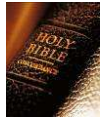


The DEFENDER - November 2019



“... 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: Our Badge of Honor

I'm thankful for Biblical Fundamentalism. I have to attach the adjective because one religion in particular has included violence with their orthodoxy, causing those in ecumenical circles to paint Bible believing Christians and Muslim terrorists with the same brush.

At the heart of Biblical Fundamentalism is the insistence to adhere to the inspired, infallible, inerrant language of the scriptures, given to us in the original Hebrew and Greek and best translated into English in the King James Version (KJV). The perversion of the scriptures into translations such as the New International Version (NIV), Revised Standard Version (RSV), and even the New KJV has invited wolves in sheep's clothing to pursue their own agendas in the name of Christianity. The Enemy sows tares among the wheat of fundamentalism. Once inside the church, compromise is introduced, and if allowed to remain, will undermine confidence in God's Holy Word.

By holding fast to the true Word of God, we can maintain biblical purity in worship and in our everyday living. We cannot come to God on our terms. We must worship Him according to His attributes. God is holy, a distinction that sets Him apart from His creatures. We find a natural connection between holiness and separation, an aspect necessary in the fundamentalist. The doctrine of separation flows forth from God's holiness. It has a concept of moral excellence, which is important amidst the immaturity of the church today. Bible illiteracy is rampant among Christians. People want to be saved but they don't want to be holy. It's imperative that we know the true intent of the scriptures if we're to avoid compromise. Thus the admonishment to come out from among them, and be ye separate (**2 Corinthians 6:17**).

We need to know who God is from the Scriptures, otherwise we risk exalting ourselves. When we do that, we lower God and begin our fall downward. With our eyes on ourselves, we're easy prey for the deceivers who would sift us like wheat (**Luke 22:31**). Pride got Lucifer tossed out of heaven. It also chased Adam and Eve from the Garden. When we start listening to the man in the mirror more than the Man from Galilee, we make ourselves vulnerable to the whims of the devil as well. God has called us to be holy, just as He is holy (**1 Peter 1:15-16**). Holiness is the mark of God's people. It's imperative to our faith.

The days are evil, so we must redeem the time. We have God's Word of Life, the fundamentals of our faith. Our desire to live holy lives dedicated to Him is our only suitable response.

Rev. David Lewis

America's Need for Reformation

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

What follows was inspired by Pastor Jerry Gardner's article in the Fall 2016 Redeeming the Time publication under the title, "Our Great Need of Reformation."

The late Dr. Bob Jones (of Bob Jones University) said it best, "God does not send revival into apostasy." God first sends reformation. Today America is awash with teachings that man can produce or at least must contribute to the work required by Christ ALONE. All works-based righteousness is absolutely contrary to the very teachings of Christ (John 6:44, 65, 14:6).

A sleeping congregation may be revived but a deviant apostate denomination requires thoroughgoing, complete REFORMATION. Failing this, the only course for born again Bible believers is God commanded SEPARATION (2 Cor. 6:14-18).

The Apostle Paul wrote: "We who are Jews [born in Father Abraham's bloodline] and not sinners of the Gentiles [those outside the Covenants of Abraham and Moses] ... have believed in Jesus Christ ..." and "justified ... by the faith of Jesus Christ and NOT by the works of the law ..." by which ... "NO flesh shall be justified" (Gal. 2:15-16).

Some still celebrate Martin Luther's nailing his 95 Theses to the Wittenburg Church door on October 31, 1517. His posting was in the scholar's language of Latin, but students translated his words into German and the new printing presses spread them across all Europe. Europe was then (as now again) over-ripe for religious reform and God used Luther's writings to ignite and fuel that flame.

Luther was then summoned to recant his writings but in God's power replied, "Unless I am convinced by the scriptures, or by clear reason ... I am bound by the scriptures ... my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot recant ... it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience God help me, Amen."

Reformation desires had been fomenting before Luther's time but became a continent-wide conflagration with his writings and sermons. After his trial, Luther was sequestered by his patron, Prince Frederick, in the Wartburg Castle. While there, Luther in his "PATMOS" experience, translated Erasmus's' Greek New Testament into German. Now everyone could read and know of the fruits of reformation even among the Apostles.

The Apostle Paul (in Acts 9:3-6) was blinded by light from heaven and heard the voice of Jesus Christ, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ... It is hard for you to kick against the pricks" (the pointed goads used to discourage beasts of burden from kicking). Was Paul resisting the drawing of God's Spirit? (John 6:44). By the end of Chapter 9, Paul's miraculous spiritual regeneration was a reality and his sanctification and reformation had begun in earnest.

Before long, Paul was preaching for Jesus Christ his Lord and against Jewish cultural works-based righteousness. He wrote extensively of justification by faith ALONE, through God's Gift

alone, in Christ's wholly FINISHED WORK ALONE (Ep. 2:5-10; 2 Tim. 1:9). Paul gave a brief description of his personal reformation in Philippians, Chapter 3; "For we .. worship God in the spirit ... and have NO confidence in the flesh, ... I more: Circumcised the eighth day ... of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews ... a pharisee ... in the law, blameless. But ... gain to me ... I counted loss for Christ ... I count all things but loss for ... the knowledge of Christ Jesus ... that I might win Christ ... through the faith of Christ" (3:3-9). In Paul's reformation he rejected legalistic Judaism for spiritual life in Christ.

Rev. Gardner pointed to the conversion in Paul's life to show, "... when a sinner comes face to face with Jesus Christ there will be radical change" – regeneration and reformation. One who is truly in Christ has been made able to flee from heretical, liberalized Christianity and other modern deceptions Christ warned would come in the last days just before He returns to destroy these enemies (Matt. 24:3, 27-30).

The Apostle Peter also had a personal reformation. Jesus said, "Simon, Simon, behold Satan desired to have you ... but I have prayed for thee ... when thou art converted, strengthen the brethren" (Luke 22:31-32). Peter's path was not smooth because when the Apostle Paul observed Peter and other Jews acting hypocritically before Gentile believers at Antioch, Paul "... withstood Peter to the face ..." for Peter was blameworthy (Gal. 2:11-16). It is a monumental understatement to say Jesus' prayer was effective, for Peter went from failure and hypocrisy to practicality and truth and HAS strengthened Christians with his two God-ordained epistles for 2,000 years. America needs the reformation seen in Paul and Peter.

Indeed, America saw just that in the "Great Awakening," one generation before the War for Independence. There were other prayer revivals in the 1800's, and word came of a great Welsh revival that likewise energized Britain. It is no stretch to say America needs reformation now more than ever. We need God's enabling Spirit to stand against cold, dead, heretical Bible denying "mainline" denominations and the seductive ecumenism of the "Tower Builders" of the now forming One-World Religion and the New World Order (Rev. 17) and the self-defied WORD/FAITH charlatans that dominate cable television (Matt. 7:15-23; Jude 11-13).

America needs a "back to the Bible" revival of the apostolic faith that guided America's first settlers and the later Founding Fathers. Congregations need to return to their roots in Bible-based Holy Spirit inspired renewal. Man alone cannot bring true reformation. God can; and He will if His adopted children petition Him (Ep. 1:4-5).

In the Old Testament God charged straying Israel, "If my people ... shall humble themselves and pray ... and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear ... and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14). The Father heard Israel's prayers and the Son hears the prayers of His invisible Church – His Bride (Rev. 21:9, 22:17).

Rev. Gardner stated, "If there is to be reformation, God must bring it." His children must cry out for it. Rev. Gardner's prayer is for us to petition God to forestall the DARK AGE of destruction advancing on Western civilization. We only need reminding of the Satanic emergence of the malignancies of National Socialism (Fascism/Nazism) and International Socialism (Communism) in the last century. These evils arose from the dying carcass of European Christian culture. Now America has their spawn in our own streets calling themselves ANTIFA.

Alexandar Solzhenitsyn wrote, "This evil has emerged [in Russia] because we have forgotten God."

In spite of readily available historical evidence of the Nazi holocaust and the horrors of the Russian Gulags (numerous death camps), we have in the USA an insurgency of educationally deprived, brainwashed neo-socialists attempting to force totalitarianism upon the once pro-Constitution Democrat Party.

These mostly young people have been taught anti-Americanism, anti-Christianity, and anti-Semitism by radical change agents. Their stormtroopers are in the streets (Oregon, California, New York, D.C., etc.) trying to foment a fascist revolution. Once they curtailed free speech in the universities, they now want it everywhere. Stalin called these ignoramuses "Useful Idiots."

We have endured Presidential candidates uttering fictions such as "hope and change." But we were already warned that when the blind lead, all fall into the ditch (Matt. 15:14). So, what was at the heart of Apostolic Reformation and the Europe-wide 16th Century Reformation? Rev. Gardner writes it was the Spirit of God and the Bible in the people's language (2 Tim. 3:16).

Since we still have both, what is our duty? All drawn by the Father (John 6:44) indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16) believing and trusting in Christ alone (John 3:16, 14:6) are to seek to please God by supporting a Bible-honoring, Gospel-preaching church, especially at scheduled times of prayer.

Many religionists are driving toward an ungodly unity that will include not just dead Christian denominations but all religions (Rev. 17). We are to remain separate from these (2 Cor. 6:14-18) and to covenant only with Bible-honoring, born again Christians, standing and praying with one voice that righteousness would again flood our nation. No matter how small our number, no matter how dark our age, our God hears us from His Throne.

Keep looking up.

Main Source:

Redeeming the Time, Fall 2016

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Article:

Our Great Need for Reformation



Now Thank We All Our God

By Nancy Long

1 Chron. 16:8 – *“Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds upon the people.”*

1 Chron. 16:34 – *“O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.”*

Ezra 3:11a – *“And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because He is good”*

Psalm 73:28 – *“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Thy works.”*

Psalm 92:1 – *“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most high.”*

Isaiah 12:4 – *“..... Praise the Lord declare His doings”*

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

There was a man by the name of Martin Rinkart, who, when he was thirty-one years old, felt God’s call upon his life to serve as the pastor of a Lutheran church in Ellenberg, Germany. He arrived there to begin his ministry at the exact time the terrible blood bath of the 30 Years’ War began, and Rinkart continued ministering to the needs of those people for the rest of his life, until his death at the age of sixty-three.

Ellenberg was a city surrounded by a wall which made it a safe haven for many of the military and political fugitives from all over. The city, however, became infested with diseases and famines, one being the plague of 1637 in which 8000 people died. Martin Rinkart remained there throughout the entire war, dedicated to his calling, enduring the misery, the pain, the sadness and the grief. At one point he was the only preacher left, and he was conducting as many as fifty funerals a day, one of which happened to be his own wife’s.

Troubles, misery, sorrows, and difficulties are all a part of the human condition. We shouldn’t be surprised! Jesus warned of this in His Word, *“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). Who would

ever think though, that out of the midst of so much human suffering and torment the great hymn of thanksgiving, "*Now Thank We All Our God*" would be born? This hymn beautifully depicts Rinkart's faith and confidence, not on the conditions at hand, but on the God he served the God above his circumstances.

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Thro' all our life be near us,
With ever joyous hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Words: Martin Rinkart Music: Johann Cruger

How are people, like Martin Rinkart, able to give thanks when it appears on the surface that there's nothing for which to be grateful? Even in troublesome times, those of us who claim the name of Christ, those of us who are God's children, have been given the faith to believe, that the things of this world are really nothing, when put along side of, and compared to the richness of God's blessings, those not made with human hands our eternal home in heaven. Strange as it might seem for some to hear,

often the strongest moments of thankfulness are not found in times of plenty, but in times of want or need.

We have a lot for which to be grateful: food, clothing, shelter, family, health all the necessities of life but we can't stop here, or we'll miss the very best! We, who are children of God, have spiritual blessings in abundance. We have joy, and a peace that passes all human understanding (Phil. 4:7). We have strength and guidance. We have the gift of salvation, the assurance of eternal life (John 3:16) and (1 John 5:13). What a blessing to know for sure that we are saved, that we have a place waiting for us in heaven when our eyes close in death here on this earth (John 14:2).

I pray that each of us takes time this Thanksgiving to reflect on, to give thanks, to ponder, and feast on the spiritual bounty we have in Christ, remembering the words of Jesus, *"I am the bread of life; he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst"* (John 6:35).

Happy Thanksgiving, Defenders!!



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.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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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 Youth Group	7:00 PM
Thanksgiving Day Service	10:00 AM