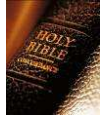


## The DEFENDER - February 2019



“... 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: Be Not Weary in Well Doing

Alexis De Tocqueville, French diplomat, said almost 200 years ago that America's greatness originated in her churches. And that was because their pulpits were aflame with righteousness. I wonder what he would say if he could see us now. Many pulpits in America today are nothing more than outposts for lukewarm cowards or wolves in sheep's clothing who have a form of godliness but deny the power of the God whom they claim to represent **2 Timothy 3:5**. They're nothing more than cheerleaders for liberalism and false prophets pushing agendas for the gods of this world. They've become motivational speakers rather than preachers of righteousness. And our nation is paying the price.

I was glad to hear recently of a pastor who rebuked all of the silent pulpits in America for refusing to call sin sin. He was reacting to the recent vote in the state of New York that now allows babies to be murdered right up to the moment of birth. Many in the government's chambers that day stood up and cheered—all the while many weak-kneed and gutless pastors remained silent to this abomination in their pulpits. Church pulpits are to be used to regulate the spiritual condition of God's people, which in turn should have a beneficial effect on the nation. Unfortunately, too many pastors today are afraid to stand on the Word of God. And because of it, the institution of marriage is mocked and millions of babies are still being murdered. False prophets in our churches may be appeasing those sitting in the pews, but they're angering the One sitting on Heaven's throne. And do we need a reminder of what Jesus had to say to the church in Laodicea about those who are lukewarm? "...because thou art... neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth" (**Revelation 3:16**).

I can't speak for the Roman Catholic church, nor would I want to. But what does it take to excommunicate someone from their rolls? Why do they allow Gov. Andrew Cuomo to still take part in the sacraments of the Church? We are all to blame as there is not one of us who is without sin **Romans 3:23**. But we also have been given the truth of God's Word, and should not only live it but proclaim it from the roof tops!

The Left is out to destroy Christianity in America today. And they're succeeding, not just by infiltrating our government but by penetrating our churches. Jesus and the apostles said this would happen. As God wraps up human history He will call His church home and then judge the world. We don't know when that will happen, but we do know how it ends. We may lose a few battles but we will win the war. Until that day comes however, we're to put on the whole armor of God **Ephesians 6:13** and occupy until He comes **Luke 19:13**. And be not weary in well doing **Galatians 6:9**.

*Rev. David Lewis*

## **The Forgotten Doctrine of Separation Part II – Doctrinal Downgrade in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath ... light with darkness ... Christ with Belial ... he that believeth with an infidel ... God with idols ... wherefore, COME OUT ... and be ye separate ... saith The Lord” (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Plainly this is not optional, it is God’s COMMAND. “Mark them that cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and AVOID them” (Rom. 16:17). “Withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and NOT after the tradition ... received of us” (2 Thes. 3:6). From, “Perverse disputings of men ... destitute of the truth ... from such withdraw thyself” (1 Tim. 6:5).

“In the Last Days perilous times shall come. For men shall be ... boasters, proud, blasphemers ... unthankful, unholy ... truce-breakers ... having a form of godliness ... from such turn away” (2 Tim. 3:5). “If any ... bring not this doctrine receive him not ...” (2 John 10, 11).

Around 1947 came a renewed thrust of contention against the Biblical command to believers to maintain unequivocal doctrinal purity. The world has always been hostile to God’s command to separate from sin AND from ecclesiastical deviation.

The mid-twentieth century saw the launch of what became “Neo-Evangelicalism” under the sponsorship of liberal theologians. Howard Ockenga, the first President of Fuller Theological Seminary, was also the First President of the National Association of Evangelicals. He led the charge to abandon Biblical Separationism in favor of what he termed “infiltration.” Those who saw this breach of doctrinal purity sounded the alarm and were thereafter derided as rigid fundamentalists. This fruit of theological deviancy in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Christianity brought division in once orthodox protestant denominations.

False teachers and even radical apostates were at the same time practicing separation from Bible-believers and publishing errors such as: denial of Christ’s Virgin birth; denial of Christ’s deity and His bodily resurrection, His atonement for our sins on the Cross, and the authenticity of His miracles and the denial of the inerrancy of God’s Word, the Bible.

The Auburn Affirmation was a document signed by 1274 Protestant ministers in 1924 that showed their agreement with the errors listed above. By example, some of the fallout of this deviancy surfaced in the Episcopal Church that ordained as a Bishop, a man who left his wife for a man and the Evangelical Lutheran denomination has ordained a lesbian woman as a pastor.

The leadership in the Neo-Evangelical camp claimed Biblical Separation was just a “side issue” used to besmirch “Christian leaders.” Separation, they claimed, was “no high principle.” Nothing is higher than God’s commands and all are authoritative (2 Tim. 3:16). Some doctrines

Christ called “weightier matters of the law” (Matt. 23:23), but since separation centers in holiness, salvation and sanctification, it is of utmost importance. Especially so since abandoning Biblical separation brings loss of discernment between truths and half-truths and even with outright apostasy. Not much is weightier.

Only a perfect, holy sacrifice could atone for our sins, so the writer of Hebrews underscores the necessity of separation: “For such an high priest ... is holy, SEPARATE from sinners ...” (Heb. 7:26). Christ was separated for holiness to be our blameless sacrifice. The Old Testament foreshadowed this in the separatist practices of the Ceremonial Law. Consider also the Nazarites and the Levites who were separated by God’s decrees (Numb.6:18, 8:14-19). Laws of cleanliness required separation. True believers are “living sacrifices” called to be holy as God is holy. We strive for holiness (1 Pet. 1:13-16). God removes us from Satan’s control and opens our eyes (Ep. 2:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:3-4) and gives light for darkness (1 Pet. 2:9). Born-again believers become Christ’s holy bride (Rev. 19:7-8; Col. 2:11-12). In marriage we vow to remain separate from all others. We dwell with non-believers but apart from their worldly pursuits and sinful practices. In Christ’s parable of the wheat and tares, they grow together until final separation at the end (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43). Our commitment to Christ aids our overcoming (1 John 5:4) by God’s GIFT of faith (Ep. 2:8-10). Indwelt by the Spirit of God we can be “unspotted by the world” (James 1:12, 27). Christ’s Spirit can keep us from the world’s “pollutions” (James 2:20). We are considered judicially as dead to sin and from a continuing sinful conversation (lifestyle) (Rom. 6:6, 8:36; Gal. 2:20, 5:24, 6:14).

What does ecclesiastical separation demand? To separate from false teachers - the spiritual “grievous wolves” (Acts 20:29) that entice Christ’s sheep to “ANOTHER JESUS” (2 Cor. 11:4). These Paul cursed (Gal. 1:8-9) as did Peter (2 Pet. 2:1-3, 3:17). Evil comes in many counterfeits and disguises, even angels of light (2 Cor. 11:13-15) and wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matt. 7:15). They may appear as gospel preachers but bring a false spirit, “another gospel” and “another Jesus” (many appear on TV, especially TBN).

Increasing in the twentieth century was deviancy from Biblical doctrinal truth. Consider only the Auburn Affirmation in the 1920’s. In it 1,274 Protestant clerics signed this affirmation that denied essential fundamentals of our Faith, such as: Christ’s divinity, His miraculous conception and Virgin birth, Christ’s atonement on the Cross, His bodily resurrection, and His miracles.

This apostasy followed on the heels of 19<sup>th</sup> Century destructive criticism of the ancient manuscripts that are foundational to our English translation. The false claim was that our Bible contained myths and the earlier chapters of Genesis were basically fairy tales. This made way for “real fairy tales” such as macro-evolution, now that Adam and Eve’s creation was laughed at by foolish inventors of real myths (Ps. 14:1; Ps. 53:1). By the mid-twentieth century, Christianity was assaulted by denomination dividing Word/Faith heresies. Neither Jesus Christ or His true Apostles ever even hinted at such occultic fantasies.

The believer’s best defense is memorization of God’s written Word (Deut. 11:18; Ps. 119:11; 2 Cor. 3:3; Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:16). God orchestrates separation when He “DRAWS” His chosen ones (John 6:44, 65; Ep. 2:2-3; 2 Cor. 4:3-4) into His adoptive family (Ep. 1:4-11) and TRUE unity (John 17:9-10) and ongoing, Holy Spirit sanctification (John 17:21; 1 Cor. 3:16; John 14:26; 2 Thes. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2).

When separation slips, true unity fails. We exhort disobedient believers to repent but if stubbornness prevails, we separate from them (1 Cor. 5:11-13; 2 Thes. 3:6, 14-15) unless and until that one returns to their first love (Matt. 15:8, 24:11-12; Heb. 10:38-39; Rev. 2:4).

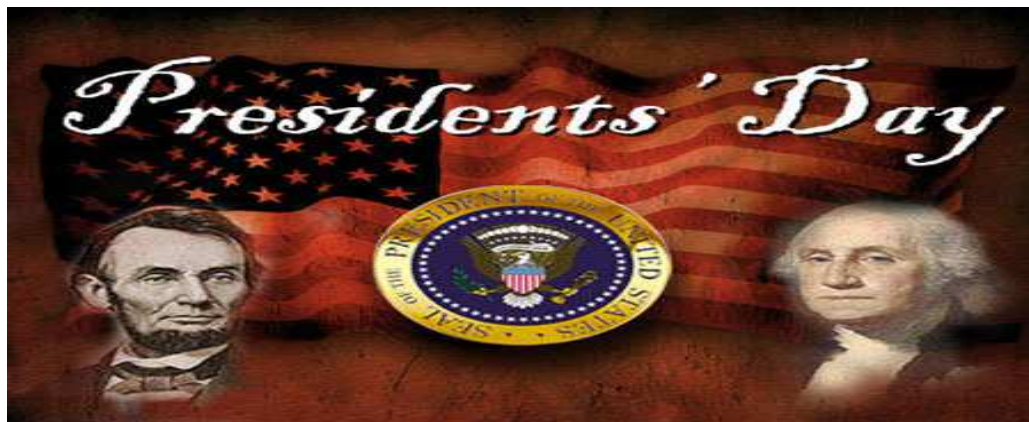
Whenever a Christian's morality fails to agree with their profession of having received saving faith, local church discipline is proper. The wanderer is to be admonished to encourage repentance for restoration (2 Thes. 3:14-15). If repentance comes, well; if not, that one is to be expelled as an unbeliever (Matt. 18:15-18). The greatest danger comes from false teachers and self-appointed false apostles: "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:15). Proper unity is only found within Christ's body, the invisible church (Rom 12:4-5) when resting upon the purity of doctrine rooted in God's Word – the Bible (Luke 24:44-45; Ep. 1:17-18; 1 Cor. 2:12-13, 14:20).

Just as "grievous wolves" attack from outside the church so too betrayals arise from within (Acts 20:27-31; Matt. 7:15-16) by those who cause "offenses contrary to God's Word" (Ep. 5:11, 2 Thes. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-18). So we "mark them" that cause divisions against the unity Christ prayed for (John 17:20-23; 2 John 7-11).

New Evangelism's birth represented a spirit of disobedience that divided the visible church for decades. Those who insist upon maintaining ministerial associations with known unbelievers are to be marked and avoided to block the flow of apostate teachings. What the doctrine of Biblical separation calls for in the hearts of the men and women of God is an apostolic-like passion for the protection of Christ's church from false teachers, apostates and those who rebelliously support them.

Any supposed middle-ground compromise between beliefs in Biblical Christianity and unbelief that takes from or adds to God's Word is that "no man's land" of lukewarmness that Jesus Christ specifically rejected in His "Revelation letter" to the seven churches (Rev. 3:16).

That message then is still our "marching orders" for these last days, "Come out from among them and be ye SEPARATE, saith the LORD..." (2 Cor. 6:17). Keep looking up.



## Think on These Things – Part 2

By Nancy Long

Phil. 4: 8-9 – *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”*

Just to reiterate: The apostle Paul is exhorting us here in God’s Word, to continually rest our thoughts on, and ponder, that which is right, pure, virtuous, and good; to seek, and set our affections on “things above” (Col. 3:2).

If we Christians expect to have that “perfect peace” promised in Isaiah, chapter 26, verse 3, then it’s imperative to meditate on the things of the Spirit. Psalm 63:6 explains to us on whom David focused his own attention. God was in **all** his thoughts, as contrasted to the corrupt character of the wicked man in Psalm 10:4, who sought **not** after God.

As believers, our reflections on the Creator, ought not to be fleeting or temporary, passing only occasionally through our minds, but they should always be abiding and ever present. We need to immerse ourselves in, and meditate on, the Word of God! We must memorize Scripture, and think about it constantly, day and night, so that we cannot do anything without being aware of God and His Word.

For our spirits to be blessed and prosperous ..... nourished with joy and strength ..... and for our testimonies to be fruitful and profitable, it is crucial for us to delight in, and meditate on, His law (Psalm 1:1-3). Let’s remind ourselves though, that there’s a real difference between Biblical meditation and the kind commonly practiced by Eastern and “Christian mystical” religions, where there is an attempt to empty one’s mind in order to find or receive so called “truth” within. Meditation from God’s perspective is dwelling on, and internalizing, His truths as laid out in the Bible. When it comes to what we feed our minds, it’s extremely important to choose our diet of information carefully, and discern what’s best in building our relationship with Christ.

Let’s be wise Christians and exercise the faith with which we’ve been blessed. God’s Word needs to be the subject of our thoughts. Let’s seek the Lord’s help as we meditate on the Lord Himself (Psalm 63:6), and all the works He has done (Psalm 77:12), and also on His revealed Word (Psalm 119, 15, 23, 48, 97, 99, and 148).

I pray we come to the place where we can agree with David when he said. **“O how love I Thy law! It is my meditation all the day”** (Psalm 119:97). Keep in mind, what we love, we love to think about.... the more we actively seek to read the precious Words of God, the more it will be digested, and prayerfully it will so fill us, that every area of our lives will be permeated!! Then we will possess, as God has promised, a joy that is so indescribable that mere words cannot express it; a **“joy unspeakable and full of glory”**, and as well, a peace that surpasses all human understanding (1 Peter 1:8b) and (Phil. 4:7).

**“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer”** (Psalm 19:14)

God bless you, Defender friends, as you **“think on these things”!!**



# Finding Home

By Diane Hussey

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6b (NASB)*

Something is missing. It's not quite right. It's here somewhere, but I cannot find it. Was it in the house in Arizona or the one in California? No, it is not in either place. Did we lose it when we sold Mom's house in Kansas? No matter where I search, I cannot find my home.

In reality there is no family home to which I can return, but I've spent my life yearning for a place to belong. Looking for a nice house or one that can be fixed up might satisfy my longing, but no matter how hard I work on earthly structures, my expectations have never been fulfilled.

Most of us have a deep longing for home. We may want to return to our family home as we recall the warm, loving memories of a certain place and the special people who lived there.

God's children also long for home, but eventually we realize that we are unable to find our true home in this fallen world. Jesus tells us there are many dwelling places in His Father's house (John 14:2-3). He promises to prepare a place for us and return to take us to be with Him. Because our Savior is preparing our home, we can rest assured that it will be more beautiful and welcoming than any home we can imagine on this earth; *in Your presence is fullness of joy* (Psalm 16:11b).

"Look, there it is: the new heaven and the holy city. My father's throne is up ahead, and Jesus is with Him. I am home."

*Thank You, Father, that our longing for home will be satisfied when we live with You*



*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