



The Watchmen

A VOICE FROM THE WALL

Inside:

- The Apostasy of the Modern Church
- The Great Commission
- The RCC and Evangelicals
- The Damage of Pornography

Individual Highlights:

Making Christ's Last Command Our First Concern	1
The Current End-Times Apostasy in the Church (pt 1).	4
Desecration and Titillation	8
Be Careful who Your Partner is	9
News Bites	11
Questions & Answers	12
Upcoming Events	12

Making Christ's Last Command Our First Concern

By Mike Gendron

The last command of our Lord Jesus Christ is known by many, but understood and obeyed by very few. Matthew records Christ's last command at the end of his Gospel when Jesus commissioned His disciples with these words: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Mat. 28:19-20). The Great Commission was a command for all disciples of Jesus Christ to become disciple-makers. Members of the early church produced many disciples by faithfully proclaiming the Lord's Gospel (Acts 14:21). Members of the twenty-first century church can make Christ's last command their first concern when they understand and apply four key characteristics of a true disciple that are given in Matthew 28:16-20.

Devotion to Christ

At the end of His earthly ministry, Christ asked His disciples to meet Him on an appointed mountain near Galilee. When the disciples arrived there to be commissioned by the Son of God, the very first thing they did was worship Him (Mat. 28:17). This is the reverent attitude of every true disciple. When the Son of God is not truly worshipped He cannot be truly served. Our worship is most meaningful and our devotion is most reverent when we are continuously seeking ways to glorify our Savior. One of the most consistent ways we can do this is by making His glorious Gospel known throughout our circle of influence. As God's grace is spread to more and more people, it will cause thanksgiving "to abound to the

glory of God." (2 Cor. 4:15). The great evangelist of the first century was so devoted to Christ that he could say with absolute sincerity "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil 1:21). Since Christ has redeemed every Christian from the slave market of sin, they should be completely devoted to their merciful Redeemer. *"You have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body"* (1 Cor. 6:20).

Submission to Christ

The second characteristic of a true disciple is an attitude of unconditional submission to our Master. Before Jesus gave His last command, He established His divine right to give it: *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth"* (Mat. 28:18). Submission to the absolute sovereign authority of the King of kings is not a disciple's option, but a solemn obligation and a royal privilege.

Obedience to Christ

A heartfelt desire to obey the One who gave His life as a substitute for sinners is another mark of a true disciple. Obedience to Christ will be motivated by our passionate love for Him. Jesus said, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"* (John 14:15). The deeper our love is for the Savior, the greater will be our desire to please Him in obedience. Our *"love of Christ controls us... they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf"* (2 Cor. 5:14-15). A disciple of Christ will follow Him in obedience while abiding in His word (John 8:31-32). The proof of a true disciple lies in what he does for his Lord and Master.

Obeying the Great Commission is very similar to obeying the command God



gave to Adam and Eve: *"Be fruitful and multiply"* (Gen. 1:28). In a similar way, all Christians are called to be fruitful and multiply. Those who really understand the Gospel will sow the seeds of God's imperishable Word and bear fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty (Mat. 13:23). In doing so, disciples will reproduce new disciples, teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. By God's grace, these new disciples will become obedient from the heart to the Lord's teaching (Rom. 6:17).

Christians must be warned that those who do not bear fruit are not true disciples of Christ. Jesus said, *"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples"* (John 15:8). Our Lord, who is the True Vine, chose us for the purpose of bearing fruit (John 15:16). According to a parable Jesus gave, trees that do not bear fruit are useless and should be cut down (Luke 13:7). May this sober warning cause us all to make Christ's last command our first concern. Let us all live for what will last for all eternity rather than what is temporal and will be burnt up in the end.

Presence of Christ

The Lord of the Harvest does not send us out alone to labor in the fields white for harvest. He promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age. Without Him we would be powerless to produce fruit on our own (John 15:4). However, the Lord Jesus offers His power to save souls through His continuing presence. He will always be with those who belong to Him, empowering them to be faithful to His last command.

Practical Applications

There are many creative ways we can be faithful to the great commission. Just as the moon always reflects the brilliant light of the sun, every Christian should always reflect the glorious light of the Son. Since we know that people are born again by the imperishable seed, which is the living and abiding word of God, we must sow these seeds wherever we go (1 Pet. 1:23). As we sow seeds, we pray that they will find

fertile soil, take root and begin to grow into new disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Distribute Gospel tracts. This is an excellent way to sow the objective truth of God's word. Wherever we go, whether it be to a restaurant, grocery store, department store, post office, etc., we ask people if they believe in heaven and how they hope to get there. Four out of five people never mention the name of Jesus in their response. When they give the wrong answer, we simply ask, "If that were not true according to the Bible, would you want to know?" A great majority of the people say "yes" which gives us the opportunity to share the Gospel and/or give them several of our Gospel tracts.

We also give Gospel tracts to Catholics as they are leaving their churches or bookstores. Once, when a Catholic priest found out we were handing out Gospel tracts, he confronted us and asked, "How would you like it if we did this at your church?" I said, "Please do, we need the Gospel at our church as well." One time a Catholic nun looked at our flyer which contained only Scripture, then ripped it up. My wife said, "That was the Word of God." The nun replied, "We don't need that here." We have also found that placing tracts on car windshields at churches is another way to make the Gospel known to those who are lost in religion.

Invite people to watch a Gospel video. This is how this ministry began 17 years ago. Every Tuesday night, for 3 months, we invited Catholics to our home to watch the video Catholicism: Crisis of Faith. During that time 17 Catholics exchanged their religion for a relationship with Jesus as their all-sufficient Savior. I can honestly say that there is no greater joy than seeing those who were dead in their sins come alive in Christ Jesus!

Invite people to your church or Bible study. Be like the apostle Andrew who was always bringing people to meet Jesus (John 1:40-42). Don't be like the Christian who was invited by his friend to play golf every Sunday morning. After 6 weeks, the friend said, "I always invite you to play golf. Why don't you ever invite me to your church?"

"According to a parable Jesus gave, trees that do not bear fruit are useless and should be cut down"

Host an evangelistic dinner. Not too long ago we invited a couple for dinner with whom we had developed a growing friendship while playing tennis. After dinner we told them that we loved them so much that we could not let another day go by without sharing what we believe to be the greatest news you will ever hear about the greatest Man who ever lived, who offers the greatest gift you could ever receive. We told them that if our roles were reversed, we would want them to do the same for us. After going through the glorious Gospel of grace for about an hour, we told them we would never bring it up again unless they initiated it. As they left our home, they thanked us for caring so much about them. To this day they have not converted to Christ, but we do remain the closest of friends.

Go on short-term mission trips. These opportunities give Christians a concentrated period of time to focus on evangelism without any day-to-day distractions.

Engage solicitors with the Gospel. One of two things will happen and both of them are good. They will either be interested in learning how to be reconciled to God, or they will think you're weird and hang up on you. We have had a few solicitors accept our invitation to join us at church. Others have asked us to send them Gospel tracts to consider the promises of Christ.

Develop a life-style of evangelism. A disciple of Christ is one who disciplines himself in all areas of spiritual life, including evangelism. We can develop a zeal for evangelism by asking God to give us a growing compassion for the lost, coupled with an intense passion to do the Lord's work. When this happens we will want to know the spiritual condition of everyone we meet. I believe the primary reason why Christians do not faithfully share the Gospel is that they do not grasp the stark reality of hell. If we could catch a momentary glimpse of hell and see the terrifying pain and never-ending punishment that awaits those who die without Christ, we would do everything possible to lead them to the Savior.

Our great God and Savior will be most

glorified when we understand all that He is, all that He has done and all that He is doing. May our love and devotion to Christ be manifested by bringing glory to His holy name through the proclamation of His awe-inspiring Gospel. The fruit of our labor will result in memorials to His grace throughout all eternity. The majesty of grace in salvation brings honor to the Father who initiates it, glory to the Son who accomplishes it and esteem to the Holy Spirit who effects it. Let us all magnify the Lord Jesus Christ by making His last command our very first concern!

- Mike Gendron



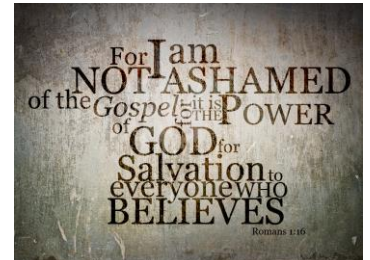
After obtaining a degree in Applied Mathematics, **Mike Gendron** worked in the space program at Cape Kennedy, Florida, for three years. He received an MBA from the University of Texas at Dallas and enjoyed a 17-year career in corporate management,

becoming National Sales Manager for a fortune 100 company.

A devout Roman Catholic for over 34 years, Mike was saved by God's amazing grace after attending a three-day evangelistic seminar in 1981. Upon completion of a Master's degree at Dallas Theological Seminary in 1992, he served as pastor of evangelism and outreach at a Bible church in Dallas for three years and founded Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry.

Mike has addressed the students and faculty at The Master's Seminary, The Master's Academy International Dallas Theological Seminary, Moody Bible Institute and Tyndale Theological Seminary. Mike has done seminars at hundreds of churches throughout the world and has appeared as a guest on many radio and TV programs, including The History Channel.

Mike is Director of **Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry**, a 20-year-old evangelistic outreach to those who are lost in religion. The ministry conducts short-term mission's trips and evangelistic seminars in churches throughout the world. The ministry web site: <http://www.proclaimingthegospel.org/> contains a wealth of information and resources that bring clarity to the doctrinal differences separating Roman Catholicism and biblical Christianity.



“We can develop a zeal for evangelism by asking God to give us a growing compassion for the lost”

The Current End-Times Apostasy of the Church - Part 1

By Dave Hunt



There is little doubt that we are today in the midst of widespread apostasy. By that term we mean: departure from the faith once for all delivered to the saints, for which we are to earnestly contend.¹ I believe that apostates include two types of people:

- 1) Those who have knowingly turned completely from Christ and no longer even pretend to be Christians; and
- 2) Those who still claim to be Christians but have departed from

The latter would likewise be divided into two groups:

- a) Those who deliberately twist the Scriptures, perverting the gospel "to draw away disciples after them"² or who endorse false teachers (though they know better) because they want to share their fame and power³ --or who simply want to be "positive" so as to "offend" no one; and,
- b) The naïve, who are genuinely deceived by false prophets/teachers.

Apostasy, of course, in some measure, has existed as long as the church. Most of the epistles involve, to some extent, correction of false doctrine and practice that was already in the early church in the days of the apostles. It is the mushrooming, widespread incidence of the apostasy described under number 2 above, however, among those who claim to be Christians, that I believe Scripture points to as a specific sign of the last days just prior to the Rapture.

The question, of course, must be faced whether today's apostasy has anything to do with prophecies concerning the last days. If so, it would seem that this "sign of the last days" has been largely overlooked by many if not most prophecy teachers. They usually cite as "last-days signs" only "wars and rumors of wars... nation shall rise against nation...kingdom against kingdom..."

famines... pestilences... earthquakes,"⁴ unusual weather, the move to a cashless society, the revival of the Roman Empire, etc.

I have been criticized for years by those who complain, "Deal with prophecy, if you wish, but stick to your subject--don't mix in apostasy!" In fact, one cannot adequately deal with the former while ignoring the latter. When asked by His disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"⁵ the first words from Christ identified apostasy as the foremost sign of the last days. In His response, He emphasized religious deception three times-and He specified what it would involve:

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.⁶ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.⁷ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.⁸

Christ's warning made several things clear:

1. The major sign of the nearness of His coming would be religious deception by professing Christian leaders;
2. A central feature of the deception would be false prophets showing "great signs and wonders," which, though convincing, would also be false;
3. The repetition of the word, "many," indicated that this religious deception would be widespread, apparently worldwide, and,
4. The words "Christs," "prophets," "signs and wonders," and "elect" indicated that the deception would be among professing Christians, i.e., those inside the church.

This warning was echoed by Jude. The first reason he gave as to why we must "earnestly contend for the faith which

"Apostasy, of course, in some measure, has existed as long as the church"

was once delivered to the saints" was the fact that "there are certain men crept in [inside the church] unawares...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."⁹

False Christs

There have been many in our day (from Jim Jones to David Koresh), who gathered followers by claiming to be Christ. There are numerous gurus in India who claim to be the latest reincarnation of Jesus Christ. The false "Christs" presented by novels, videos, and movies have multiplied (since *Jesus Christ Superstar*) beyond reciting. None is even close to the true Jesus Christ of Scripture. The "Jesus" of *The DaVinci Code* is a complete fraud dreamed up by atheists. The "Jesus" of the ABC-TV presentation confessed to Judas that he "blew it" in chasing the moneychangers out of the Temple: *"I lost my temper."*

That Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* received almost universal praise as "biblically accurate" from solid evangelical leaders is another indication of apostasy that has crept into the best pulpits unawares. In fact, it was almost all unbiblical. Much of it was drawn from the visions of a mystic nun and incorporated devices from the imagination of the director to arouse emotions. Nor did anyone seem disturbed that a sinful man (actor) was pretending to be the One who declared, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father,"¹⁰ and whom Paul described as "God manifest in the flesh."¹¹

The most prominent false Christ today is Sun Myung Moon, who openly declares that he is the Messiah come to earth to complete the mission that Jesus failed to accomplish: the establishment of the "perfect family." Yet some prominent evangelicals have spoken at conferences convened by Moon, sharing the platform that featured the man who says he is perfecting the work "left unaccomplished by Jesus."¹²

False Faith

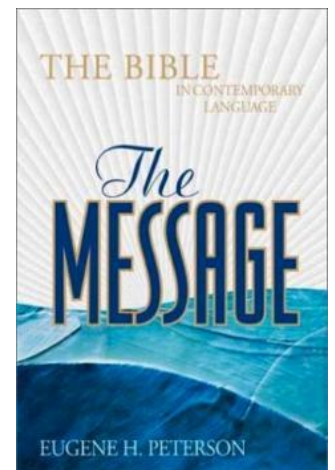
But what is the faith, a departure from which marks one as an apostate? Some might say that as long as a person believes that Christ died for his sins, was buried, and rose the third day, he is saved. But that declaration does not express the true gospel. As defined by Paul, the gospel declares the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ according to the Scriptures.¹³ Surely that involves who the biblical God is, who the biblical Christ is, what the biblical problem between God and man is, the biblical and only means of man's forgiveness by God, and the eternal consequences, as taught in the Bible, for those who reject the biblical gospel. None of these is a peripheral point of doctrine to be ignored or compromised. To do so would be a departure from the faith into apostasy to proclaim a false gospel.

The entire Word of God, of course, is foundational to the faith. The Bible is one book, and it is all interrelated - each part to every other. Sadly, the church and the world are being robbed of the pure Word of God - and by those who claim to be evangelical Christians!

Eugene Peterson's *The Message* (NavPress, 1993) is one example. Instead of "that the world through him might be saved,"¹⁴ *The Message* says, "He came to help, to put the world right again." That sounds like social and political action, the same old "social gospel," downgrading salvation to earthly improvement and it is found throughout this entire "version" of Scripture. John 3:31 says, "*He that cometh from above is above all.*" *The Message* says, "*The One who comes from above is head and shoulders over other messengers from God.*" First Peter 5:10 says that God has "*called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus.*" *The Message* says that God "*will have you put together and on your feet.*" What Peterson has done to God's Word is blasphemous!

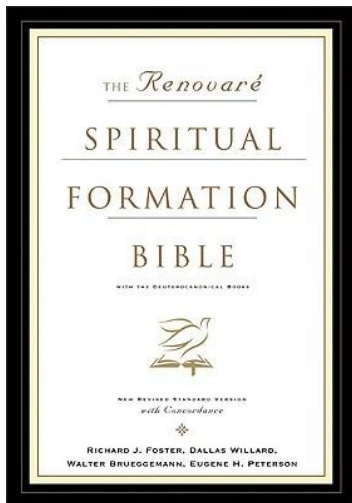
Peterson dares to change the words and meaning of Scripture. Hebrews 11:4 declares, "*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,*" but *The Message* says, "*It*

"Some might say that as long as a person believes that Christ died for his sins, was buried, and rose the third day, he is saved. But that declaration does not express the true gospel"



"Why do people spend so much time studying the Bible?... I'm just not at all pleased with all the emphasis on Bible study as if it's some kind of special thing that Christians do, and the more they do the better."

– Eugene Peterson
(author of *The Message*)



was what he believed, not what he brought, that made the difference." Obviously, both belief and action are important and interdependent. Moreover, Peterson has robbed his readers of the major theme of Scripture: the Lamb slain for our redemption.

Men like Peterson have no conscience about changing what God says, replacing His words with their own. Yet *The Message* is quoted more than 80 times by Rick Warren in *The Purpose-Driven Life*, which has now sold about 26 million copies [as of 2005], unprecedented in history. No greater promotion of this mass of heresy could be given than Warren's endorsement!

Yet Peterson's *Message* is also praised by other Christian leaders such as J. I. Packer, Warren Wiersbe, Jack W. Hayford, and Richard Foster. Peterson is "Consulting Editor, New Testament," for the *Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible* (Harper SanFrancisco, 2005) edited by Richard J. Foster. A host of "scholars" contributed commentaries, among them Bruce Demarest, Professor of Theology at Denver Seminary in Denver, CO; Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, MA; Tremper Longman III, the Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA; Earl F. Palmer, on the Board of Trustees of the long-apostate Princeton Theological Seminary and senior pastor of University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA, and many others.

The *Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible* was touted as "THE BIBLE AS IT WAS INTENDED TO BE" in a two-thirds-page ad in the July 2005 issue of *Christianity Today*, next to the masthead declaring that Billy Graham was the founder (of CT) and that J. I. Packer is one of the executive editors. It is odd that Richard Foster and some 50 "biblical scholars" would go to the trouble to create and publish this "Bible," considering the fact that Eugene Peterson, its New Testament editor, has said, "Why do people spend so much time studying the Bible? [Christians] should be studying it less, not more. I'm just not at all pleased with all the emphasis on Bible study as if it's

some kind of special thing that Christians do, and the more they do the better."¹⁵

Showing the apostate contempt of these men for God's Word, the *Renovaré* explanatory notes (bringing to evangelicals the old "higher criticism" of 150 years ago and still popular among liberals today) deny the Divine authorship of much of Scripture - even that Moses wrote the Pentateuch. Yet the Introduction hypocritically declares, "we read the Bible literally, from cover to cover [and] in context."¹⁶ *Renovaré* cynically declares that Genesis 1-11 is neither historic nor scientific¹⁷ and that the entire book of Genesis is merely a collection of myths.

Of Daniel, the *Renovaré* Bible declares, "We do not know who wrote it or exactly when it was written it was most likely partially written during Antiochus Epiphanes' persecution of the Jews in Babylon, which began with the desecration of the Temple in 167 BC."¹⁸ So it is the work of an imposter pretending to be Daniel 400 years too late! Apparently overlooked is the fact that perhaps a century before Antiochus, the Greek Septuagint was translated from even earlier Hebrew manuscripts, and it contains the book of Daniel as we have it today.

The powerful prophetic promise from God in Jeremiah:31:8-14 to bring home the Jews scattered around the world is interpreted as a promise to all homeless people (nothing about Israel) and God's promise that Israel can never be destroyed (31:35-37) is ignored! Israel is treated as having been replaced by the church.

How does this relate to departure from "the faith once delivered to the saints"? The Messiah doesn't step off of a UFO and say, "Voilà! Here I am!" He comes in fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies and with a genealogy that proves His authentic identity. Israel takes up most of the Bible, and its history and its prophets' inspired pronouncements are foundational to the Messiah's identity. If the Bible is not 100 percent true in what it says about Israel, then we cannot believe what else it says about Christ and our "redemption through his blood."¹⁹

If this "trashing" of the Bible, endorsed by many leading evangelicals and tolerated without opposition from others, is not part of the apostasy, then what is? We are losing the Bible in many ways, raising a generation on the spiritual junk food of religious videos, movies, youth entertainment, and comic book paraphrases of the Bible. The Word of God is being rewritten, dumbed down, and dramatized in order to cater to the tastes of the carnal mind.

The emphasis throughout Scripture is always on the words. The Bible is not a picture book! We are to live by "every word that proceeds from the mouth of God,"²⁰ a fact so important that Christ quoted it to Satan in His temptation.²¹ But the Bible is today being "improved" by script writers, movie directors, and actors who are replacing the actual "incorruptible word of God" by which we are "born again,"²² with dramatic representations (the entire New Testament is now on video) that may soon be the only "Bible" youth know.

Continued...

- Dave Hunt

This article will be continued in the next Newsletter...

Footnotes:

1. Jude 3.
2. Acts:20:30 .
3. Jude 16.
4. Mt 24:6-10; Mk 13:7-13; Lk 21:9-19.
5. Mt 24:3.
6. Mt 24:4-5.
7. Mt 24:11.
8. Mt 24:24.
9. Jude 4.
10. Jn:14:9 .
11. 1 Tm 3:16.
12. Washington Post, 7/30/96; 8/1/96; Washington Times, 8/1/96.
13. 1 Cor:15:3-4
14. Jn:3:17
15. "A Conversation with Eugene Peterson," Mars Hill Review, Fall 1995, Issue No. 3, 73-90.
16. Richard J. Foster, ed., *The Renovaré SpiritualFormation Bible* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2005), General Introduction, xxxi.
17. *Ibid.*, 14-15.
18. *Ibid.*, From the introduction to Daniel, by James M. Rand, 1245.
19. Eph:1:7; Col:1:14
20. Dt 8:3.
21. Mt 4:4, etc.
22. 1 Pt 1:23.



Dave Hunt was Born in 1926. Dave enjoyed the advantages of a godly upbringing, and placed his trust in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord in his early teens.

The ministry of **The Berean Call** was founded by Dave in 1992.

It grew out of a previous organization, of which Dave was also a founding member since 1986. With T.A. McMahon working alongside him at **The Berean Call**, Dave was able to share his love for and defense of Christ in the subsequent newsletters, books, videos, and speaking engagements that resulted from this ministry. Dave and T.A. wrote three books together, including the best-known *The Seduction of Christianity*, which was groundbreaking in its boldness, exposing false teachings in the church and daring to identify the names of the ones behind the deception.

At least 4 million copies of his books have been sold, many of them translated into more than 50 languages. They include: *The Cult Explosion*; *The God Makers* (with Ed Decker); *The Seduction of Christianity* (with T.A. McMahon); *Global Peace and the Rise of Antichrist*; *Peace, Prosperity, and the Coming Holocaust*; *The New Spirituality* (with T.A. McMahon); *Whatever Happened to Heaven?*; *Occult Invasion*; *A Woman Rides the Beast*; *A Cup of Trembling*; *In Defense of the Faith*; *An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith*; *What Love Is This?*; *Countdown to the Second Coming*; *Seeking and Finding God*; *Honest Doubts*; *Judgment Day!*; *Islam, Israel, and the Nations*; *Yoga and the Body of Christ*; and his final book, *Cosmos, Creator, and Human Destiny*.

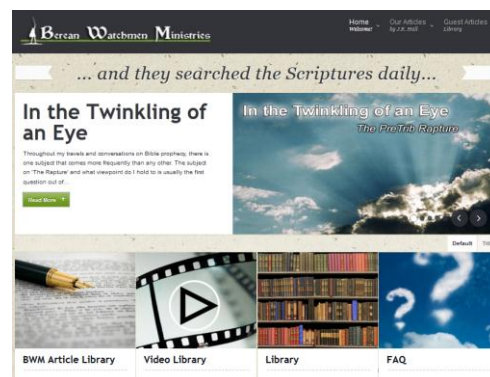
Dave Hunt left this world and entered into the presence of our Lord and Savior on April 5th of 2013. Dave has left us a legacy of inestimable value. We are blessed to be able to see and hear and read what he has taught about the evidence for God in a breathtaking number of materials. From explaining about the history of Christianity, to exposing the deception that has crept into the church, to teaching about the prophecies that are being fulfilled even today, this humble, brilliant man will go on teaching us for a very long time and we are honored to repurpose and publish his materials. We look forward to the day when we will see him again.

"The Word of God is being rewritten, dumbed down, and dramatized in order to cater to the tastes of the carnal mind."

Berean Watchmen has a new WEBSITE!

Check us out at:

www.bereanwatchmen.com



Desecration and Titillation

Pornography is ubiquitous today; addiction to pornography, especially among men, is equally widespread. Young men are often introduced to pornography long before they are able to understand what it is and what it means. Many a young man's first awakening to sex and sexuality is by exposure to pornographic sex and nudity. This is sadly, increasingly, the case with women as well.

Some Christians can take a kind of refuge in the fact that so many others share in the struggle. "We are all in this together" can minimize the weight of it. Yet the ubiquity of porn and porn addiction does nothing to lessen the horror of it. I want to ask you a question. But not quite yet. Read on...

Desecration and Titillation

There is an inescapable consequence to the fact that human beings bear the image of God: there is nothing God values more than human beings. Bearing God's image is an extraordinary privilege and brings with it extraordinary worth. Jesus asked, "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul?" If you were to accumulate the wealth of Bill Gates and add to it the wealth of Solomon, you would barely be scratching the surface of the value of a soul, of a person. Wealth will fade. It will rust and decay and be lost. People are eternal. When all of that wealth is gone, the soul will live on.

God says there is nothing in all creation he values more than human beings. And if this is true, there can be nothing more abhorrent to God than the desecration of human beings. There is nothing that displays greater spite toward God than destroying what he considers most significant. As man rejects being made in God's image, there necessarily follows a culture of death and desecration.

When you look at pornography you are watching the violation of what God considers more valuable than anything else he has created. It is a violation of all that person is, for sex is not only skin-deep but soul-deep. You are not only watching it but enjoying it, and not only enjoying it but being titillated by it. God says "I value her above all else because she is made in my image, in my likeness."

You watch her being humiliated and violated and desecrated and all the while fantasize about doing the same. God says "Of all I created there is nothing with more worth and dignity," and you delight in her desecration and indignity. God says, "I hate it when her body and soul is stained" and you say, "It turns me on."

I have an important question I want to ask you. But first I want you to consider another consequence of pornography.

Porn and the Portrait

There is nothing in all of creation with more value than human beings. There is no message more central than the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection. Long before the cross, God decided that he would embed within humanity a picture, a PORTRAIT of the gospel: marriage. The great mystery of marriage, a mystery that could be revealed only after the cross, is that marriage has always been and will always be about the gospel. The relationship of a husband and wife is to be a constant pointer to the relationship of Christ and his church.

Sex is inextricably bound to marriage. The only right expression of sex is within marriage, for only then can the sexual relationship point us to the intimate love of Christ for his people. Sex outside of marriage tells lies about Christ, it tells lies about the church, and makes a complete mockery of the gospel. To tamper with sex is to tamper with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When you look at pornography you are participating in this mocking of the gospel. You are watching the violation of the gospel, you are enjoying the violation of the gospel, you are being aroused by it. God says, "I have given you this great picture of Christ and the church" and you watch that portrait be defaced and violated and mocked, and you enjoy it all the while. God says, "The purity of the sexual relationship points you to the purity of the love the Savior has for you." And you say, "Right now I need a different kind of salvation from a different savior. A more satisfying kind, and one Christ did not supply at the cross. I need salvation only this god can provide."



"There is an inescapable consequence to the fact that human beings bear the image of God"



The Question

Pornography desecrates the one thing in all of creation that God values above all; pornography makes a mockery of that great portrait God has given us of Christ's faithful, compassionate love. And you who claim to love this God and who profess faith in this Savior, enjoy it, dedicate yourself to it, are titillated by it.

God wants you to know that there is forgiveness, that the same gospel you have mocked offers you forgiveness even for so grave a sin.

But I think God wants you to consider something else. He wants you to consider a warning:

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ... Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to

destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him - 1 John 3:6,8-10

Here is what I want to ask you: *Do you love pornography enough to go to hell for it?*

- Tim Challies



Tim Challies is a follower of Jesus Christ, a husband to Aileen and a father to three young children. A native of Oakville, Ontario, He has authored "The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment" and "Sexual Detox" along with the forthcoming "The Next Story" (April 2011). He blogs every day at <http://www.challies.com>; worships and serves at Grace Fellowship Church; edit *Discerning Reader* and am a co-founder of *Cruciform Press*.

"Do you love pornography enough to go to hell for it?"

Be Careful Who Your Partner Is

By J.R. Hall

A few weeks ago I received the latest newsletter from our friends at Proclaiming the Gospel. I was struck by a couple of articles in that they demonstrate not only how much we need to reach out to those in the Roman Catholic Church (RCC), but also how apparent it is that the evangelical church in North America has no real discernment on this issue.

The first issue is what the new Pope mentioned in a "Eucharistic Concelebration with the Eminent Cardinals Resident in Rome on the Occasion of the Feast of Saint George" (April 23, 2013) in which he is quoted as saying:

"And in this way the Church is increasingly a Mother, a Mother of many, many children: she becomes a Mother, ever more fully a Mother, a Mother who gives us faith, a Mother who gives us our identity. But Christian identity is not an identity card. Christian identity means being a

member of the Church, since all these people belonged to the Church, to Mother Church, for apart from the Church it is not possible to find Jesus. The great Paul VI said: it is an absurd dichotomy to wish to live with Jesus but without the Church, to follow Jesus but without the Church, to love Jesus but without the Church (cf. Evangelii Nuntiandi, 16). And that Mother Church who gives us Jesus also gives us an identity which is not simply a rubber stamp: it is membership. Identity means membership, belonging. Belonging to the Church: this is beautiful!... Let us think of Mother Church, who is increasing, growing with new children to whom she gives the identity of faith, for one cannot believe in Jesus without the Church... let us ask the Lord for this parrhesia, this apostolic fervour which impels us to move forward, as brothers and sisters, all of us: forward! Forward, bearing the name of Jesus in the bosom of holy



Mother Church, as Saint Ignatius said, hierarchical and Catholic. Amen."

It is very, very clear that the Roman Catholic doctrine that 'there can be no salvation found outside the Church of Rome' is alive and well. The Catholic movement of counter-reformation (which incidentally is championed by the Jesuit order to which the new Pope belongs) is on the move. I distinctly remember at Christmas this year there being several commercials about coming home to the church on the television. I myself of course go to a church, but obviously not one recognized by the RCC as a 'true' church.

Now Roman Catholic doctrine stating that they are the only way to Jesus is nothing new. It is only important to note that while they have appeared more ecumenical in recent years, at heart they still have their core beliefs. The real shocking thing in all of this is how we evangelicals fail to see their true colours. No I'm not talking about being arrayed in purple and scarlet but rather the fact that we keep believing that we're on the same mission.

Did you know that the 2013 William Wilberforce Award (from the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview) recipient was none other than Archbishop of New York, Timothy Cardinal Dolan? The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview states this about the award,

"The annual William Wilberforce Award is given to present its recipient as an example and model of the witness of real Christianity making a difference in the face of tough societal problems and injustices. It is named for the eighteenth-century British parliamentarian, whose impassioned, well-reasoned debates and writings helped end Britain's slave trade and reform the corroding values of England. The example of Wilberforce and his friends sparked a sweeping spiritual movement throughout the country, which in turn transformed a variety of social ills. In a similar vein, this award is presented both to encourage Christians to follow its recipient's example and to

demonstrate to the secular world the benefits of Christian influence in society."

In his acceptance speech the Archbishop (and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) said,

"Thanks be to God, evangelicals and Catholics are together, co-workers in the vineyard, especially in bringing the light of the gospel to a culture often in the dark, on noble issues such as the defense of innocent, vulnerable life; the defense of marriage as revealed by God's word."

Curious that the Pope says those outside are not of the faith, but yet we have the Archbishop of New York calling us "co-workers in the vineyard... bringing the light of the gospel". I think the conclusion is clear. The gospel they speak of cannot be the apostolic gospel. Notice the stress on the defences of the innocent, the vulnerable life, marriage and so forth. While those are all noble, just and prudent causes, they are not the presentation of the gospel, but rather the effects of its delivery. The gospel is that all have sinned and there are no amends that man can make to God. No penance that can 'make it up' to the creator. Only through the perfect life of Christ and His sacrifice on the cross can we be saved. Only through our repentance and faith in Christ - and by faith alone are we saved. Our only way to Jesus is through repentance and faith. No other penance is needed. No other contract needs to be signed and no doctrine to be followed. And certainly no blessings by men on earth can make us more fit for heaven.

I am now justified through Christ and will continue to grow in holiness and yes, I'm afraid that will be done outside of the rules and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. They preach another Jesus, another salvation, another way. Evangelicals wake up! We are not on the same mission as the RCC any more so than partnering with Mormons or Jehovah's witnesses. Do not help the false gospel to be propagated. We need to be reaching those caught up in the RCC and tell them the good news not patting them on the back and telling

"The real shocking thing in all of this is how we evangelicals fail to see their true colours"



A Sample of the many websites and organizations calling people home to Rome.

them we believe the same thing. We need to tell them the real gospel. Christ paid it all. "It is finished".

And yet it is no wonder why we are so confused. I mean with prominent evangelicals embracing Catholic priests as one of our own, it's no wonder that the North American Church can't decide if this partnership represents a huge mission field to be evangelized or a religion of "co-workers in the vineyard" for the light of the Gospel.

My friends, it is a mission field. We need to reach those caught up in the RCC system. We need to proclaim the Gospel of grace.

"Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God

He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." - Romans 3:24-26

Serving the King,

- J.R. Hall

"We need to proclaim the Gospel of grace."

News Bites

Pope Francis Says Atheists Who Do Good Are Redeemed, Not Just Catholics

May 22, 2013 – huffingtonpost.com

Pope Francis rocked some religious and atheist minds today when he declared that everyone was redeemed through Jesus, including atheists.

During his homily at Wednesday Mass in Rome, Francis emphasized the importance of "doing good" as a principle that unites all humanity, and a "culture of encounter" to support peace.

Using scripture from the Gospel of Mark, Francis explained how upset Jesus' disciples were that someone outside their group was doing good, according to a report from Vatican Radio.

"They complain," the Pope said in his homily, because they say, "If he is not one of us, he cannot do good. If he is not of our party, he cannot do good." And Jesus corrects them: "Do not hinder him, he

says, let him do good." The disciples, Pope Francis explains, "were a little intolerant," closed off by the idea of possessing the truth, convinced that "those who do not have the truth, cannot do good." "This was wrong . . . Jesus broadens the horizon." Pope Francis said, "The root of this possibility of doing good – that we all have – is in creation"

Pope Francis went further in his sermon to say:

"The Lord created us in His image and likeness, and we are the image of the Lord, and He does good and all of us have this commandment at heart: do good and do not do evil. All of us. 'But, Father, this is not Catholic! He cannot do good.' Yes, he can... "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone!

'Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone!".. We must meet one another doing good. 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good: we will meet one another there."

From: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/22/pope-francis-good-atheists_n_3320757.html

Editor's Note: This is quite the statement by the Pope. I blogged about it on the website at <http://www.bereanwatchmen.com/index.php/our-articles/blog/141-pope-says-atheists-who-do-good-are-redeemed>

So please check out the website to learn more as to why this statement is outrageous and heretical.

Since then the RCC has backed down on this stance a bit, even though we have always been told that the Pope is infallible and speaks for God on earth.





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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*

Check Out our New WEBSITE!

See us at:
www.bereanwatchmen.com

Questions and Answers

Do You Believe the European Union is fulfillment of Bible Prophecy?

Yes, I sure do. The visions of the statue from Daniel 2, the beasts from Daniel 7 and the final beast from the sea of Revelation 13 makes it very clear that the final empire on the world stage - prior to Christ setting up His never ending kingdom - is a reborn Roman Empire.

The fourth world empire in relation to Israel (Daniel 2:21-24) is that of legs of iron. I think it is very significant to realize that there are two legs depicted, and the Roman Empire did in fact end in two halves. There was an Eastern Empire with a capital at Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) and a Western Empire headquartered in Rome. What is also interesting to note is that unlike the other empires that were before it (Babylon, Medes-Persians, Greek) the Roman Empire was never conquered - it only fizzled out. The dream of the statue declares that there will be a 10 nation confederacy made partly of iron (Rome) and partly of clay (signifying that they won't adhere very well together - perhaps strife and disagreement). I think it is very significant to realize today that there is a Union of European

nations that encompass most of the original Roman Empire. Right now Turkey is significant as an associate member of the union, because as I've indicated before, Istanbul was once the capitol of the eastern Roman Empire. All the pieces are fitting together nicely into the scenario of a revived Roman Empire. Now we must not be too hasty though, because although the Roman Empire is being reborn, they still have a lot of strife and contention between them (clay mixed with iron). I do think there are still some things that need to be accomplished in the Union prior to the necessary components being in place for the final stages of earth's history. The Bible is clear that this is a confederacy of 10 toes (Daniel 2) and 10 horns (Daniel 7, Rev. 13) and as it stands right now, there are 27 member countries with 6 candidate countries being considered. This number is very different from the number 10 of which we expect. So with that I would say stay tuned, because these things will certainly come to pass. It may be 10 nations, or 10 regions or 10 economic zones, but undoubtedly the number 10 will come into play.

Another consideration is that fact that the European Union

has adopted for itself the distinct name of 'Europa'. And with that name came symbols and mascots as it were. Europa comes from mythology where Zeus came to a Phoenician noble-woman named Europa and decided to seduce her. The myth states that Zeus disguised himself as a tame white bull and Europa got onto his back. The myth continues but I wanted to show the symbolism of the woman riding on the bulls back, because you will see it scattered about the EU. The bull is often used as a symbol or national personification of Europe.

Go here for some examples of this:

<http://www.bereanwatchmen.com/index.php/faq/9-faq/60-do-you-believe-the-european-union-is-a-fulfillment-of-end-time-prophecy>

When I see these symbols being used so openly I cannot shake the image I read in Revelation 17:3.

The coincidence is too uncanny for me to ignore.

- J.R. Hall

Overheard

"The biggest problem in the church is its inability and unwillingness to distinguish true Christians from false."

- John MacArthur

Upcoming Events...

Annual Lamb & Lion Bible Conference

June 28-29, 2013

Allen Performing Arts Center at the Allen High School
300 Rivercrest Boulevard
Allen, TX (a suburb of Dallas)

http://www.lamblion.com/files/events/brochure_conf_jun13.pdf

Speakers:

- Dave Reagan

- Nathan Jones
- Don McGee
- Ron Rhodes
- Alan Franklin
- Robert Jeffress

Winnipeg Prophecy Conference

Sept 12-14, 2013

The Victoria Inn
Winnipeg, MB

Speakers:

- Dr. Paul Wilkinson

- Dr. David Hocking
- Dr. Ed Hindson
- Dr. H.H. Barber
- Roger Oakland
- Rob Lindsted
- John Feakes
- And more...

Christianity On Trial - 2013

October 2013

Royal Sask Museum, Regina, SK, Canada

Go to:

www.btmregina.ca/

For more information as this event develops.