

The DEFENDER - December 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: What if...?

Most of us are familiar with the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life,” shown every year at this time. You know the story. George Bailey had gotten to the point in his life where he didn’t think it would have made a difference whether or not he had ever been born. So Hollywood sent George an “angel” named Clarence to show him what life would have been like in Bedford Falls had he in fact never entered this world. And, as we’re reminded every year, George Bailey, and by implication us as well, do in fact make a difference in the lives of others whose paths we invariably cross.

We’ve all been instrumental, in one way or another, in impacting the lives of others. Those of us who are walking with the Lord can often recognize the Hand of Providence at these times. But God uses all peoples to bring about His sovereign will, whether they give Him the credit or not. He used Pharaoh, as well as Moses, to free His people from Egyptian captivity. He used Adolph Hitler, as well as Arthur Balfour, David Ben-Gurion, and Harry Truman, to bring His people back to their homeland in 1948. God’s great plan of redemption will come to fruition, and He has ordained that you and I will have a part in that.

Have you ever witnessed your faith to anyone? God may have used you to plant or water a seed in someone whom He is drawing to Himself. Do you remember whom He used to draw you to Christ? Do you have children or grandchildren who are believers? Their name may be written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, but they wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for you. Your life is important in ways you may never know this side of heaven.

But the One who has impacted the world the most is the One who created it. Changed people change society. More than one pro-choice liberal has decried the horrific act of abortion upon professing Christ as Savior. More Christians, especially in positions of authority, can make a difference in our culture. Christianity is the basis of our jurisprudence, economics, and property ownership. It’s the force behind fairness for the poor, orphans and widows, and the disenfranchised of every age. William Wilberforce’s Christian beliefs motivated him to work for child labor laws and the liberation of slaves.

But the most important “What if ?” of all concerns our salvation. What if Jesus had never been born? What if God never planned to provide a Redeemer? Then we would all die in our sins. And people who die in their sins go to hell. But people who die with their sins forgiven (by our Redeemer, Jesus) go to heaven. What if we all just bow down before God right now and thank Him for the gift of salvation, which we should really be celebrating every day of the year? Merry Christmas everyone!

Rev. David Lewis

THE NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION AND END-TIME FALSE REVIVALS – PART 4

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

In this four-part series we have strived to shine God's scriptural light into one area of spiritual deception and darkness in these "Latter Days." The Lord and His truly called Apostles have duly warned of these present-day dangers and death that are impacting believers across the globe. In Matthew Chapter 24 (verse 24) Christ warned that deception and even apostasy would appear with "great signs and wonders" and would accompany the appearance of the world's greatest spiritual imposter – a counterfeit "Cosmic Christ" that millions will follow. Fortunately, those who are watching for the return of God's only truly begotten Son will not be deceived.

An alarming characteristic of The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) is their propensity to force scripture to fit faulty presuppositions. Teaching for instance, that the Church once again has "Foundational Apostles", and also that we can simply ignore the fact that the Holy Spirit only provided men (few in number and usually older men who were accomplished in scriptural knowledge) for leadership under Christ's Headship (1 Tim. 2:12; 3:2; Col. 1:18; Ep. 1:22; 5:23). There is also the unsupported teaching of a coming great last-days revival and though all Christians are cautioned to "try the spirits...many false prophets are gone out..." (1 John 4:1). The NAR leaders declare no one is to test their proclamations. Also, they teach that there are "territorial demons" which the NAR have special power to bind. Some declare that even cities and nations have souls and other misuse of scripture, none of which provides even the thinnest veneer of legitimacy.

Hermeneutics is that branch of teaching that utilizes proper principals, laws and methods of interpretation to decipher meanings and truth in documents and manuscripts. Normally the interpretation process begins with the literal import of the words by taking words and sentences at face value as far as possible. The rule is that people usually mean what they say and this is known as the Grammatical/Historical approach. We at least ought to first begin by taking writers to mean exactly what they have written.

Radical and apostate theologians throughout the post-Pentecostal era (2000 years) have tried to impose onto God's Word, man's ideas and concepts. All the New Testament books were written under the inspiration and watch-care of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21) and mostly by Christ's only truly called Apostles. What's more, most of the epistles were written to counter one false teaching or another already polluting the Church. Succeeding centuries have shown many who tried to over-write God's Word with preconceived notions and other outright false teachings.

In the 1980's there was the beginnings of a new "prophetic movement." In 1982, Mike Bickle began the "Kansas City Prophets" and in 1987, Bill Hamon hosted the first "Prophets Conference" (700 attended). The "Elijah List" is an E-Mail Newsletter that publishes the words of today's "New Prophets" as also does the "Identity Network," a similar e-mail list.

Emerging out of the Prophetic Movement came the "Apostolic Movement" in the 1990's and the founding of the "International Coalition of Apostles" (ICA). The ICA is the most visible arm of the NAR. Consider this shocking ICA definition of Apostleship, "...the Office of

an Apostle is not given by grace alone, but...of works...". Contrast that with a truly called Apostle, Paul, who wrote, "I am the least of all Apostles, Unworthy...because I persecuted the Church. But by the grace of God I am what I am." (1 Cor. 15:9-10). Of course, Paul's persecution of Christians ended abruptly and BEFORE his calling to apostleship. An almost exact reverse, of what today's "Apostles" have said and written. They intend to PURGE THE CHURCH of any and all who stand in the way of their man-centered thrust for UNITY AND POWER.

It is noteworthy that Rick Warren, "America's Pastor" expressed a similar view when he said that "Purpose Driven Churches" will have to get rid of the "old ones" in the way of "progress" (note that old ones include persons of any age who hold to settled truth). Some in the NAR have even prophesied a coming "Civil War" within the "Body of Christ" (see Keith Gibson's book "Wandering Stars" page 11).

Some of the characteristics of false teachers include: using God's Word for personal gain (2 Cor. 2:17), taking scripture out of context (Acts 20:30), using "swelling words" that appeal to flesh and pride (2 Pet. 2:18), showing only a form of godliness (2 Tim. 3:5), rejecting truth for fables (2 Tim. 4:4), embracing unbiblical concepts (Col. 2:8), exhibiting arrogance and pride (2 Tim. 3:2-5), embracing unbiblical mysticism (Col. 2:18), using cunning persuasiveness (Col. 2:4,8), being foolishly and dangerously flippant in their attitude toward Satan and Demons (2 Pet. 2:9-12; Jude 8), attempts to bind Satan (Jude 9, 10), being bound yet preach liberty (2 Pet. 2:19) while ultimately rejecting the true Gospel (2 Pet. 2:20-21).

False teachers will rise up within the Church (2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4; Acts 20:30) causing personal and doctrinal division (Rom. 16:17; Jude 19; 1 Cor. 11:18) preaching a different Jesus (2 Cor. 11:3-4; 1 Cor. 10:20) working false signs and wonders through demonic powers (Matt. 24:24; Ex. 7:10-11) and are God's judgment on a nation (1 Kings 22:21-23; Thess. 2:11) except we turn from them (Deut. 13:3) when any deny Christ's deity (1 John 4:2-4). The only antidote is normal time-honored interpretation of God's Word that lets the scripture speak for itself (truth) and not allowing man's presuppositions to be forced into the Bible.

The ecumenical appeal of the NAR means abandoning Bible truth as the **ONLY RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE**. Once done, the NAR can freely cooperate with any and all non-evangelical groups such as the Emergent Church, Old-line dead denominations and old Orthodox denominations, etc. This is particularly problematic since the current Pope has been wooing Muslims and those of other non-Christian religions and making the claim that all worship the same God. This is impossible since only Christians worship the Triune God which all others reject. Astoundingly, some are even calling themselves "Messianic Muslims" who "accept Christ" but deny His deity and Lordship. This is not "Gospel Evangelism" but "Unholy Syncretism" (blending diverse and hopelessly incompatible religious views) including an "everyone gets saved Universalism". How far away can the "One-World" global church of all religions (except true evangelical Christianity which will not be tolerated) be in time? The woman who rides the beast in Revelation 17 is the representation of the coming anti-Christ religious amalgamation. The beast she rides is the coming final stages of the "New World Order" political monster that will bring persecution and death to God's people still on earth at that period of future history.

Instead of spreading the 2000-year-old Gospel to the lost, many have been side-tracked into wasting time in so-called "spiritual warfare," a kind of demon hunting by blowing shofars on

mountain tops, binding territorial demons, imparting the Holy Spirit to each other, prayer walking, spiritual mapping, occultist contemplation (that listens for voices) seeking dreams and visions; all to be added to the Word of God with equal authority.

Many in the NAR are overseas pulling into their net indigenous people groups and are thereby supposedly “redeeming cultures” tainted by older missionaries who introduced Western Culture. The NAR seeks to exercise control in third world churches by “redeeming” their whole culture. One problem is there is NO mention of our assignment to redeem cultures in the Bible. Cultures are the traditions of men mostly in opposition to the commandments of God (Mark 7:8-9). Also, it is absurd to blame missionaries when television and movies and modern travel have brought wholesale introduction of only a demented view of Western culture. Plus, there is the ever-present elephant in the room of the NAR slant toward taking “Dominion” so Christ can finally return to earth. So how is Christianizing the world going so far? Actually, all is on schedule for the continued growth of the great “Falling Away” that scripture indicates is next for this world (2 Thess. 2:3). The real Gospel will be heard in all the world and this could even be now through present electronic advances, but the fact remains that few will find the “Narrow Way” (Matt. 7:13-14).

In reality, no secular culture brings glory to God including American or even in Israeli culture just now. Still, we do not evangelize cultures but rather individuals and once one is a true follower of Christ then one tries to influence as many in that culture as possible for Christ, and His glory. The Gospel cannot be mixed with cultures per se, since they are tainted with worldliness. Christians stand firm in the only God-given faith “once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3) no matter how many reject the faith of Christ and His true and only called Apostles. So we, “having done all” are to stand (Ep. 6:13-17). Paul instructed believers to, “...take unto you the whole armor of God...that ye may be able to...stand, even with the sword of the Spirit...the Word of God.” This is a defensive posture not a war-like one.

A new paradigm developed out of the NAR (early 1990's) evolutionary thinking that birthed the concept of holding off, taking the Gospel into any locality without first confronting and overcoming “territorial demons.” This activity was called “Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare.” The NAR teaches that Christians are called to resist the Devil and to wear the armor of God that is provided every true Christian, but the scripture knows nothing of our searching out and doing battle with Satan and his emissaries.

The Warfare concept IS found in both Testaments but nowhere is it suggested that believers must attack and bind local spiritual entities. Jude 8-10 and 2 Pet. 2:10-12, both instruct believers not to bring a “railing accusation” against the Devil. Jesus HAS conquered him (Col. 2:15) and will deliver him to the lake of fire one day (Rev. 20:10).

We should remember that the “Pulling down of strong holds” (2 Cor. 10:4-5) are “false teachings” that have been set up in the visible Church and are “imaginings” that oppose the true “knowledge of God”. Some in the NAR cite Daniel, Chapter 10, verses 13 and 20 to argue for combat with demons but they fail to notice the warfare in the spiritual realm, and neither Daniel nor any other human was in combat except in fervent prayer which is a believer's duty at all times.

We as foreordained, predestined, called, justified, glorified and adopted children of God are to work to see the Gospel of salvation by grace alone is made known to as many of the lost as we possibly can reach through whatever means and methods God provides to us. Praying always that He keeps us and our local Churches safe while we each hold our position as “Watchmen on the wall.” Keep looking up.

The Birthday of the King Jesus

By Nancy Long

Isaiah 9:6 – *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

Jeremiah 23:5 – *“I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper”*

Luke 2:10-11 – *“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”*

The Birthday of a King

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day;
And the sky was bright with a holy light O'er the place where Jesus lay.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but O, how much God gave to us that day,
From the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect holy way.

Refrain -- Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.

(Words and music – William Harold Neidlinger)

Everyone, it seems, celebrates birthdays, in one way, shape or form. There are various modes, of course. There are different traditions, but more than likely there's a bit of a “fuss” made over the one who's been given the gift of another day a special day at that!

Perhaps the best known birthday in all of history is that of Jesus Christ. A tiny little baby, born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger not befitting any King, surely not appropriate for the Creator of the universe! For approximately 2000 years since this humble happening in Bethlehem, Christians have been recognizing, observing, and honoring that day, calling it Christmas.

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The Gift of Christmas

Many a child is recognized at birth to be a gift of God and many are given names which all their lives testify that their parents realized that God had bestowed upon them a great and priceless gift. Nevertheless One Child was, and is, God's Supreme Gift, a Gift not only to us as individuals but also to the whole world.

Thus when we think of Christ's Birth one of the very important things to be considered is the whole world. "God loved a world of sinners lost and ruined by the fall." That world is still lost and ruined and uncounted millions know not even that the Savior was ever born, to say nothing of knowing Him as Redeemer.

We rejoice and praise God as we think of the Lord's Birth. We realize too that the most perfect praise is a life of full obedience to our Lord, but do we understand that full obedience embraces love, loyalty and entire consecration to our Lord's purposes and for the whole world?

In our day Christ's full purpose for the world may be said to be summed up in the command "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Make the commitment to spread the joy of the gift of salvation to those you love this Christmas.

— Rev. Keith Coleman

If You Had Been There

If you had been there beside the manger;
If you had seen Him, the tiny Stranger;
His hands that made you,
His eyes that loved you,
You would have adored Him at His birth.

He was Emmanuel, the King of Israel,
Almighty Father; the great I AM.

If you had been there to hear the Angels,
To see the brightness that filled the earth,
If you had been there,
You would have adored Him,
And bowed down before Him at His birth.

— Nicky Chavers

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
Christmas Eve Services	11:00 AM & 7:00 PM