

# The DEFENDER - September 2017



“... 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: No Respector of Persons

The above title can be taken two different ways. And in response to man's continued assaults on his fellow man, we need look no further than God's Holy Word to find the right way. We're told in many passages of scripture that God is no respector of persons, which is hardly the case when it comes to mankind. God respects no man's person (**Romans 2:11**). Nationality doesn't matter, nor does family lineage, or the color of one's skin. God doesn't even care what church you attend. What matters only is whether or not you're righteous or a sinner. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast" **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

The progressive left in America today, however, doesn't look at things through the lens of Scripture. They target those with whom they disagree and then, through any means necessary, seek to undermine and destroy their place in the fabric of our nation's society. What we're seeing with these violent events taking place throughout the land have nothing to do with statues, slaves, or the Civil War. Instead, it seems to be the systematic destruction of our nation, founded on Judeo-Christian standards to the point that American history will be erased and forgotten. And those who forget the past have no tenets or precepts on which to build the future, meaning anything goes. In other words, anarchy. Much the same place in which Israel found itself during the times of the Judges.

I can understand the mindset of those who disagree with our nation's heritage, although I certainly don't agree with it. What I don't understand, however, is how true Christians, black and white, in the South or in the North, can take sides when it comes to defending the faith and honor of one of our deceased brothers, now in heaven. General Robert E. Lee, of the Confederate Army, was a born-again believer, trusting in Jesus Christ alone for his salvation. Was he a sinner? Absolutely. The Word of God points that out in **Romans 3:23**: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." And that includes you and I.

God is no respector of persons, but He expects His followers to defend their brethren, whether dead or alive. When visited in his tent during the war by his chaplain, and told that all the chaplains were praying for him, Lee said, "Please thank them for that, sir—I warmly appreciate it. And I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone for salvation, and need all the prayers they can offer me."

I don't know what the future holds for our land. But I do know that God has His people scattered throughout the earth, calling them from every tongue, kindred, and nation. He will rightfully judge us on our relationship with Jesus Christ, and not on our association with one another.

*Rev. David Lewis*

# **THE NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION AND ENDTIME FALSE REVIVALS**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

Orrel Steincamp of Plumblin Ministries summarized the "New Apostolic Reformation" in his comprehensive exposition of this movement that was hatched out of Fuller Seminary by C. Peter Wagner who named it the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). Wagner stated, " I needed a name ... I experimented with "Post Denominationalism" but the name I settled on for this 21st Century was the NAR. Arrogantly and erroneously the NAR is claimed to be a reformation greater than that of the 16th Century's Holy Spirit led Reformation.

The only authentic and true Holy Spirit led Reformation was a separation movement out of an apostatized Christianity. One of the "Solas" of the Reformation was "Sola Scriptura" (the Bible Alone) which undergirded the true unity of God and man leading believers out of and away from false and unbiblical teachings. The NAR reverses this by claiming false revivals and unity with false teachers (2 Cor.6:14-18; Ep.5:11; 2Thes.3:6,14). That which Christ and His truly (and only) called Apostles made plain for the common people was in the 1500's again restored and has since blessed millions.

Today, Bible honoring teachers hear the charge that "Doctrine Divides" yet that is the Bible's very purpose, especially when error takes over a formerly faithful movement for Christ's gospel. What also appears in Wagner's NAR is an alleged "God-ordained" anointing of a modern class of exalted leaders called "Prophets" and even "Apostles." This unmitigated arrogance amounts to a resurgence of the "Manifest Sons of God " deviancy. G. Raymond Carlson, former General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God denomination (AOG) lamented, "I saw heresy in the "New Order of The Latter Rain" in the 1940's and 50's, which made its presence ... among early Pentecostals."

The NAR is considered more dangerous than past innovations because it is capturing the younger generation. These modern schismatics have repeatedly advocated an "end of the age" global revival with the eventual unification of all religions. Their brand of "unity" has been splitting local assemblies of true Bible-honoring Christians for over a century. The "Latter Rain" fell into disrepute and then dormancy with the death of the leading false prophet of that apostasy, William Branham. Also dealing a death blow to that deviancy was the sound repudiation of Branham's methods by the Assemblies of God leadership. However, it experienced a Phoenix-like resurrection during the "Charismatic Renewal" of the 1960's and 1970's. Unfortunately not everyone recognized the re-importation of the "Latter Rain" (LR) into the Charismatic Renewal movement.

George Warnock wrote a systematic teaching of LR concepts shedding light on its origins. The dubious "Flowing River of Revival" was fostered by some Pentecostal Pioneers at the turn of the 20th Century and they were known as "Source Bearers" of the "Holiness Movement" going back into the 1800's.

Leading Holiness enthusiasts in the 1800's finally turned to the Bible to find scriptural support for the "revival" they were already experiencing. One scripture settled on was, "And this gospel shall be preached in all the world ... and then the end shall come" (Matt.24:14). These

artful developments in the Holiness Movement served as a hoped-for prelude to global missions which in turn would be a prelude to Christ's promised return.

Holiness teachers became enamored with emotional experiences they believed were the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" and also with a quest for worldwide revival which made fertile ground for their inventive "LR" allegory borrowed from Deut. 11:10-21 and James 5:7-8. These new concepts became a lens to view all history, enabling the gospel to go to every nation. Now, they reasoned, we can establish the "Dominion" without which Jesus could not return.

The authentic ancient outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was now depicted as the "Early Rain" by which the Church was planted in the First Century A.D. The hoped for "end of the age revival" became the LR. Wesley Myland (1858-1943) published his version of the LR scheme that he titled "The Latter Rain Covenant -- a first definitive Pentecostal theological dissertation." Charles Parham, a Methodist Holiness preacher, broke with "traditional" Holiness teaching with his linking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with a "latter day Pentecost." For him, the "revival of the tongues gift" (Acts 2) was both a sign of the Spirit's Baptism and a signal that the end of the age Dominion had at least begun its appearance.

Early Pentecostals initially accepted the LR motif that the current "Spirit Baptism" was an end time reprise of the first Pentecost, and this final Pentecost was also the entrance of the "final dispensation." Now they believed a final world revival would come because "Tongues" would enable the gospel to be quickly preached over the whole earth. This new teaching birthed the concept of the "Restoration" of the office of Apostleship to fulfill the LR global revival requirements.

The innovative principle in this supposed restoration alleges that there was a fundamental discontinuity between the Church of history and the true New Testament Church which contains some validity. Most early Pentecostals dispensed with the excesses in Restorationism and the LR motif after 1914 and the AOG Founding Fathers rejected it in favor of Premillennial eschatology. LR sat dormant until 1948 when it erupted again -- this time in Canada. The impartation of the spiritual gifts given to Christ's truly called apostles was allegedly "reinstated" and now new "traveling Prophets" were offering their "personal prophecies" since the gift of Apostleship was reinstated. The human logic offered was that a newly restored Pentecostal or Apostolic movement required living Apostles so the historical scheme of "Restoration" was launched.

Since Luther had recovered justification by faith and Wesley revived Holiness, some Pentecostal pioneers claimed they revived the "gifts of the Spirit." They believed these restored ministries must lead to a final dimension of power to bring about the long anticipated Kingdom of God to earth without which Christ cannot return.

The outcome of these progressions was the introduction of "Kingdom Now" Dominionism under the leadership of the new "Prophets and Apostles" and even by some claiming to be Reformed theologians. Now LR enthusiasts believed they saw a second, repeated Pentecost bringing a final harvest of souls before Christ's return. These modern prophets and apostles supposedly will lead to a conquering of worldly kingdoms -- billions are to be swept in by these overcomers with their spiritual power.

Premillennial teaching now stands in the way because these "Kingdom Now" Dominion advocates refuse to wait to be "Helicoptered Out" in some "Rapture Rescue." They teach that the Church itself, by its self-assumed "spiritual authority," will themselves defeat "principalities and powers" as the "spiritual warriors" of "Joel's Army" take Dominion on the earth. The language they have used is that those who will not follow or are opposed WILL BE PURGED. Contrary to Christ and His true Apostles' teachings, these modern LR advocates see a unified global church of their making (Luke 12: 51-53; John 15:19; 17:14). Actually, greater and greater apostasy will grow until Christ returns (Rev. Chap. 17). The called out followers of Christ are commanded to separate from all false teachers and false practices (2 Cor. 6:14-17; Ep. 5:11; 2 Thes. 3:6).

Many of these "Manifest Sons of God" believe they will be able to defeat death." This comes from an extreme interpretation of Romans 8: 14,19. In their ranks are those who teach that Christ only defeated death on an individual basis, but the Church will defeat death when it takes "Dominion." This new "Corporate Christ" melds well with the occultic teaching of the "Christ Consciousness in everyone," that familiar voice that produced "Jesus Calling." All of these advocate unity since all worship "the same God" we're told. It is they who are to finish God's work and plan, not Christ. He merely began the work.

What the Bible teaches is that the Lord Jesus Christ is right now in heaven. It also tells us that God's truly adopted elect believers (Ep. 1: 4-13) are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16; James 4:5; 1 John 4:12). When God's plan reaches maturity, Christ in His glorified body will return to earth as prophesied (Acts 1:9-11; Zech. 14:4) and He will rule on earth from the restored throne of David (Is. 9:7; Luke 1:32-33).

When the Charismatic Renewal burst forth in the 1960's and 70's the LR exponents found many who knew nothing of its history and it received a greater hearing than when first espoused. The LR is now more "mainstream" than ever supported by "Vineyard Conferences" and advocates of "signs and wonders" teachings, etc..

There is not even the slightest hint in scripture of an end-time global revival or a "Second Pentecost." In fact, Jesus asked, "When the Son of Man comes will He find faith upon the earth?" Jesus will return bodily, first in the air for the Church (1 Thes. 4:17), later to the earth at His second coming (Acts 1:9; Zech. 14:4). Then and only then will He change our mortal bodies to be like His (1 Cor. 15: 51-54) "in a moment in the twinkling of an eye." Jesus is coming again this time to rule on earth when the true Sons of God will be manifest. Meanwhile we are content to "occupy until He comes" and pray "even so come quickly Lord Jesus."

KEEP LOOKING UP!

**Chief Source:** Orrel Steincamp  
**Publisher:** The Plumline  
**Found in:** The New Apostolic Reformation (p.179-187)  
**Author:** Sandy Simpson



# Gratitude = Joy = Rejoicing

By Nancy Long

Psalm 118:24 – *“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will **rejoice** and be glad in it.”*

Phil. 4:4 – *“**Rejoice** in the Lord **always**: and again I say, **Rejoice**.”*

1 Thess. 5:16 & 18 – *“**Rejoice** evermore ..... In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

I really can't seem to get the topic of gratitude and joy out of my head, nor my heart, here of late, as evidenced in my last two Defender articles. The Lord exhorts us believers to carry a spirit of joy or rejoicing all the time ..... **“always”** says God's Word!!

The word “joy” and the word “rejoice” are synonymous, I believe. The dictionary defines **joy** as: great pleasure, happiness, delight in, satisfaction and inner contentment ..... and the word **rejoice** as: delight, take joy or pleasure in, gratification, fulfillment, satisfaction and contentment.

Almost two decades ago, broadcaster Larry King, interviewed Dr. Billy Graham, who was 80 years old at the time, and wasn't in the best of health. He had undergone several major operations, and also was living with the early stages of Parkinson's disease. Larry King questioned this well known minister about his feelings concerning his own impending death; Dr. Graham answered, *“Oh, I'm not afraid to die. In fact, I'm looking forward to it. I wish that day would hurry up and get here.”* And what does he expect to happen when he does die? *“When I die, an angel is going to take me by the hand and lead me into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.”* When Mr. King queried him about how he felt about having Parkinson's disease, Dr. Graham replied, *“I feel great about it. It's been a wonderful experience. I believe the Lord has many lessons to teach me through this disease.”*

Would you not agree that this is what it means to **“Rejoice in the Lord always”**? Christians, believers, children of God, at all times, should be able to find reasons to be joyful, and express it with grateful hearts throughout their lives, each and every day God allows them to live (Psalm 118:24).

Joy is a state of mind, a changing of the heart, produced by the Holy Spirit, as He begins to move us more and more closely into the likeness of Christ. Joy is the sec-

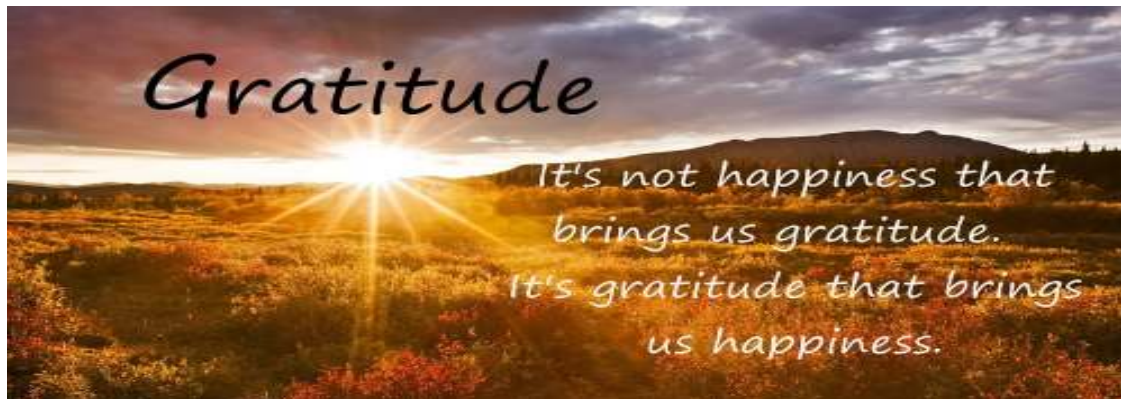
fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). ***“If we live in the Spirit”***, so states verse 25 of this same chapter, ***“let us also walk in the Spirit”***. We Christians tend to dwell too much on the things of the world. Our focus often is on our problems, the difficulties and the hard times we’d all rather not have. Each of us exhorted however, to ***“Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth”*** (Col. 3:2). Defender friends, we **can** have joy in the trenches of life! In fact, we are urged to do so!!

To reiterate: Joy is certainly not dependent upon our circumstances. Joy is not an emotion that can be feigned or forced. Joy runs deep!! Joy can be experienced even in the toughest of happenings. Jesus said, ***“Blessed be ye poor .... Blessed are ye that hunger now .... Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven”*** (Luke 6:20b, 21a, 22-23a). Having the ability to rejoice and be thankful in every situation of life, cannot be mustered up or summoned on our own. **Joy is a gift!!**

At the very beginning of the little epistle of James, we are admonished to ***“count it all joy!”*** Count it ALL joy, my fellow believers, when we find ourselves in any kind of trials ..... because we believe and know beyond any shadow of doubt, that better things are coming. We are being worked on. We are going through the difficult process of being pruned. We are being molded and shaped by the Master Potter!

***“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it”*** (Psalm 118:24). This is a declarative statement! There are no options here! Whether sunshine or rain, feast or famine, health or sickness, we **will rejoice**. We **will** be **grateful**. We **will** count it all **joy!!!**

“As the sun in heaven makes the natural day bright, so does the Son in heaven cause us to rejoice and be grateful!”



# 9/11 God & Country Service

7-9:30 PM @ Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church  
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**Featuring:**

**Guest Speakers: Mr. William Federer,**  
purveyor of “The American Minute” online  
and

**Mr. James Simpson,**  
investigative reporter and author of “The Red-Green Axis”  
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*...One Nation Under God...*

*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!**

Rev. David Lewis &  
In Defense of Truth  
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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
God & Country Service with Keynote Speaker William Federer (Sept. 11th)	7:00 PM