



# The Watchmen

THE VOICE FROM THE WALL

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## Behold, I Make all Things New

First off I would like to begin with a Happy New year to all the friends of Berean Watchmen Ministries. I hope like us you are looking forward to the prospects that 2011 has to offer, and we hope and pray that God will bless you in this New Year.

As I sat down to write an article for the January edition of *The Watchmen*, I couldn't help but think about Revelation 21:5 when Christ resounds, "Behold, I make all things new".

New Year's has traditionally always been a time of looking forward; a time for New Year's resolutions. Resolutions that typically would include the repudiation of chocolate and other indulgences and the promise to resume (or begin) working out at the gym. This traditionally then ends up in the depression of failure due to the fact that chocolate is just plainly too powerful an adversary for many of us. If history is to serve as witness, it becomes apparent that more times than not a New Year's resolution is something that goes in one 'year' and out the other.

Here in Revelation 21 we have a similar promise of something new. However, unlike the promises we try to keep to ourselves, this promise is trustworthy and will undoubtedly come to be true. Upon the completion of the *White Throne* judgment of Revelation 20, John is shown another vision – this time of all things renewed.

*"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." – Rev. 21:1*

There have been many commentaries and discussions made on the meaning of the "first heaven" and "first earth" passing away.

Some have said that the world will be completely destroyed and a new earth

will be created. Others have said that this existing earth will simply be renovated.

I hold to the second option.

### Reasons for a Renovated Earth Position

#### 1. The Purpose of the Millennium

It would seem very strange to have the curse reversed, and the earth return to its glorious state of Eden during the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth just to have it completely destroyed immediately following the 1000 years of restoration. Even if the final battle of Armageddon was something of huge magnitude, the battle itself is nothing more than a gathering of those against Christ the King, and then fire raining down on them all and wiping out the offending army. (Rev 20:9). So why completely destroy what was already well on its way to being renovated into the Eden as once created.

#### 2. God said he would make 'All things new' and not 'all new things'.

Perhaps I'm reading too much into the language here, but 'all things new' holds a different meaning than 'all new things'.

The Greek word 'were passed away' from verse 21:1 is *παρέρχομαι* (parerchomai) which means to 'go by' or to come to neglect, go or pass.

This same word is found in Matthew 14:15 (as well as other places) where it is rendered 'past'.

*"And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now **past**; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals." – Matthew 14:15*

The time was not destroyed. It merely had past.

In the Garden when Christ prayed in Gethsemane, he prayed, *“Father if it be possible, let this cup pass [parerchomai] from me:...”*

The meaning of passed away in Revelation 21:1 is paralleled in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away [parerchomai]; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17*



I'm sure you would agree that 2 Corinthians is not suggesting that the 'old man' is all in all destroyed, but rather, *renovated* and *made new*. Our old self is in essence dead and we are again made alive in Christ, but our bodies, soul and mind are not 'destroyed' and recreated.

The language in Revelation 21 is likewise – *“Behold, I make all things new.”* The earth's new renovation will be so extensive, it would appear as new and perhaps be unrecognizable to what it was before.

### 3. Mark 13:19

Mark 13:19 tells us that the 'Great Tribulation' will be the greatest affliction creation has ever seen, nor will ever see.

*“For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.” - Mar 13:19*

For this to be true, total destruction of that same creation would seem somewhat out of character.

### Looking Ahead

As we look ahead at the year 2011, I would encourage each of us to do more for our King than we did last year.

Christ called the servant who did nothing with the Master's money (the Lord's work) a 'wicked and lazy servant'.

May it be said of us what Paul declared in 2 Timothy 4:7

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

May 2011 be a year of ministry growth for each of us. May it be a year that when the master returns he would say of us, "Well done my good and faithful servant". (cf. Luke 19:17)

We've all made promises before. We've all made 'shaky' resolutions. May I place a charge before all of us this year - *“Promise little and do much”*. But most of all - Go Serve your King.

- J.R. Hall

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Cancelled: No Digging Deeper 2011

It is with heavy hearts and mixed emotion that we unfortunately are not running our annual conference "Digging Deeper 2011". This year would have marked our 6<sup>th</sup> annual conference and although we are saddened to not offer this conference, we are excited for what God might have planned for us next year.

In recent years the event has attracted approximately 100-150 people, and although we believe the event keeps getting better with impact and theology, the financial strain is becoming a very high burden for the ministry, but most of our concern has been over the amount of work that is required to put on the event, and how many people we were impacting. It

was the hope of the ministry that the attendance at the event would continue to grow over the years, but this has not been so. We need to rethink perhaps how to better spend our energies in the fulfillment of our Vision statement.

*Our vision is to disciple and build up believers in God's inerrant Word found in the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16). Although still Disciples of Christ ourselves, the purpose of the ministry is to follow Christ's command to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"*

*Berean Watchmen Ministries is a teaching ministry designed to discuss eschatology and its relevance to the modern Christian's*

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***“Christ called the servant who did nothing... a 'wicked and lazy servant'.”***

*faith and walk. Equally Berean Watchmen exists to equip and strengthen believers with sound apologetics and warnings against the false teachings in the world. The mission is to teach, edify, encourage and embolden believers with the truth (John 17:17) so that they can therefore go forth in faith (1 Peter 3:15) and evangelize and disciple others.*

*Our mission field is all of the friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances that are reached through the daily interaction they have with YOU.*

Originally, our intention was to move the 2011 Conference ahead from October to March of this year in order to accommodate a possible partnership in putting on the event. It was hoped that this partnership would grant the opportunity to reach more people with our message and materials. Unfortunately, due to the

amount of time to prepare for such a conference, and how busy everything is and was for our volunteers and organizers this spring, we felt that March 2011 was spreading us too thin. For this reason, we have with hopeful hearts, delayed our 6th annual Conference until March of 2012 (If the Lord tarries).

We thank all of you for your support over the years, and thank you for your understanding through 2011. Please pray for us this year as we work through some of the details of the potential March 2012 conference, and the application of vision statement in new and tangible ways.

We will stay in touch through our website and newsletters, and online materials and look for us as attendees at other local conferences.

Serving the King,

- The BWM Team



## Exposing False Doctrine - Standing Firm in the face of Promised Apostasy

### Introduction

On the subject of Bible prophecy there is one promise that is often ignored. The sad thing is that it is potentially the most dangerous and ignoring it leads many down the wrong path. The Devil's deception is great. And we the Body of Christ are many times left unprepared from the modern teachings of our pulpits, teachers and contemporary theologians.

The Bible says this about the 'End':

*"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" 1Ti 4:1*

*"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" -- Matthew 24:11*

In fact this promised deception will be so great, that many who are professing Christians will be fooled by this deception.

*"For false Christs and false prophets*

*shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect." -- Mark 13:22*

*"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity". - Mat 7:22-23*

You see the devil is very sly. There are many warnings about our adversary that we would all be wise to remember.

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1Pe 5:8*

*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." -Eph 6:12*

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***"There are many warnings about our adversary that we would all be wise to remember."***

# What Is Truth?

One of Satan's most powerful deceptions is to make a mock copy of all that is good.

*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye **receive another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him... For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” – 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-14.*

There is another gospel, another Christ, another spirit. In the study of things to come, we see that the one called Antichrist will wield power so convincing even the saints might fall for it. And we know from 1 John 4:3 that the spirit of the Antichrist is already at work.

So what should we ministers of Lord's work do about it? What are we the *Body of Christ* supposed to do in the wake of this promised apostasy? Are we supposed to ignore it, and preach truth alongside of error and hope our voice is LOUDER than the voice of the adversary?

Contrary to what many modern Christians believe the answer to this question is a definite NO!

This Post Modern era that we live in would have us believe that truth is only but a social convention. That truth is merely what we ourselves, or a group of us, believe to be true. We live in a time of conformity. We believe that extremism of any form is an absolute sin to society, even if that extreme belief is in things that are actually true. As truth is defined as whatever our social constructs deem it to be at the time, we are left in a soup of muddled waters with no hope of clarity. We believe in “*live and let live*” and that by merely suggesting our beliefs to

another we have violated that person's right to their own version of truth. There are no absolutes. Truth, I mean good, honest and God-given absolute truth, is dead in the minds of the philosophers. This same mindset is just as prevalent in the churches today as it is in the rest of society.

There are many individuals and ministries out there that believe that we are not to address what we feel to be false doctrine and unsound biblical teachings. They cry out that we are not judge others; that we are not to name names; that we are to simply pray for them and leave them be. They claim that if we do speak out we are tearing down the body of Christ. They vehemently are against those that would expose or address false doctrine. In a “Why can't we all get along?” mentality they forsake the *safeguarding of the truth*.

As you can probably tell by this article so far – I am not one of those individuals, nor is this one of those ministries.

## Why Should Christians Name Names When Dealing With Those In Public Ministry?

Because of precedence.

*“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered *unto the saints*. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Jude 1:3-4*

*“Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.” - 1 Timothy 5:20*

*“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.” - 2 Timothy 4:2*

*“This witness is true. Wherefore*



*Should we name names, or hold our tongue?*



*rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;" - Titus 1:13*

*"Open rebuke is better than secret love." - Proverbs 27:5*

So what about Matthew 7:1?

*"Judge not, that ye be not judged."  
Mat 7:1*

I believe we have been misled into a wrong understanding of this verse and therefore failing to provide *righteous* judgments.

Read in context we can see that Matt. 7:2-5 clarifies that v. 1 is referring to hypocritical judgment. *A brother who has a beam in his own eye should not be judging the brother who may have a mote in his eye.* The passage is declaring that "you cannot judge another for his sin if you are guilty of the same sin. And that we shouldn't judge others unless we are prepared to be held to the same set of standards."

Those who cling to the out-of-context interpretation of "Judge not, that ye be not judged" in order to condemn those who expose error should read the entire chapter. Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing..." (v. 15). How can we know false prophets unless we judge them by what is written in the Word of God? If we know of false teachings, and those who teach them, how can we fail to warn the sheep of these "ravening wolves?" The Bible contains many passages that give us proof that these false prophets should be identified and exposed.

*"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." - John 7:24*

Righteous judgment is based upon the solid Word of God for our foundation. It is acceptable to judge others based upon the Word of God.

Look how Paul Judged in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

*I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you-something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a*

*man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother.*

*You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.*

*Even though I am not with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. And as though I were there, I have already passed judgment on this man*

*in the name of the Lord Jesus. You must call a meeting of the church. I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus. Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved on the day the Lord returns.*

*Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough?*

*Get rid of the old 'yeast' by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*

*So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth.*

*When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.*

*But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that.*

*I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people.*

*It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning.*

*God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." (NLT)*

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**"Righteous judgment is based upon the solid Word of God for our foundation."**



A person who is able to discern between good and evil, has at least one of the major marks of spiritual maturity. Let's look at Hebrews 5:14

*"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." - Heb 5:14*

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**"Never is it acceptable for us to 'tolerate' false teachers within our midst"**

The very word 'discern' means to judge. In the Greek the word is diakrisis which is defined as *judicial estimation* - to discern or disputation.

If we are to be fully equipped with discernment as this passage says, should we not then point out issues and statements that are made contrary to what Scripture teaches?

The answer is an invariable YES.

### **So Is It Right For Us To Expose False Teachers?**

The short answer – yes. If we sit idly by we are in essence encouraging the false doctrine to be spread. Wolves in sheep's clothing are thus enabled to ravage the flock, thereby destroying many.

Remember John the Baptist? He called the Pharisees and Sadducees (the religious leaders of his day) "*a generation of Vipers*". Today would we dare tell him to "*you're too harsh, be kind to our brethren and don't judge*"?

We must always remember that the Bible admonishes us to expose error in the flock.

### **What Are We To Do When We Know Of 'False' Teachers?**

**We are to TRY them.**

*"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world" - I John 4: 1*

All doctrine and teachers are to be tried according to the Word of God.

*"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this*

*word, it is because there is no light in them." – Isa. 8:20*

Every sermon, every message, pastor, preacher, so called prophet or any methodology is to be judged through the looking glass of God's Word. On that note, I hope that right now your Bibles are open, and you're verifying this article with Scripture.

Have a look at what Christ says to the Church of Ephesus in Revelation 2:2. Christ commends them on what?

*"I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:"*

We are to therefore do the same.

Never is it acceptable for us to 'tolerate' false teachers within our midst.

### **We are to MARK them and AVOID them.**

*Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

*Rom 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

Those whose conduct and teachings contradict the Word of God are to be marked and to be avoided. How can we mark them? We need a standard in which to compare them to. In other words we require discernment and judgment by the light of God's Word. These are not my words. I am merely quoting scripture. We cannot mark and avoid, unless their words and deeds are judged in accordance with the Word of God.

**We are to REBUKE them.**

*"This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith:" - Tit 1:13*



*..walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Look at the surrounding passages of Titus 1:10-16. To whom was Paul referring when he wrote this to Titus?

*For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision:*

*Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*

*One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

*Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*

*Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

For money's sake - unruly, vain talkers and deceivers were fooling whole houses, and leading them astray - teaching them things that they should not teach. Sounds familiar doesn't it? Just watch a couple of hours of the so-called Christian broadcasting and you'll bear witness to on the television stations today.

Many high profile preachers and evangelists are subverting whole houses with their false doctrine today. Are we to sit silently by, while they do this, without rebuking and admonishing people to avoid their teaching? I say NO! Sound doctrine is supposed to be too precious to us.

*"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." - Tit 1:9*

**We are to have NO FELLOWSHIP with them.**

*"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." - Eph 5:11*

This one is very important and one of the most often overlooked commands on this subject.

Reprove means to show disapproval, condemn, find fault, rebuke, and to refute. How can we obey Ephesians 5:11 unless we try them by the Word of God?

You may be wondering, "Well that verse says 'works of darkness'; certainly a fellow Christian who is only slightly off doctrine is not involved in works of darkness?"

John said this:

*"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God..." - 2Jn 1:9*

And;

*"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." - 1Jn 1:5*

False religion and false doctrines are brambles and thorns that grow across the path of truth. They are designed to ensnare and bind people to the author of this confusion - the Prince of Darkness. If Satan can twist the true gospel to something of his own making, then he has pulled the spiritual wool over the eyes of those who follow. He then in-turn renders that person inadequate for duty as a disciple of Jesus Christ. I think we can all agree that the source of all false doctrine is none other than Satan.

**We are to WITHDRAW from them.**

If we have rebuked them. If we have shown them the error of their ways through Scripture and they still refuse to turn away from their sinful practice, we are to withdraw from them.

*"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." - 2Th 3:6*

*And if any man obey not our word by*



***"False religion and false doctrines are brambles and thorns that grow across the paths of truth."***



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**“...if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” – Paul**

*this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.” – 2 Thess. 3:14-15*

### **We are to TURN AWAY from them.**

*“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”. – 2 Tim. 3:5-7*

Concerning the last days, Paul says that some will have “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. From such turn away.” How can we turn away from them if we do not identify them?

### **We are NOT to RECEIVE them into our house.**

*2Jn 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

*2Jn 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed:*

*2Jn 1:11 For he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

This should be an easy one right? But what about radio, TV, music, etc? Once we have marked someone as a false teacher we are to NOT receive them into our house.

### **We are to look out for those who preach another gospel.**

I mentioned in the opening lines of this article that Paul warned about those who preached “*another Jesus ... another spirit ... or another gospel*” (2 Cor. 11:4). How can we identify them unless we judge their Jesus, their spirit, and their gospel by the Word of God? Paul goes on to call such preachers false apostles who transform themselves into apostles of Christ. He also hints at who their

master is and refers to Satan himself as an 'Angel of Light'.

Paul reiterates some of this in Galatians:

*Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:*

*Gal 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

*Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*

*Gal 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

'Let him be accursed'. Let those words echo in your head for a minute or two. Now think of how many 'perversions' of the gospel there are today.

Those who teach salvation by baptism, or by works, are teaching a perverted gospel. The hyper-charismatic, the Roman Catholic Church, many once evangelical and Christian fundamentalists are preaching a perverted gospel. Albeit, perhaps unknowingly, but they are doing it just the same.

Yet according to many in the church today, we are supposed to cooperate with them in evangelism and Christian work and cast aside our differences for the sake of the Gospel. Yet I must ask you that if we fail to expose these falsities and errors, have we not betrayed the very Gospel we believe we're furthering?

### **Is it right to name names?**

Many mistakenly believe that it is wrong to name the teachers who proclaim false teachings. Again I believe that Scripture tells us that they are wrong. Mark these passages in your own Bibles and see.

- Paul named and rebuked Peter publicly. - See Galatians 2:11-14





- Paul named Demas for loving the world. - See 2 Timothy 4:10
- Paul named Hymenaeus and Alexander. - See 1 Timothy 1:18-20
- Paul named Hymenaeus and Philetus. - See 2 Timothy 2:15-18
- Paul named Alexander the coppersmith. - See 2 Timothy 4:14-15
- John named Diotrephes. - See 3 John 9-10
- Moses called the name of Balaam. - See Num. 22-25 (Peter also exposed "the way of Balaam ... who loved the wages of unrighteousness " in 2 Peter 2:15)

There are more examples, but this last one is of particular interest. You see Balaam was a prophet that was in the business of the Lord's work for money. Now think of some of the televangelists today; they beg for money and live like kings, while multitudes of innocent people send them their hard earned money. Kenneth Copeland for instance bought a \$20 million personal jet so he could *spread the gospel and do the work of the Lord more effectively* (his words not mine). In 1997, Benny Hinn told CNN that he earns between \$500,000 and \$1 million a year. They are always building colleges, hospitals, TV network satellites, and amusement parks all in the name of Christ. And for what? The Gospel? Not the gospel I was taught. Not the gospel the Bible teaches.

The early church looked somewhat different then all of this nonsense.

Act 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Act 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Act 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought

the prices of the things that were sold,

Now doesn't that stand in stark contrast to how the popular ministries and churches are run today? We run our churches like cruise ships, when God designed them to be life boats.

My friends. It is certainly proper and our duty to expose error and to name those who are in error. It is right and our duty to *"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* as commanded of us in Jude 3. Faithful messengers will indeed warn the sheep of these heretics, and identify them by name. It is not enough to broadly hint of their identity, for the young lambs may not understand and thereby destroyed by the wolves.

*"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." - Mat 7:15*

*Act 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

*Act 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

*Act 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

In this time of promised apostasy, more than ever before, is a time to expose, warn, and prepare the flock for the onslaught of false teachers, the spirit of the antichrist that's already in the world. Berean Watchmen Ministries mission statement has always contained the words "...to equip and strengthen believers with sound apologetics and warnings against the false teachings in the world..." Our very motto is 'Safeguarding the Truth' as we pledge to do all we can toward that goal.

#### A Careful Caveat to Exposing False Doctrine

Over the years I have recognized a

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***"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."***





few things with many Christian leaders who are dubbed as 'false teachers'; 'false prophets' and sometimes called 'workers for Satan'. In many instances if you research them, they are not really as bad as they are said to be. Although I do personally believe that some are knowingly working iniquity and deceiving people, others believe that they are doing the Lord's work and are merely deceived or working iniquity through ignorance of Scripture. Usually this is evident through dumb choices the ministry or individual has made - but then who of us hasn't made a dumb choice or a poor decision? The difference is that for most of us our dumb choices don't potentially affect thousands of people. This is the reason to why high profile preachers and leaders should be more careful, and be held to a higher standard of accountability. And they should at least be ready and open - if required - to a loving rebuke from brethren in the body of Christ. In fact they should, for the sake of integrity, welcome it.

On this point I have noted a disturbing trend. A trend that, thanks to the internet and our lightning fast means of communication, has done a lot of damage to the process of accountability in the body of Christ. I have seen many misquotes, and misrepresentations of many preachers that is downright maddening. In attempts to expose them as false teachers, sometimes people are misquoting, or misapplying quoted words to suit their own agenda or premise. Perhaps to add shock value to their own sermons, talks, books, etc.



There is a danger in exposing error that we may end up being over critical as well. And I see too much of this as can be evident by any who research the claims of what I would call the 'heresy hunters'. I read what they say and then I look it up, and realize that the preacher said no SUCH thing. Or that the quote was taken completely out of context with the implications of the author's, speaker's, or preacher's main premise. Sometimes the *heresy hunter* pours through every word, spoken or otherwise, of the individual in hopes to criticize. They go into each

review with the presupposition of finding something wrong and not really giving a 'fair' and 'honest' chance. This is downright dirty pool, and is nothing but a cheap attempt at shock value. Nitpicking everything that someone says and tearing it apart is foolish. It's not being Berean, it's being stupid. We're not - any of us - perfect human beings. To expect perfection, is a fruitless and exasperating mission. We need to balance rebuke, with the love and respect it deserves. We need to look at each new issue with a neutral mindset, and allow our conclusions to be Scripture-based.

If we don't, what ends up happening is that the 'heresy hunter' mentality actually ends up creating a preacher, teacher or leader who now ignores claims against them because of the so many times that the *little boy cried wolf* so-to-speak. When honest rebuke is required and relayed, the preacher now ignores it because he simply brushes it away as another unwarranted 'persecution'.

My friends, research both sides of the story. Don't accept someone else's word for anything - including mine. Gain your knowledge from first hand sources, and then with your Bibles open make your biblical judgment on the issue.

Now that's 'rightly dividing', and 'earnestly contending' for the faith as required of us by 2 Timothy 2:15 and Jude 1:3

-- J.R.Hall

References:

"Is it Right: To Judge, To Expose Error & Call Names?", E. L. Bynum, Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Lubbock, TX.

## Discerning the Times Conference – Saskatoon

Our Friends at Discerning the Times Saskatoon are putting on their 6<sup>th</sup> annual conference this year, and we are encouraging everyone in our readership to attend. This conference is much like the Digging Deeper Conferences that Berean Watchmen puts on. They have a wonderful speaker line up this year, and we are going to be attendance ourselves, just to hear the good teaching and preaching.

We hope to see you there!!

# Discerning the Times Bible Conference

## Saskatoon 2011

With:

- **T.A. McMahon** – Berean Call
- **John Plantz** – Evangelist/Teacher
- **John Morris** – Institute for Creation Research
- **Roger Oakland** – Understand the Times
- **Thomas Ice** – Executive Director Pre-Trib Research Center

The goal of this conference is to inform believers of the deception in the last days and the slippery slope that compromise leads to. Our desire then is to teach, exhort and proclaim the word of God according to the scriptures in prophecy, Israel's place according to God's word and the confidence we can have in His Word and Promises.

*The Theme is Joel 2:1a "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand:"*

### Ramada Hotel

806 Idylwyld Drive North  
Saskatoon SK S7L 0Z6  
DIEFENBAKER ROOM

### April 8 & April 9, 2011

Friday 8:30 am - 8:45 pm  
Saturday 8:30 am - 8:30 pm

**Admission Free**  
– offering will be taken

[www.discerning-the-times.org](http://www.discerning-the-times.org)

**1-306-371-6877**





## Berean Watchmen Ministries

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"...Now these [Bereans] were more noble... in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
- Acts 17:10-11

Berean Watchmen Ministries is a non-profit charitable corporation registered under the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.bereanwatchmen.com](http://www.bereanwatchmen.com)

## Letter's from our Readers

Q: "I read the back of the tract. Isn't your method of using the 10 commandments to show people that they are sinners, and telling them that they are bound for Hellfire without Jesus, scaring people into your religion of Christianity? What about the Love?" - Stranger on the Street.

A: I don't think so. We use the 10 commandments to help people understand what sin is. The Apostle Paul said, "**I would not of known sin if not for the Law**" in Romans 7:7. And he said to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:9, "**Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners...**"

And in Romans 3:19 and 20 it reads:

**"Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."**

The law is to be used as a mirror in which we see ourselves as God sees us. By and through the law we see ourselves as the sinners that Romans 3:23 tells us that we are. We understand our standing before a Holy and Just God and we realize our hopelessness before him. We are guilty of transgression against God, and therefore God's wrath abides on us. (cf. John 3:36)

Using the Law in this way is good

as Paul says,

**"But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully," - 1Ti 1:8**

We use the law to show people that in accordance with God's standard there is none of us that are 'Good'. Many tell us that they are 'good' people and that's why they should go to heaven. But God's standard is much higher than our standards, as shown by the 10 Commandments.

Jesus used this exact same method in Luke 18:18-23.

A rich man comes up to Christ and asks, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?". Christ tells the man to keep God's law and lists some of them. The man claims that he has, but Jesus - knowing the man's heart - calls him on the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment. Loving the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul. (cf. Mark 12:30).

The man went away sorrowful because he was rich, and loved his money more than God. Christ used the Law to convict the man before God.

To me it would be crueler if I simply chose not to offend, and I never warned you of the wrath to come and that you cannot enter the kingdom as you are now.

Which brings us to the concern about scaring people to Christianity; I would put it to you this way.

If a son was arrested for <insert

*crime here*> and he was convicted before a good judge. Justice has to be satisfied, and the only way for that to happen is if they boy paid the fine. If he did not pay the fine, he would be sent to jail - forever.

The boy's father, knowing of the boy's plight, rushes home and sells all of his prized possessions. He works extra time at the office, sells all that he has and works himself to the bone for his son. Through his sacrifice, he manages to earn and gather enough money to pay the boys fine.

The father rushes down to the jailhouse and indicates to the jailor and the judge that he has the money to pay the fine that his son has incurred.

The judge turns to the boy and says, "Do you accept this payment on your behalf?"

When the boy says yes, it is not the fear of jail that has strengthened the relationship, but rather the boy turns to his father in love, and allows the fine to be paid on his behalf because of what the father has done for him.

I am a Christian, not necessarily because I feared Hell (although the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom - Prov 1:7), but rather, I am a Christian because of what my God did for me. I owe my life to Him and I give Him all honour, praise and Glory and desire to serve him in gratitude and humility.

- J.R. Hall

## Upcoming Events...

**Discerning the Times – Bible Conference.**  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada.  
Ramada Hotel (April 8-9<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

We are pleased to attend this terrific conference held locally here in Saskatoon. This years speakers are:

**T.A. McMahon –**  
The Berean Call

**Dr. John Morris –**  
Institute for Creation Research.  
**Dr. Thomas Ice –**  
Pre-Trib Research Centre  
**John Plantz –**  
Oxford Bible Chapel  
**Roger Oakland –**  
Understand the Times International

This will be a great time of

fellowship and learning.  
We hope to see you all there.

Go to  
<http://www.discerning-the-times.org/> for more information

## Overheard

**"We account the scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever."**

*- Sir Isaac Newton*