

## The DEFENDER - June 2018



“... 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: Watch What You Say

'Think before you speak'. 'Words are hurtful'. 'You can't take back what you've already said'. 'Better to remain quiet and thought to be a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt'. These are all reminders of the damage that words can do. Jesus' brother also gave us a warning in **James 3:5**: the tongue is a small thing, but it can do enormous damage. What you say and what you **don't** say are important. Proper speech is not only saying the right words at the right time, but controlling your desire to say what you shouldn't. Examples of wrong speech include gossip, putting others down, bragging, manipulation, false teaching, exaggeration, complaining, and lying. Prior to speaking be sure that what you're about to say is necessary and true; kind and not hurtful. Sometimes it's best to just remain quiet.

What we say probably affects more people than any other action we take. So it was with great interest that I read the list of speakers delivering commencement addresses this year at America's major colleges and universities. A diverse group, to say the least. I wonder what the messages were that came from such an eclectic crowd. And I wonder how they were received. From the political realm, Georgia congressman John Lewis spoke at Harvard. The ubiquitous Hillary Clinton was the commencement speaker at Yale. Former vice-president Al Gore gave the seniors their send-off at the University of Maryland. From the world of Hollywood, 'This Is Us' star Sterling K. Brown spoke at Stanford while Queen Latifah was the graduation speaker at Rutgers. Are you sensing a theme, here? Of the 100 top universities in America (according to U.S. News and World Report), 97 of them had liberals giving the commencement address. One conservative that I'm aware of was U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, who spoke at Clemson. The one that really caused me to pause, however, was former president Jimmy Carter, who addressed the graduates at Liberty University. Yes, that Liberty. I'm not sure why the progressive Mr. Carter, who has waffled on the abortion issue and thinks that Jesus would support gay marriage, was asked to encourage young Christians to 'fight the good fight' and 'stand in the gap' while awaiting Christ's return to this sin-sick world.

The bottom line is this. At a time when our nation's future leaders are heading into the workplace and raising families, they need to be guided by the principles which made America great. They need to know that right is always right and wrong is always wrong. That truth is not subjective and character and integrity mean doing what's right even when no one is watching. God's people know that 'righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people'. The question that we need to ask is how many righteous are left in the land today, and is it enough to continue to receive God's blessings and stay His hand of justice?

*Rev. David Lewis*

## **The Rise of the Man of Sin Part II – Colliding Worldviews**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

In the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Sarah Andrews raised her six sons to love God's Word and Christ's victory over sin and death. Five of her sons became faithful evangelical ministers. Samuel, her most well-known, authored "Christianity and Antichristianity, In Their Final Conflict" (1898) and it has been reprinted by the Berean Call ministries.

The Apostle Paul wrote "...that day shall not come except there come a Falling Away First and THE MAN OF SIN be revealed..." (2 Thes. 2:3-4). Jesus taught that good and evil will both grow until the final harvest (Matt. 13:37-43). Contrarywise, Dominionists teach that the Church will win the world for Christ and sin will all but be eradicated. But the Apostle also wrote, "...in the Latter Times some shall depart ... to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..." (1 Tim. 4:1).

Samuel Andrews sensed the sun setting on the old Christian political order from a steadily advancing New Age Counterfeit religion. Andrews preached that the moral downgrade he saw in the social, political, economic and theological realms fit exactly the warnings of Jesus and Paul of the end-time apostasy.

The Andrews witnessed in their times (19<sup>th</sup> Century) the destabilizing INTERNAL attack on the credibility and reliability of God's Word when the legitimate science of Higher Criticism was turned to Destructive Criticism of the authenticity of our ancient manuscripts. Samuel recognized this and other perverse trends (some occultist) that were undermining the ancient faith "once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3) giving way to "another gospel" (2 Cor. 11:3-4) a new pseudo-Christianity. We hear of this religion by its code names: "New Spirituality / New Reformation / Positive Thinking / Possibility Thinking / Christ Consciousness / Age of Aquarius" – all New Age subversions.

Charles Hadley Spurgeon (renowned English preacher) was a contemporary of the Andrews who called the quest for unity at any cost "an attempt at the impossible" when he separated from the confederation of compromise that the London Baptist Association had become (1888). If a double-minded man is unstable (James 1:8), what can a room full of evangelicals and unbelievers be? Spurgeon called those who abandoned the Word of God the "New Religionists."

Believers living in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century era of full-orbed doctrinal deviancy who still trust the Lord's infallible, inerrant, inspired Word (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21) will never surrender the teachings of the Trinity, Christ's return for His Bride, Christ's return to earth, fulfilled prophecy, et. al.

Western Christian civilization has always been a battleground pitting God's truth received from His called Prophets and true Apostles against Satan's deceptions through his false prophets and counterfeit apostles (we have many in our day). Our Lord faced down the Devil in the Wilderness with the same weaponry available to every child of God. Christ countered Satan quoting God's Word – the sword of the Spirit (Ep. 6:17; Matt. 4:4-11). Although those battles

and Satan's defeat were predicted by God in the Garden (Gen. 3:15), enmity and strife will continue, however, until Christ returns (Rev. 19:1-21).

Despite Hollyweird's distortions, the "Man of Sin" (Antichrist) does not achieve power by brute violence or cruel coercion upon resisters (Christians/Jews). Instead, he emerges as the proverbial "Angel of Light" (2 Cor. 11:13-15) and a great benefactor; a veritable "flower of humanity" – even the Messiah. To worship him will not be thought blasphemous for one finally ushering in the "Kingdom of God." All that is needed is the continuing infiltration of antichristian leaven into seminaries, universities and churches that will engender the ultimate test for all believers – choosing between two kings and two kingdoms (Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21). No one can serve two masters (Matt. 6:24).

The most trustworthy order of inquiry into mankind's future is to consult God's Old Testament Prophets, then to the New Testament and our Lord's prophecies, and then to the writings of Christ's only called Apostles. To recognize the prophetic nature of the Bible and God's plan was always beneficial but more an imperative in these last days just before Christ returns. As that hour ever draws nearer, the preparations for the coming Man of Sin are nearer and will be more in evidence. While no one knows for certain when this will begin to unfold, the closer it comes the more clarity will emerge (and the closer the Rapture!).

The term Antichrist is mysterious to most. To early Christians it had a very definite and fearful meaning. He is to be a very devious, damaging presence inside the visible church institutions. However, believers who faithfully study God's Word rely on Christ's and the Apostles promises (as "living stones" – chosen of God – Ep. 1:4-14; 1 Pet. 2:4) against who "...hell shall not prevail" (Matt. 16:18, 28:18; 1 Cor. 12:27). Although the "Man of Sin" will be empowered by Satan to war against God's saints, they both will be utterly vanquished. True believers can resist the Devil with the armor of God (Ep. 6:10-18; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:6-10).

History records Satan's insidious attacks by his deceived change-agents working INSIDE visible church institutions. These include the "gone in the way of Cain" and "Balaam for rewards" (Jude 11) and are now heralding their "New Spirituality" and "New Reformation" and counterfeit revivals; perhaps smoothing the way (unconsciously) for the "Man of Sin."

Since God is fully in control of the future none should fear His providential outworkings. "Behold the days come ... I will raise unto David ... a King ... this is His name ... The Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS ..." (Jer. 23:3-8). This is obviously yet future, the time of Christ's return. Daniel spoke of a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation ... but thy people shall be delivered" (Dan. 12:1). Jesus warned it will be a time of rampant deception (Matt. 24:4-5, 11) with false Christs and false prophets (vs. 24) and the greatest tribulation, "such as was not since the beginning of the world" (vs 21-22).

God had punished His idolatrous chosen nation Israel by scattering them throughout the world (Deut. 4:25-31; Lev. 26:33, 44-45) but he also determined to always preserve them. As Creator He promised "Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and ... stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar ... If these ordinances depart ... then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation" (Jer. 31:35-36, 33:21-21; Ez. 37:21-22, 26-28).

Even if every heavenly orb failed, Israel (and all believers in Christ) have HIM who is both the spirit and physical “light of the world” (John 8:12; Is. 9:2, 6-7; Rev. 1:10-15), literally so on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-3; Mark 9:1-4) and in the future for the whole world (Rev. 21:23-25, 22:5) and there will be no need for the sun or moon (Rev. 1:16).

Christ as Creator (John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2-3) will create a new heaven and a new earth (Is. 65:17, 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-2) wherein dwelleth righteousness. The Old Testament descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, were informed by God that there would be a day in the future when the nations will fight against the returning Son of God (Ps. 2:1-12; Joel 3:9-17; Zech.12:2-4, 8-9, 14:3-4), but He shall defeat His enemies (Rev. 19:11-21). They were comforted to hear that their coming Savior would be victorious and that He would preserve a remnant of Israel. Those granted the undeserved “GIFT” of faith (Ep. 2:8-10, 13) as just and devout Simeon (Luke 2:25-27) and Anna a prophetess (vs. 36-38) were watching for Him. Christ cautioned all to watch for His return (Matt. 25:13; Mark 13:32-37).

In Daniel’s first prophetic vision he saw Nebuchadnezzar’s image of a man representing four earthly kingdoms (Dan. 2). Later Daniel saw again four successive gentile kingdoms God allows to rule over Israel (Dan. 7) as four separate beasts. Daniel loathed the fourth beast as the most dreadful. It had ten horns (ten kings) and a little horn that deposed three of the ten and it had “eyes like a man” and a mouth speaking great [boastful] things (vs. 25). Christ and the Apostles spoke of the rulership of these kings and kingdoms as being under the “Prince of this world” (John 14:30; Ep. 2:2-3).

The banished Jews of the Old Testament era took comfort in Daniel’s vision of thrones being torn down (7:9) by the “Ancient of Days” and “one like the Son of Man” (vs. 13) their messiah, their king; “whose garment was white as snow,” His hair like “pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame” (7:10-14). Daniel’s terrifying beast was slain when “one like the Son of Man came with clouds ... ten thousand times ten thousand” (Jude 14). Daniel saw the beast slain “his body ... given to the burning flame” (Dan 7:1; Rev. 19:20).

The Scribes and Pharisees deceived themselves that they were true to the scriptures and kept the law until Jesus condemned them by demonstrating in His own person the true nature of faith and obedience. It is Christ’s Spirit of truth that makes the promises of God a reality to us and in us (John 14:16-17; 15:26). Those who remain unrepentant (like Israel’s leaders) and reject Christ, simply show that their real spiritual father is NOT God but the Devil (John 8:44; Ep. 1:2-3).

The war was decided by the empty tomb at Calvary two thousand years ago but there will still be battles fought until the Beast (the Antichrist – the “Man of Sin”) and the False Prophet and finally Satan himself will be consigned to the “Lake that burneth with fire” (Rev. 19:19-20, 20:10, 21:8). Keep looking up.

**Chief Source:**

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we attempt to justify it), I believe we willfully and deliberately sorrow the Spirit (Eph. 4:30). Why would anyone want to do this??

Christians are to be a light in a world that is full of darkness: ***Ye are the light of the world ..... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven***” (Matt. 5:14 and 16). What a high and a holy calling we’ve been given, to be representatives of our Creator God for all our appointed days here on this earth! We Christians are the only view of God that some will ever see! Should we not be more careful and prayerful about the image we project?!

The common thread that runs through all our actions must be the glorifying of God: ***“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God”*** (1 Cor.10:31). ***“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”*** (Col. 3:17). Regardless of what we choose to see, or hear, or do, if God is not glorified in it, then perhaps we ought to rethink our behavior, always being mindful of our testimony to the world.

***Col. 1:19 – “That we might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”***

Consciously desiring to please the Lord and not the flesh, leaning on Jesus and being sensitive to the urgings of the Spirit, will guard and protect our hearts and ultimately bring His “perfect peace” to our souls (Isaiah 26:3).

***“My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. The Lord is your keeper; The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul, The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore”***  
(portions from Psalm 121)



whistles” this world has to offer, to accomplish his goal!! Don’t be lulled to sleep by his cunning and devious ways! Of course, if we’ve truly been saved by the precious blood of Jesus, our salvation is not in jeopardy ..... but our walk with Christ can be tainted, our testimony and example to those we touch can be vitiated, the quality of our Christian walk will be impaired, thus joy will be lost, and God’s “perfect peace” will gradually wane and slip away.

The aforementioned song was written for children, but the message, I believe, is for everyone. Believers have been exhorted to **“love not the world, neither the things that are in the world”**, and also **“to seek for, and set affection on things above, not on things of the earth”** (1 John 2:15 and Col. 3:2). The word “affection” is mind. In other words, think on spiritual things! Intentionally focus on that which is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good --- the things of Christ (Phil. 4:8). Life is full of temptations, struggles, and trials; and to be able to successfully and effectively live the Christian life, we must allow Jesus to live His life in, and through, us, allowing the Holy Spirit full reign, molding and shaping us, as only He can do, into the person we’ve been pre-determined and purposed to be.

**“Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s** (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

The body, mind and spirit of a Christian belong entirely to God, thus concluding that our eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, mind, and heart have been consecrated and set apart for His use. Is it not then our responsibility to keep our temples clean and fit for the Master’s service? It’s been established that we are **not** our own, so we should no longer even desire to follow the “pleasures” of this world, but yearn to do everything according to His will and for His glory!

**“Keep thy mind with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life”** (Prov. 4:23)

This is a serious charge to the believer! Think of it – each one of us who names the name of Christ carries the Holy Spirit within. He travels with us everywhere, sees what we see, hears our audio choices, and also what comes from our lips. Do the words we speak edify or tear down? Do they draw people closer to Jesus, or push them away? Are they self centered or God centered?

Yes, God the Holy Spirit, inhabits every Christian! Perhaps we believers need to ponder on, and dwell more on that truth! It’s important that we think before we act in order to guard our hearts from worldly contamination! If one of God’s children is viewing or reading pornography on the internet, within the pages of a magazine, or in a novel, I believe the Holy Spirit is grieved. If we select movies, whose actors use offensive or crude language, or worse yet, speak God’s name derogatorily (no matter how

# Be Careful Little Eyes What You See – Guard Your Heart!!

By Nancy Long

Romans 12:1-2 – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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.”*

How many of you remember the Christian song, “Be Careful Little Eyes What You See”, sung over the years by children, and even adults, in Sunday Schools and Vacation Bible Schools as well?

Verse 1 – *“Oh, be careful little eyes what you see, Oh, be careful little eyes what you see; For the Father up above, Is looking down in love, So be careful little eyes what you see.*

Verse 2 -- *“..... Oh, be careful little ears what you hear, ..... “*

Verse 3 – *“..... Oh, be careful little mouth what you say, ..... “*

Verse 4 – *“..... Oh, be careful little hands what you do, ..... “*

Verse 5 – *“..... Oh, be careful little feet where you go ..... “*

Verse 6 – *“..... Oh, be careful little mind what you think ..... “*

Verse 7 – *“..... Oh, be careful little heart what you love, Oh, be careful little heart what you love; For the Father up above, Is looking down in love, So be careful little heart what you love.”*

Children’s song, yes .... catchy tune, yes .... easy to sing, and simple to learn, yes, but as adults, are we still able to benefit from it, or are we beyond the wisdom held within the repetitious words of this little children’s chorus?

**Careful**, as defined by Webster: *“cautious in thought, speech, or action, conscientious, prudent, sober, vigilant, wary, watchful, guarded, on the alert, trying attentively to avoid danger or risk”.*

Now, let’s look to Scripture for divinely inspired guidance: **“Be sober, vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Peter 5:8). We must be aware, and never forget, that Christians are in a spiritual war! The apostle Peter warns that our enemy is one who is more cruel, and more relentless, and merciless, than any human could ever be. He, the devil, targets the soul!! He knows our “Achilles heel”, better than we know our own weaknesses. He will work to bring our testimony down, and will use all the “bells and

*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 Night Youth Group	7:00 PM
Outdoor Movie Night (June 8th)	8:30 PM