infidels of idolaters should be a nation of free men. It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains."* **(Patrick Henry)**

*"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."*  
**(Edmund Burke)**

*"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."* **(George Washington)**

*"If ever time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."* **(Samuel Adams)**

*"God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are ready to guard and defend it."* **(Daniel Webster)**

*"Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government and all the blessings which flow from them must fall with them."* **(Jedidiah Morse)**

## **The Stone Was Rolled Away**

They nailed Him to a cross; He was crucified one day.  
They rolled a stone over His grave to make sure He would stay.

They came to visit Him early one morning, perhaps to pray.  
When they arrived at the site, the stone was rolled away.

He came down from Heaven, born of a virgin to die.  
To pay for all our sins, that is the reason why.

Man had fallen deep in sin, He wandered far from his Creator.  
God sent His only begotten Son, no sacrifice could have been greater.

He stayed here a short while, walked with His followers here below.  
Said He was going back to Heaven, told them He loved them so.

He was going back to heaven to prepare a better place  
For all of those who are saved by God's marvelous grace.

He said He would return to take them home to dwell  
Instead of having to suffer forever with Satan in hell.

We are saved by grace through faith because He died on Calvary.  
God so loved the world that He gave Jesus to die for you and for me.

The grave could not hold Him; He paid the debt He came to pay.  
Thank God for His love and grace, the stone was rolled away.

The blood that was shed, it set the sinner free.  
It was the ultimate sacrifice when He went to Calvary.

Now whosoever will can come to the foot of the cross to pray.  
The sacrifice was completed when the stone was rolled away.

*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 & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday Evening Youth Group	7:00 PM
Good Friday Service (March 25th)	7:00 PM
Easter Sunday Service (March 27th)	11:00 AM