

The DEFENDER - October 2017

“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: Why it Matters

Five hundred years ago this month, on October 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk nailed 95 protests to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther's objections, at that time, were with the Roman Catholic Church. It was a time which many refer to as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. The implications of Luther's action are obvious. By questioning the authority of the Catholic Church, the entire course of history was changed. As John Calvin would later point out, it is the Scriptures which speak of human liberty, equality, and self-government. The rise of democracy in modern history stands side by side with the deliverance of God's people from the bondage in which they had been held by the Church of Rome's religious hierarchy.

Luther, however, made another observation during that time, one which still has major implications for us today. In 1529, the Muslim Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, invaded Europe. 100,000 Muslim Turks surrounded Vienna, Austria. Martin Luther wrote that “the Turk is the rod of the wrath of the Lord our God, and if the Turk's god, who is the devil, is not beaten first, there is reason to fear that the Turk will not be so easy to beat.” And only Christians can do it. Luther said the fight against them must begin with repentance, and we must reform *our* lives or we shall fight in vain. Martin Luther recognized it wasn't just the Catholic Church that needed fixing. It was us as well. He went on to say that the Church should drive men to repentance by showing our great and numberless sins as well as our ingratitude by which we have earned God's wrath and disfavor, so that He justly gives us into the hands of the devil and the Turk. What Luther was saying here, was that God was prepared to bring the Church under the captivity of the Muslims.

If you don't think that may in fact be happening today, just take a look at the Middle East. The era of any Christian presence in that region, with the exception of Israel, has effectively come to an end. Sin has consequences. And disobeying God was a sin of Israel's which has come back to haunt us 3000 years later. When God gave Israel the promised land, He instructed them to conquer it. Kill the enemies who would come against you, He said. Wipe them out. The Canaanites, the Gibeonites, the Hittites, and the Amorites. The Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But they didn't annihilate them all. They took spoils and intermarried. And because the Israelites disobeyed God, these pagan people survived, and now their descendants are reigning terror throughout the Middle East and the world.

There are evil movements afoot. We must be careful and vigilant. And we must defend the faith at all costs. Five hundred years ago, God used Martin Luther to turn the church and the world upside down. Who among us has He prepared for such a time in which we live today?

Rev. David Lewis

THE NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION AND END TIME FALSE REVIVALS - PART 2

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

According to the name, the "New Apostolic Reformation," it is something new, it is Apostolic and is a reformation. There the simplicity ends and there is no book of explanations called The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) that can be referenced.

Some NAR advocates claim they are following a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days of the age and that there are new "Apostles" bringing the second and final "Reformation." Their claim for proof lies in the alleged performing through their own spoken word genuine "signs and wonders." As an offshoot of the "Charismatic Movement" that erupted in the 1960's and 70's, the NAR can be thought of as a revived and expanded neo-charismatic movement.

For any to claim to be living, preaching, teaching, and performing with the same or even greater power than Christ's only truly called Apostles in the First Century A.D., is, to say the least, bold indeed. They claim that since these are the last days they have been called (self-appointed actually) to bring in, by their own power and work, the "Kingdom of God." They are no longer a part of the submissive "Bride of Christ" but rather the conquering "Warrior Bride" as some actually put it. A recent article in "Charisma" magazine stated that "A Prophetic Army is rising up" to subdue the earth and once subdued THEN Jesus may return.

According to Mike Bickel of "The International House Of Prayer" (IHOP) movement, dominion over the earth will be taken by them exercising their "spiritual authority" over geographical areas and even over governments --- and then to take through worship and prayer, authority over them. So once "dominion" has been achieved, then Jesus will be able to return.

The Charismatic movement brought a beclouding of Biblical doctrine and teaching by an avalanche of emotionalism based on an assumed ability to work miracles at will. There has even been seen where whole assemblies were experiencing so-called "Holy Laughter" and many others falling exhausted and fainting being "slain in the spirit." The Word of Faith branch claims we have the same power that Almighty God used in creating everything by His "speaking the Word." Some make the same claim that is made in Occult circles that what we "visualize" we can speak into existence. A kind of Christianized: "say the magic words"? All we need do is "name it and claim it."

One facet of an ancient occult technique was popularized over a century ago by Phineas Parkhurst Quimby when he "Christianized" chanting calling it repeating affirmations and denials to bring changes in one's circumstances. He and other "guru's and false teachers have been very successful with their sales pitch with some owning several jet aircraft, mansions, the finest clothes and cars. For the sheep that send in their hard-earned money to get the guaranteed monetary and health blessings, not so much. Quimby's method was adopted by Word/Faith preachers and when people in the pews don't get the wealth and health, they are told it is their own fault for having insufficient faith. Apparently not everyone can "Have Your Best Life Now" or reach heaven by Norman Vincent Peale's "Positive Thinking" or Robert Schuller's "Move Ahead with Possibility Thinking."

The fundamental error of the older pioneer Word of Faith peddlers - was revived in the NAR - -- putting aside God's written Word because "Doctrine Divides." They ignore God's multiple warnings to never add to or take away from His forever settled Word (Deut. 4:2, 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18-19). They claim their word comes through the Rhema --- the voices they hear and the "signs and wonders" they have power to perform. A most recent such claim was made by Sarah Young of "Jesus Calling" notoriety ... She claimed a voice calling itself Jesus was speaking to her and resulted in her book, "Jesus Calling." Her book has sold millions of copies and made multiple millions for her publisher, Thomas Nelson. The tragic part of all this is that Sarah Young got the idea for going into "quiet-times" and into the "silence" to listen for voices after reading a book that once only sold only in Occult Book Stores. Now with "Jesus Calling" popularity the occult book, "God Calling," is now found in "Christian Bookstores." Perhaps people should be warned of the danger lurking there with books that rob God of His glory like "The Shack" as another example.

NAR advocates recognize that the World is troubled as we all do. They also see a part of scripture that speaks of a coming Kingdom and a Millennium of Christ's rule of peace and prosperity (Rev. Chap. 20). They also believe that they are particularly and especially called and given authority that allows them to take "Dominion" --- to regain what was lost in the Garden of Eden. So apparently their Reformation is really a man-centered, man-driven "Restoration" of earthly bliss.

The NAR concept is to restore by taking dominion over governments, cities, states, and even countries to establish their vision of the Kingdom of God. Whatever they want will come to pass because "They" are in authority. By its core teachings the NAR is sovereign even over the Bible and over God's providence because they also have "divine authority" to "speak" reality into existence. They teach that everyone can speak whatever they want into reality --- health, wealth and happiness. So now the NAR will speak the Kingdom of God into existence.

These new Prophets and Apostles openly declare their works are greater than Christ's and His First Century Apostles. This is an opinion that many NAR followers have published when they misapply Christ's words in John 14:12. It is a matter of little consequence to NAR advocates that altering God's Word is strictly forbidden. The Apostle wrote, " When that which is perfect [completed canon - the whole Bible] is come, that which is in part shall be done away (1 Cor.13:8-11). Divinely imparted Words of Knowledge are no longer needed along with messages from dreams, visions and tongues, etc. We have all God intends for us in a good, properly translated Bible (KJV, NKJV, NIV) are best but paraphrases (Living Bible, The Message, etc.) can be misleading.

Any who can speak their own reality and who will be able to defeat death no longer needs to be under God's will and in fact can as "Little Gods" (as taught by Ken Copeland, Benny Hinn and other Word/Faith teachers) to call God to do their bidding. We do not relish reporting this but this is what they themselves have published on TV and in Writings. Much of what Word/Faith and NAR advocates expound is at best extra-biblical (not in scripture) and at worst "Doctrines of Demons." NAR Dominionists teach that Christ can return only after the "church" takes over the world which is not scriptural. When the Word of God has been downgraded and ignored, doctrines of men and demons fill the void. Some NAR teachers have gone so far as to say that they, by virtue of their "Apostleship" don't need to be one hundred percent

accurate when giving a supposedly true prophecy from God (they are frequently wrong). When exposed, they simply claim to be under a new and different mandate which no longer requires perfect accuracy. God's Prophets and Christ's Apostles were always fully true to the Holy Spirit's messages because there was with them no doubt that the Word they received was from God.

Much of what now constitutes the history and teachings of the NAR is traced back to the supposed movement of the Holy Spirit in the 1940's in Saskatchewan Canada. This became known as "The Manifest Sons of God" and/or the "Latter Rain" and was spearheaded by a self-appointed "end time prophet," William Branham. Some present day "prophets" claim to be hearing from the same "angelic ministry." Branham had claimed he was visited by "angels" (one wonders whose army these angels belonged to). Before long level-headed Pentecostal leaders labeled Branham's teachings as heresy and his followers faded from view. Some younger Pentecostals have recently begun to revisit these old heresies so there is still nothing new under the sun.

C. Peter Wagner is seen by most to be the founder (unofficially) of the NAR because he coined the name of the NAR. Wagner was in the 1990's a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and was involved with promoting "signs and wonders" with John Winter of the Vineyard movement. Wagner's chief thrust was his "Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare." He believed in face-off encounters with Demons, territorial spirits, spiritual mapping, tearing down strongholds, identification repentance, prayer walking, prayer journeys, prayer expeditions and more. Many believers have become preoccupied with these and other ancient occult but modernized spiritual adventures for which there is no "chapter or verse."

Today unfortunately even in formerly conservative, evangelical groups, some are experimenting with some of these questionable (at least) mystical pursuits and occult meditative and trance-inducing practices. Ask anyone truly saved out of these if any are harmless and watch the look of horror they exhibit. They ARE dangerous-period. As with Hinduism and Yoga the thrust is to simply "open your mind to hear the voice of God" and the universal "Christ-Consciousness" that is "within" every human.

Occultic and unbiblical mystical practices did much damage in both the early church and during the Middle Ages and is once again bringing error into the Body of Christ (the true Church). We need to know that Ouija boards are definitely not toys and White Magic is as dangerous as all other colors of magic and witchcraft.

Let our meditations be only on God's written Word "hidden in our hearts" and let each don the armor of God (Ep. Chap. 6) to be able to withstand the Devil and his emissaries – and

Keep Looking Up!

Chief Source:

Publisher:

Found In:

Author:

Orrel Steincamp

The Plumline

The New Apostolic Reformation (pp. 179-187

Sandy Simpson

More Like the Master

By Nancy Long

Psalm 51:10 -- *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”*

Matt. 10:25a -- *“It is enough for the disciple that he be like his master, and the servant as his Lord.”*

Matt. 16:24 – *“Then said Jesus unto His disciples, ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”*

Luke 6:40 – *“The disciple is not above his Master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his Master.”*

Rom. 8:29a – *“For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son”*

Rom. 12:2 – *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”*

Phil. 2:5 – *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Pet. 1:15-16 – *“But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy ; for I am holy.”*

More Like the Master

“More like the Master I would ever be,
More of His meekness, more humility;
More zeal to labor, more courage to be true,
More consecration for works He bids me do.

Chorus: Take Thou my heart, I would be Thine alone;
Take Thou my heart, and make it all Thine own;
Purge me from sin, O Lord I now implore,
Wash me and keep me Thine forevermore.

More like the Master is my daily prayer;
More strength to carry crosses I must bear;
More earnest effort to bring His kingdom in;
More of His Spirit, the wanderer to win.

More like the Master I would live and grow;
More of His love to others I would show;
More self-denial, like His in Galilee,
More like the Master I long to ever be.”

Lyrics and Music – Charles H. Gabriel – 1906

The desire to be more like Christ more like the Master, begins with the new birth, being spiritually reborn, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,* and *“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again”,* spoken by Jesus in John 3:3 and 7. We were once dead, spiritually dead!! Without being quickened, without being made alive by the workings of the Holy Spirit, none of us would be seeking after God (Rom. 3:11). Not one of us would be thinking about anything other than pleasing the flesh.

From the mind and pen of Charles Hutchinson Gabriel flowed many well known hymns, writing and/or composing between 7000 and 8000 songs, often using pseudonyms, such as Charlotte G. Homer, H.A. Henry and S.B. Jackson. Just to name a few of his beloved hymns: “He Lifted Me”, “The Way of the Cross Leads Home”, “Send The Light”, “I Stand Amazed in the Presence”, “Let the Sunshine In”, “O That Will Be Glory”, “Higher Ground”, “He is So Precious to Me”, “His Eye is on the Sparrow”, and of course, “More Like the Master”, that serves to be a reminder of the extreme importance of following in the footsteps of Jesus.

God’s Word teaches, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 2:5). In other words, be more like the Master!! How though, can we do this?? I firmly believe we cannot attain this on our own, anymore than we are able to rejoice evermore, or keep ourselves in an attitude of prayer, or give thanks in everything, apart from God’s grace (1 Thess. 5:16-18). Nothing, but the new birth, could cause one to even have the desire or the heart’s longing to do so. Only by the renewing of our minds only in changing hearts and then only by consistently focusing on things above, not on things on the earth (Col. 3:2), are we able to be more whole, more perfect, more complete, more moldable, more selfless, more humble more like the Master!!

The mature believer, one who's been shaped over time by the Potter's hands, and yes, even the new born child of God, ought to be striving to be more like Christ, desiring to be conformed to His image in thought, word, and deed, walking with Him in the days He gives.

What this world desperately needs is to get back to God! What this world needs is to see less of us, and more of Christ shining through us. *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psalm 119:105). Please, Lord, open our hearts to Him who has done *all* for us. We have the example of God's Son, and that by following Him, and resting in Him, we might be more like the Master!!

Martin Luther's Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation

1. *Sola Scriptura*
Scripture alone.
2. *Sola Gratia*
By grace alone.
3. *Sola Fide*
By faith alone.
4. *Solus Christus*
Through Christ alone.
5. *Soli Deo Gloria*
To the glory of God alone.

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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DEFENDER CONTRIBUTORS

Rev. David R. Lewis, MDiv., Director, IDOT
Robert Luthardt, Sr., Elder, CHBPC
Nancy Long, Member, CHBPC

WRITE TO US!

Rev. David Lewis &
In Defense of Truth
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

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