

The DEFENDER - November 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: Still Thankful

I am truly thankful every day of the year, but there's something about the month of November that leads many of us to actually write about it. It's probably driven by our officially sanctioned national recognition of Turkey Day, aka Thanksgiving.

In no matter what place I find myself, geographically, physically or emotionally, I'm thankful that I am never alone. I am thankful that I serve a God who said that He would never leave me nor forsake me (**Hebrews 13:5**). I'm thankful that He doesn't change (**Malachi 3:6**), and that I can count on Him being the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**). I'm thankful that I can go to sleep at night and not have to worry about Him changing the laws of gravity or moving the distance between the earth and the sun.

I'm still thankful to live in these United States of America and still hopeful that the Lord will continue to bless this land, founded in large measure that man might pursue the freedom to worship the One who created it all in the first place. I'm thankful for the Protestant Reformation, that after the Dark Ages, the Light of the Gospel could shine once again. I'm thankful for all the Reformers, but especially John Calvin, who opposed the hereditary monarchy and the aristocratic bondage that went along with it. It can be argued that Calvin is as much the "Father of our Country" as is George Washington, of whom I'm also thankful had the courage and conviction to be the leader of this nascent land when it was in such dire need of one. But it was Calvin who paved the way by pointing out that the Scriptures spoke 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 they had been held in by the Church of Rome's religious hierarchy.

I'm thankful for the inerrancy and infallibility of scripture, given by the inspiration of God Himself, profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness (**2 Timothy 3:16**). I'm thankful that because I know the truth, I've been made free (**John 8:32**).

I'm thankful for my family, especially my wife, my helpmate. But most of all, I'm thankful that Jesus Christ died on the cross and paid the penalty for **my** sins (**Romans 5:8**). I'm thankful that He has prepared a place for me in heaven above (**John 14:2-3**).

If you, like me, have much to be thankful for, won't you take a moment right now to let our Lord know how you feel?

Rev. David Lewis

THE NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION AND END-TIME FALSE REVIVALS – PART 3

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

The New Order of the Latter Rain (NOLR) doctrines were deemed heretical by the leadership of the Pentecostal denomination, The Assemblies of God (AOG), in 1949. Since then examples of false revivals have flared up such as the "Toronto Blessing" and the "Brownsville Revival" replete with "Holy Laughter" and "signs and wonders" allegedly from God. Other "gatherings" are reported as revivals from God. A group was formed and named the "International Coalition of Apostles" and was once headed by Fuller Seminary Professor, C. Peter Foster, who coined their new name, "The New Apostolic Reformation."

The foremost heretical teaching of the NOLR that exists yet today is a supposed return of the offices of Apostles and Prophets instituted simply by the laying on of hands (of other "apostles") and the confession of sins to men and even forgiveness and deliverance from sins by men. Next comes transference of "gifts" also by the laying on of hands. Once done, each can declare their individual "God-given" "Words of Knowledge," too often being distortions of scriptural interpretations long accepted in Bible believing circles.

Some of the most basic unchangeable doctrines of Christianity include: the Trinity; the true humanity and true divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ; the physical second coming of Christ; salvation by grace alone through the unmerited gift of faith alone. Also basic is that God's Word, written by men under the divine inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, is free from all error and rightly called inerrant and infallible (in the original manuscripts) and is the only rule of faith and practice for God's called Children (Ep. 1:4-13). When leaders and organizations deviate from these and other basic Biblical doctrines, believers are COMMANDED to separate from them: ... "not to keep company ... with such ..." (1 Cor. 5:11) ... "testing the spirits" (1 John 4:1) and avoiding those who cause divisions (Rom. 16:17) and reproving them (2 Tim. 3:16) and failing that, rebuking and rejecting them (Titus 1:13, 3:10). Then we are to turn away and withdraw from them (2 Tim. 3:5-7) for we are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14-18).

NAR advocates assert that there is a fundamental discontinuity between the Church today and the early New Testament Church of this era. God, they say, will end the Church as He began it. What started on the Day of Pentecost they call the "early rain" and the modern "restoration" (so-called) is the "New Order of the Latter Rain." However, once these inventive new teachings were rejected by the AOG denomination in 1914, the LR lay dormant until 1948 when it re-emerged in Canada. Now gifts from God were claimed such as reestablishment of Prophets and Apostles. Early NAR exponents devised their restoration scheme that must lead the Church to a new and final dimension of power that will establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. The Church, they teach, must rise up and take dominion to rule the world.

These restored prophets and apostles are supposed to lead a new body of "Conquerors" to establish the Kingdom of God in a gigantic end-time revival. This will be an elite company of overcomers specially endued with spiritual power, and these will not want to be "helicoptered out" in a rapture rescue (1Thes. 4:13-18). By their own spiritual power they will defeat Satan's' "principalities and powers."

This new end-time army will be invincible and will "PURGE THE CHURCH" of those who will not follow them in establishing the new unified global religion. This second Pentecost that produces spiritual warriors has been called by some NAR adherents "Joel's Army." Jesus, they teach, only began the work but the greater power in today's Church will complete the task including even conquering death. Scripture allots this power to Jesus Christ alone (Matt. 28:18) and He alone will execute it when He returns as King of kings.

A fair question is, "Where are the dead being raised right now -- in America"? – not just in some unverifiable place in Africa as claimed by some. Where is anyone being truly healed of terminal diseases that can be verified? Many visiting Word/Faith rallies were told they were healed and they died anyway. Since they claim "Apostolic" governance has been established (since the 1990's) why are cities like Chicago and Baltimore and others burying crime victims by the hundreds each year? Where are the sweeping changes that will allow Jesus to return?

The Biblical fact is that there are no new foundational apostles being called by Christ as He did the twelve 2000 years ago. God has already revealed all His mysteries through His truly called Prophets and Apostles in the closed, never to be added to, canon of scripture. God has not raised up end-time, Gnostic - minded, false Prophets and Apostles to reveal "secret knowledge."

We should desire to serve God with the gifts and talents we recognize in ourselves as gifts of the Holy Spirit but we are in no position to demand any such gifts, powers or offices in the Church. The Holy Spirit sovereignly imparts those gifts He will to whom he decides and NO human can do so no matter their exalted position or title. God works His own purposes without the consultation or the will of man. (John 1:13; Ep. 1: 8-9).

As far as the end-times they will not be marked by true revival but rather by wide-spread apostasy, deception, false prophecy and "falling away" (2 Thes. 2 :3; Matt.24: 6, 24:12) along with wars and rumors of wars, death and destruction, much as we see right now. The Holy Spirit warned through Paul, "Let no man deceive you (in a wide-scale apostasy) ... that day shall not come except there come a "falling away...", so false teaching and false doctrines will prevail in the last days (Matt. 24: 4-8). We are warned against end-time deceivers (2 Tim. 3:13) who will and are now preaching UNITY with all religions in defiance of God's Command to separate from them.

Jesus warned that His true Church would be greatly diminished when He returned (Luke 18:8). Likewise, the Apostle John warned that a global anti-Christ governance will be in place on earth during the tribulation (Revelation 17). We hear calls for unity from many quarters to bring together all religions. The problem is that Jesus said, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE: AND NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER BUT BY ME ..." (John 14: 6). There can be no God pleasing association with any who deny the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity which no other religion acknowledges.

The NAR movement has been likened to a Nicolaitan alliance of Gnostic-minded false apostles who teach that they are first to rule the Church, and then the World. The Biblical teachings of Christ's true and only called Apostles was and still is what the Church is actually built upon (EP. 2:18-20). God laid and completed the foundation with the "cornerstone being Christ alone" (1 Cor. 3 :10-11). Those who tear at God's foundation are to be strictly avoided

(Ps. 11:3). Apostles were those who actually saw the Lord Jesus Christ and were called BY Him (1 Cor. 9:1-3, 15:8) and were marked by truly God-given authentic "signs and wonders" (2 Cor. 12:11-12).

Christ's true Apostles were poor and were persecuted and killed (1 Cor. 4:9). Modern self-appointed "apostles" are mostly rich. Christ's true Apostles were used by Him to bring God's Word (2 Pet. 3:2) for our remembrance, especially of the words of Christ (Jude 3:17) and those given to the Apostles to be recorded in scripture for the Church. We are to hold fast to these words and refute those who oppose them (Titus 2:9) and who prove thereby their wickedness (2 Cor. 11:12-15).

God and God alone builds His Church with "Living Stones" into a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:4-5). Christ alone is the Head of the Church (Col.1:8). We who are by God's anointing alone foreknown, predestinated, called, justified, and glorified are never abandoned or separated from the love of Christ and conformity to his image as the first-born among many brethren (Rom. 8:28-30; 35a).

Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:18-19) wanted the gift that He thought was transferable by men to other men to be used for selfish purposes. The "laying on of hands" was a confirmation of the work already done by the Holy Spirit, who alone works in His chosen vessels. True believers wait upon the Lord (Ps.27:14, 38:15; 1 Cor. 11:7). The "laying on of hands" ceremony is used when sending Christians out for service (1 Tim. 4:14) or when praying for healing (James 5:14). It is God who chooses those to be filled or to be healed. He does this in His sovereignty alone and not in any way by the will of man. The laying on of hands is the New Testament replacement of the pouring of oil for anointing in the Old Testament.

God gives the effectual anointing (2: Cor. 1:21-22) to those first enabled to believe (Ep. 1:13). No one can transfer the Holy Spirit to another person because the anointing is of the Holy Spirit Himself (Luke 4:18; Titus 3:5).

Many television "evangelists" have published the man-centered concept they call "transferable impartation" and many have been subject to being "slain in the spirit," a false anointing as seen in the "Toronto Blessing" and the "Brownsville Outpouring." Christians need a greater familiarity with God's written Word by reading and studying the Holy Scriptures and searching for a true Bible-believing church with whom to fellowship and grow in the "grace and knowledge of the Lord." It is the only place of safety in these times of spiritual declension (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:18).

KEEP LOOKING UP!

<u>Chief Source:</u>	Orrel Steincamp
<u>Publisher:</u>	The Plumbline
<u>Found In:</u>	The New Apostolic Reformation (pp. 179-187)
<u>Author:</u>	Sandy Simpson

Thankful Living

By Nancy Long

Psalm 150:6 -- *“Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”*

Prov. 4:23 – *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”*

Ephesians 1:3 – *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places with Christ.”*

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

Almost 400 years ago, those who settled in this new land came together for the very first Thanksgiving celebration. These men and women, for the most part, knew who God was, and realized it was He whom they needed to thank for His provisions for His bounties and for His protection.

Those who originally settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts, were not initially known as **“Pilgrims”**, but as **“Old Comers”**. The name change came to be **“Pilgrim”** after a manuscript was found in which Governor William Bradford referred to those who left Holland as **“pilgrimes”**. In 1820, at a bicentennial celebration of the colony’s founding, a skilled public speaker, named Daniel Webster, spoke of them as **“Pilgrim Fathers”** that name now is common.

Before the 1940’s, Thanksgiving was not on a fixed date, but whenever the president proclaimed it to be. George Washington, our first president, formally recognized Thanksgiving Day, as a national event, in 1789. Seventy-four years later, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared it a national holiday. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, appeared on the scene in 1939, and moved it from Lincoln’s designated last Thursday in November, to the fourth one, since some months have five Thursdays. Polls showed, though, that many were opposed to the date change, claiming it was only moved to accommodate a longer Christmas shopping season.

Dates can be moved around a bit, I suppose, but the primary reason this day of gratitude came to be at all, was that our forefathers were thankful. Their spirits were extremely grateful knowing, and recognizing, from whom all blessings flowed!! They knew, and believed, God was the Source of their gifts. Their manna indeed came from heaven!!

In reflecting on the solemn beginnings of our beautiful country, I can’t help but wonder what our forefathers might be thinking if they were alive today men and women who risked their own, as well as their families lives for religious freedom. I even wonder sometimes just

what my own grandfather might think about the times in which we live. What does the holiday of Thanksgiving actually mean to folks? What does the Thanksgiving holiday, in fact, mean to you??

Many, in these so called modern times, don't give God a second thought, even Christians, sad to say and if He *is* on their minds, He's somewhere sandwiched in the mix with feasting, and football and being first in line for mall bargains. Why? Why, in only a few generations, has this holiday become so object oriented, and unspiritual, placing more importance on the creature rather than the Creator?

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). Only God knows the heart! Only God can change the heart from one of stone to one of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19). Only God can *"work in us both to will, and to do, of His good pleasure"* (Phil. 2:13). **Only God!!!**

You see, the heart is the problem here. We Christians are exhorted to carefully guard our hearts. It's of utmost importance, because out of it proceeds all the issues of life. When hearts aren't full of gratitude, it shows in attitude and words, as well as in deeds. Even Christians are often better at murmuring, complaining, and wringing hands in despair, than daily rejoicing and showing appreciation to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who gave up everything, so that we could have a more than abundant life while still here on this earth and ultimately an eternity in heaven!! There's nothing better!!

Yes, for sure, there's nothing better! Who wouldn't want it, but just how does one get it?? What does it take to have a heart that's, not only filled up to the brim, but overflowing, with joy and gratefulness? Appreciation, joy, and thankfulness springs out of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. One must know Him as Savior, and Lord, and Father. When that realization comes, that we've truly been adopted into the family of God, and nothing can ever sever that union, an overwhelming sense of warmth floods the soul!!

Growth then begins!! *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus our Lord, so walk ye in Him". "Seek those things which are above set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth"* (Col. 2:6 and 3:1-2). We, children of God, are blessed to be able to have His Spirit within to guide, strengthen, and encourage us to walk in the way He would have us to walk. Throughout this sanctification process, we are being changed internally from what we once were self centered, all about me, and unthankful, to a heart that overflows with gratitude. Resist not God will do as He has promised!!

I sometimes think as I write about joy, rejoicing, grateful spirits, etc., I may come across as having an irrepressible optimism, a "Pollyannaish" attitude, if you will. However, Scripture assures us that we **can** have a peace that passes all human understanding (Phil. 4:7) His perfect peace **can** be ours (Is. 26:3) We **can** be consistently grateful **IF** we become grounded in the truths of God's Word and focus on Him, **not** the situation at hand. The fruits of the Spirit, *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, can* be ours (Gal. 5:22-23). God promises!!

I pose a question for you, my Defender friends, and for me as well, to ponder: Are we, each one, thankful not just on the special holiday we're about to celebrate this month, but every day in everything? If this is the will of God concerning His children, and it is (1 Thess. 5:18), then I trust the Lord will work it out in us!

I pray that you and your families share in a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving, that your day spills over with gratitude as you think on these things.

Happy Thanksgiving



We can be thankful that there was no political correctness in 1620.

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
Thanksgiving Day Service November 23rd	10:00 AM