

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION:

Its Trail Through the Scriptures

by

Dr. Dayton Hobbs

To those who have a basic understanding of our God, Separation should not be a doctrine that carries unexpected surprises. The following is my expanded statement of Biblical Separation as I understand it.

Biblical Separation is the active and aggressive withdrawal or severing from everything that is displeasing to God or that is contrary to His nature or a violation of His commandments as revealed in the Scriptures. It is negative, that is from evil, as well as positive, that is unto God. It includes separation from sin, worldliness, error, false teaching, wrong philosophies and unequal yokes (with the unsaved; with ecclesiastical organizations that teach error or support things contrary to the Scripture; and with brethren that walk contrary to the Scripture); as well as separation unto God. Separation is not conforming but being transformed. (Romans 12:2). Lack of separation in any area is spiritual adultery.

Our God is a Holy God

By the holiness of God we mean that He is absolutely separate from and exalted above all of His creatures, and that He is equally separate from moral evil and sin. It denotes the perfection of God in all that He is. In God we have purity of *being* before purity of *willing*. God's will is the expression of His nature, which is holy. His throne is established on the basis of His holiness. ¹

Our God Is A Jealous God

Exodus 34:14 — *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*

Deut. 6:13-15 — *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and*
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Don't forget to pray for our President, his advisors, and our country at this critical time. It is not time for God's people to panic but to seek His face, preach His Word, and look for His hand in the present events. *He ruleth by his power forever; His eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah (Ps. 66:7).*



*Look up, and lift up your heads;
for your redemption draweth nigh.*
(Luke 21:28)



THE REVIVAL OF PRETERISM

By

Ron Bean

A local independent Baptist church recently ran an advertisement in our newspaper proclaiming their unique position on eschatology. Their new "distinctive" was that they held a preterist view of the book of Revelation. This view is not new but it is gaining in popularity, particularly among some ecumenical and neo-evangelical groups and especially those who promote reconstructionist ideals. Much of the book of Revelation is difficult to understand and the preterist interpretation seems to solve that problem by making interpretation unnecessary.

Preterism is the approach to the book of Revelation that claims most of the book has already been fulfilled, with the exception of the last few chapters. Preterists hold that John wrote Revelation before AD 70 and that the majority of the prophecies of the book were fulfilled in the period of time from the destruction of Jerusalem to the fall of the Roman Empire in AD 476 and have nothing to do with the future. This interpretation renders the book essentially irrelevant for today's readers except in a secondary sense.

Preterism had its origin among Roman Catholic theologians (primarily Jesuits) in response to the Protestant Reformation. While the Protestant interpretation of

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EDITOR'S DESK

Love Spurned — Paradise Lost Genesis 3:1—19

The fall of man was about God's love spurned. Obedience is one of the definitions of love; that is from the servant's point of view. Obedience (willful obedience) is the demonstration of love. Satan's lie is that disobedience is a promotion and the first step on the pathway to self-realization or god-ness. Satan's questions to Eve put a doubt in her mind as to God's love. Did God have an ulterior motive in mind when He forbade you from eating the tree of knowledge? Satan had an ulterior motive in mind, and it was necessary to break the love-bond between Adam and God to accomplish it. "Divide and Conquer" was Satan's plan, and it was successful. Sin is a love problem. God's plan ever since has been to win man back with love. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

For approximately the first 2500 years love is not mentioned as an attribute of God. Only in the time of Moses, about 1500 B.C., after the requirements of law were given, was God's love for His people brought to light. *And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt (Deut. 4:37).*

After His resurrection Jesus pressed Peter on this point, "Lovest thou Me?", three times following his denial.

Obedience is a positive response to love. We must insist upon it from our children. Jesus learned obedience as a man by the things which He suffered. Some suffering on our part is necessary to learn obedience, which, if practiced brings blessings.

Salvation is the initiation of a love affair between the sinner and Christ. We are not saved by obedience but by faith; however, the proof that we have genuinely believed is the obedience that faith produces, which is the proof that we do, indeed, love Him.

Ω

PREACH IT, BROTHER!

Kevin T. Bauder

Before churches became centers for religious amusement, people used to go to church to hear preaching. The Reformation, the Great Awakening, and the massive spiritual movements of the 19th Century were built upon the power of the pulpit. Within living memory the strongest forms of American Christianity were those that were dominated by preaching. Fundamentalist leader T. T. Shields used to write out every sermon by hand, though he never preached from the manuscript. J. C. Masee hired an elocutionist to attend his services on Sundays and then to critique his sermons on Mondays. Stalwarts like W. B. Riley, Robert T. Ketcham, Bob Jones, Sr., R. V. Clearwaters, and Ernest Pickering knew that the success of their ministries depended upon what happened in the pulpit. They gave themselves to the task of preaching, and they excelled at it.

Now we live in the day of the sound bite. Current wisdom tells us that preaching is obsolete. Average people are not supposed to be able to follow an extended discourse. They need visual stimulation, we are told, or their minds will simply wander off. They are so used to sensory overload that they will attend church only to view a spectacle. Therefore, while we would not dream of changing our message, we must change our methods. Instead of preaching we must bring in bands, athletes, entertainers, and theater troupes.

Against this modern wisdom stands the New Testament insistence that preaching is God's plan. "Preach the Word!" thundered the apostle Paul in his last counsel to Timothy. Scripture, it would appear, not only reveals a message—it also requires a method.

This method is what Paul elsewhere calls the "foolishness of preaching." Disparagers of preaching have argued that what Paul meant was the foolishness of "the thing preached," or the content of the gospel. But the term cannot be dismissed that easily. True, the *kerygma* of 1 Corinthians 1:21 include the idea of the content, the message, the "thing preached." Some of the best recent scholarship, however, indicates that the term *kerygma* also emphasizes the means through which this message is delivered. In other words, the "foolishness of preaching" includes *both* the message *and* the method. The method is preaching, the public proclamation of the Word of God.

What would lead us to believe that we could abandon this method without altering the message? Students of art, music, and literature have always recognized that form is inseparable from meaning. Even secular critics of media and culture such as Marshall McLuhan and Neil Postman remind us that the medium we employ will largely determine what we can say. If these authorities are correct, then we run the risk of altering our message whenever we change our method.

Preaching may appear to be unseasonable, but Paul told us to preach the Word, to be ready "in season and out of season." This appears to entail a tacit admission that there *will* be times when preaching is "out of season." Nevertheless, we are not to wander from our task. Neither our message nor our method is to vary. Proclamation of the Scriptures is how God intends the Christian message to propagate.

Central Baptist Theological Seminary has no intention of

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The Projector



EDITOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs

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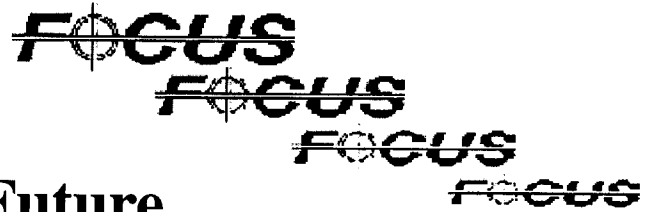
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FOCUS ON RELIGION



America's Future

By Tod Brainard

*"If religious books are not circulated among the masses and the people do not turn to God, I do not know what is to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be. If God and His Word are not received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy. If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will. If the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and the breadth of the land, anarchy, misrule, degradation, misery, corruption, and darkness will reign without mitigation or end."*¹

This was written by American statesman Daniel Webster sometime in the early 1800's. If Daniel Webster were to stroll the streets of America today, read her newspapers and magazines, attend her schools, watch her television programs, visit her churches, he would undoubtedly state, "I told you so".

As a preacher of God's Word I can only be as optimistic about human society and its culture as God has announced. The Scriptures indicate that this world culture will end in judgment and ruin. America is fast sinking in the slime of open sin. We have always had to deal with the plague of immorality and perversion. However, in the past, even sinners had enough decency to hide their wickedness. Our society simply cannot survive its open shamelessness and perversity. Inherent in sin is the ever present consequence of judgment. You cannot do wrong and get away with it.

"Were they ashamed when they had

committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 8:12).

A Special Form of Evil

In all the morass of sin present in this world's culture let us not miss a special, yet extremely dangerous form of evil. This special form of evil has been and is being produced by the so-called Christian culture. This may stun most who read this, yet it is true. Our religious culture (Christian Counselling, Christian Psychology, Christian Contemporary Music, Post-Millennialism, Neo-Dispensationalism) endeavors to artfully mix that which is of God with that which is of man in order to produce this special elixir which is labeled "good" but is indeed "evil". You will not find this form of evil in the records of our criminal courts, nor will you find it in the pages of filthy magazines or internet vileness. This form of evil will be found in the pulpits and writings of American Christendom honed and perfected by trimming methods and compromising practices that carefully avoid the exercise of Biblical separation from all evil unto God.

"Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love? therefore hast thou also taught the wicked ones thy ways" (Jeremiah 2:33). This is the special form of lawlessness against God. Lack of Biblical Separation (Trimming) provides learning material for the wicked. The Biblical Doctrine of

Separation always seeks to keep pure the things of God and works to prevent the mixing in of the things of man. This compromise of separation sooner or later brings judgment.

It is my observation that America faces in many ways what Jerusalem faced near her judgment in the days of Jeremiah. Jerusalem had been given light, opportunity, and God's longsuffering and mercy. Yet Jerusalem saw its countless hosts of religious leaders exploit the people of the land by trimming their way (the old paths of God) to seek love.

"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophecy falsely and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jeremiah 5:30-31)?

Does America Have Jeremiahs or Hananiahs?

Prosperity and blessing were ever on the lips of Jerusalem's religious leaders. Yet that preaching which God honors to bring about repentance and faith was absent (Jeremiah 23:14, 30).

Hananiah was a prophet who refused to accept the prophetic utterances of Jeremiah. Jeremiah pronounced judgment. Hananiah suffered from a case of chronic judgment aversion; all he could prophecy was of peace (Jeremiah 28:9). From the floor of the Temple, Hananiah made a show of such charisma and confidence that the people sided with and accepted his prophecies as true

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Biblical Culture vs. Satan's Culture

By Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Romans 8:8 - "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

The Natural Man

Every child enters this world with three strikes against him or her. The child itself has a depraved nature, corrupt and without any righteousness; the parents who have the God given responsibility to rear this child were also born with this same fallen nature; and the world into which this child enters lies in the arms of the wicked one, who goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Our Scripture above reminds us that it is impossible to please God if we continue in the flesh.

What then can be done to improve the natural condition of man without God? Can this fallen and depraved man be made more respectable in order that he might be acceptable to a civilized society? The answer is, YES!

Improved Flesh

Below are qualities that may be trained into lost humanity by human effort alone. These are very desirable qualities yet leave man without divine grace. Children may be brought up to be:

1. Very likeable and pleasant to be with; friendly and even charming.
2. Gracious and hospitable.
3. Generous in sharing their wealth or other goods.
4. Very accomplished in fine arts, music, sports, etc.
5. Dependable and trustworthy.
6. Sincere of heart, as far as they know themselves.
7. Refined, often more so than the redeemed.
8. Fearless, loyal, and obedient.
9. Brave and courageous, often demonstrating these qualities in a most honorable way.

This does not exhaust all the favorable traits that may be developed into the natural man; however, we must conclude that none of these are themselves spiritual traits. They are certainly desirable in the saints when they are accompanied by the presence of the Holy Spirit, who indwells all believers.

Natural Children

The point I desire to make is this: In the early years of our child's life, before they come of age to receive Christ (I'll not argue with you about what that age is, although I suspect it's older than we may imagine) the training we are to give them will vary very little from the training those unsaved parents give their children who desire to see their children grow up to be proper ladies and gentlemen. Of course, Christian parents have the purpose of service to Christ for their children, making their goal to establish a very distinct Biblical home. The natural man trains for the glory of man, whereas the Christian man trains for the

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From *The Testimony*
Volume 42, No. 3

Central Baptist Theological Seminary



Proverb Practical

By Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 1:7-9 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law (teaching) of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

This passage provides God's curriculum for teaching the fear of the Lord. In Psalm 34, David invites the children to hearken unto him when he says: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. So fear of the Lord is a quality to be *taught*.

Notice how the fear of the Lord is tied to the obedience of the son. This is the primer lesson of the fear of the Lord in the child. This is where the fear of the Lord is born. This result assumes as a given the godly character of the father and mother, for each has a role in teaching the fear of the Lord to the child.

What is the child to do? He is to hear, which means to do or obey the instruction of the father.

What is the father to do? He is to insure that his instructions are obeyed and that the mother's teaching of his instructions is carried out. Our proverb includes the admonition to the son to "forsake not the law (teaching) of thy mother." What is the teaching of the mother but the instructions of the father? The father is the law giver and the mother is to see to it that the son obeys the law of the law giver. This is the same pattern that God the Father uses to work His will.

How do the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work the Father's will? Remember that the Son is the Word of God. The Son is the instruction of God the Father. John told us that the function of the Holy Spirit was to teach the disciples all things.

John 14:26 — *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance . . .*

The Holy Spirit teaches the instruction of the Father for He has no agenda of His own.

In John 16:13 we read: *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.*

The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself but guides us into all truth given of the Father. So must the mother guide the child into all truth given by the father, for the mother's role is similar to that of the

Holy Spirit. Her teaching is based on the word of the father. She is to have no agenda apart from the father but reinforces and carries out his will. This is how it must work in the home if the fear of the Lord is to be learned by the son.

Isn't this the same pattern for the home we read of in Ephesians 5:33? *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

Here is the key to teaching the fear of the Lord to the son. The husband is to love his wife, and the wife is to reverence her husband. The word *love* in this passage is the word for godly, sacrificing love. It is love that seeks the welfare of the wife and works no ill toward her. It is the same love as Christ's love who loved the church and gave Himself for it. That is the Biblical standard of love set for the husband.

The wife is to reverence her husband. The word *reverence* means to fear her husband. This is the type of fear as in the fear of the Lord, the kind of fear that generates in the wife veneration and a wholesome dread of displeasing him. It is the kind of fear that produces what the fear of the Lord produces. This fear produces knowledge of her husband. This fear is designed to bring them to be what they are declared to be, *one flesh*. From this reverence, she knows her husband, she knows his instruction to the son and sees to it that it is carried out by the son. The father instructs, and the mother enforces that instruction. The godly father instructs, and the godly mother carries out those instructions as the law of the household. The child will have a healthy fear of the father and the mother, which is the first fruits of the fear of the Lord. Is it possible to fear that which the child cannot see if he is not taught to fear that which he can see? And he observes this fear in his own household as he sees his own father fear the Lord and his own mother reverence her husband.

This is the practical teaching of the Word of God. God knows our frame, but He also shows us the way. He does not tell us to fear the Lord without telling us how to teach the fear of the Lord.



(Continued from page 1—Doctrine of Separation)

serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

Joshua 24:19 — And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

Our God demands all of our love, our loyalty, and our devotion; that's the way He is. Our separation must be from this world with all of its enticements, unto God and all of His interests.

Genesis, the Seed Plot

Many of the doctrines of Scripture are given in seed form in the book of Genesis and left to be fully developed in later Scriptures. Probably the best example of this is in Genesis 3:15, where we have the very promise of a Savior. This is given us following the sin and fall of Adam, giving us a promise that is then developed throughout Scripture.

The doctrine of separation is no exception. Its first use is in the first chapter of Genesis, and there it is found on several occasions.

1. V.4 — God separated the light from the darkness.
2. V.7 — God separated the waters that were under the firmament from the waters above the firmament.
3. V.10 — God separated the dry land, Earth, from the water, Seas.
4. V.14 — God separated the day from the night.

Separation is necessary for a number of important practical reasons. In these cases, separation makes identification possible, which, by the way, we will see is true and helpful in many other situations.

Separation Expanded

Just as Genesis is the "seed plot" book of Scripture, or the book of "first mention", most doctrines after development through the Scriptures are fully expressed at some point later in Scripture. In the case of Separation, that passage is found in II Corinthians 6:14 — 7:1.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Bélial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

The Unequal Yoke

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." The doctrine is clear as to this aspect of separation: Unequal yokes with unbelievers are forbidden! These unequal yokes specifically cover five identified areas.

1. The first is Fellowship: "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" *Fellowship* defined: All one is and has at the disposal of the other; companionship; mutual association of persons on equal and friendly terms. Fellowship is precious and engaged in on a very select basis; it is the word of union between believers within the body of Christ. It surpasses man-made membership and crosses all denominational language, color, and racial

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Revelation held that Mystery Babylon was the papacy, early preterists said that it was the Roman Empire with Nero in the role of anti-christ.

Many fundamentally sound Bible scholars, including Charles Hodge, have rejected Preterism as a faulty interpretation of Revelation, yet now it is enjoying a revival of sorts. The danger of adoption of the preterist view is that it allows people to accept the Roman Catholic Church as another Christian denomination, to dismiss the thought of any worldwide apostasy, and to call any gathering of professing Christians, regardless of their doctrinal position, a revival.

Eschatology has long been an area where fundamentalists have had different opinions and interpretations. However, there are points that most eschatological positions share. One is that there will be a time of worldwide religious apostasy. That apostasy is either typified or fulfilled in the Roman Catholic Church. As one of the reformers said, "If the pope is not the anti-christ, he hath the ill fortune to resemble him very much." The cure for that apostasy is not revival but the intervention of God in judgment and the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. Preterism creates an atmosphere where a false optimism flourishes, discernment is diminished, and the existence of apostasy on any scale is doubted.

Ω



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(Continued from page 6 - Separation)

barriers. We believers need to hold it most precious, as it is the equal yoke that binds all true believers to each other and to Christ.

As believers we are to avoid the unequal yokes of lodges, secret orders, cliques, gangs, and cults. Over the years I have seen so many professed believers cling to their lodges full of secret degrees and pecking orders. I remember well when my father was saved at age 60. The first thing he did was to resign from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He had been the secretary and treasurer of the local Order through all of my growing up years; however, he was smitten by the Holy Spirit about his membership as soon as he was saved. It makes you wonder, doesn't it?

2. The second area is Communion: "What communion hath light with darkness?" *Communion* defined: Participation together; fellowship recognized and enjoyed; tied by purpose; unity.

It is obvious that light and darkness cannot abide in the same place at the same time. We believers have the light and the rest of the world lieth in darkness. We may work beside the unsaved or cooperate in a civic project of mutual concern that is not promoted as a spiritual endeavor; however, we may not be a participant in a communion where there is an attempt at joining light and darkness.

3. The third area is Concord. "What concord hath Christ with Belial (Ungodliness)?" *Concord* defined: Harmony, in accord as musical instruments; united effort.

Even the weakest position on separation would not likely put Christ and Belial on the same committee, yet Belial is a master of disguise and trusting saints with their guards down can rather easily be hoodwinked into cooperation.

4. The fourth area is Part: "What part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" *Part* defined: In common; part of a division; a portion of; share; concern; interest.

All compromise is subtle. That's why it is so dangerous. Once entered into, it is almost impossible to disentangle oneself. Having committed yourself to a compromise position, the next step is to defend your new position or to declare that you have not changed. From then on, the move toward more compromise is effortless.

5. The fifth area is Agreement: "What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" *Agreement* defined: A putting down together with, union of minds; endorsement; play ball with.

We are reminded in verse 16 that we "are the temple of the living God" and that separation from the ungodly on our part is required if we are to enjoy the relationship of sons and daughters with our heavenly Father. The promise of fellowship with the Father is held out as our inducement for cleansing ourselves "from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit" and "perfecting holiness (Separation) in the fear of God."

(To Be Continued)

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(Continued from page 3)

(Jeremiah 28:10-11, 15). He rejected the seventy year captivity spoken of by Jeremiah and declared only a two year captivity. How nice! Hananiah then took a yoke that was about the neck of Jeremiah and broke it in a charming display of confidence that God had broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. The chapter ends with the death of Hananiah in the seventh month because God declared, "**thou (Hananiah) maketh this people to trust in a lie**" (Jeremiah 28:15).

To read the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations is to read current news. America by and large has a dearth of Jeremiah-type preachers. Jeremiah knew how to get his hands dirty. He never let his tears get in the way of exposing error and the delivery of God's message to a corrupt people. Jeremiah knew nothing of tact and polished pulpit presence. His pulpit was a street corner and his message from God was firm and blunt. Jeremiah exposed the corruption of the religious leaders and castigated the people of Judah and Jerusalem for their lack of separation from the corruption of the priesthood and prophets. Very few, if any, Jews listened to Jeremiah. He was an outcast preacher with an unpopular message. He was maligned, mistreated, imprisoned and taken against his will to Egypt, yet his Heaven-sent message never softened or changed. I am afraid that if Jeremiah were around today he would be unpopular and uninvited in most preachers' schools today. His propensity to ruffle feathers and stir up controversy would be unwelcome and denounced as a "shoot from the hip" ministry. God deliver us from a generation of polished, professional pulpiteers who, in my estimation, tend to curry favor in order to have quiet and happy congregations, much like the priests and prophets of Jeremiah's day (Jeremiah 23).

America's True Crisis

America faces a crisis much worse than terrorism. In my opinion, we face the crisis of a wholesale trimming job being quietly accomplished by the "Bible preachers" of America who are afraid to practice Biblical Separation in all its affirmations and expressions as outlined by Holy Scripture. What terrorists can never do to this country, preachers and church attenders may accomplish through this special form of evil created by the "**trimming of their way to seek love**". Judgment may very well be on the horizon for America. May God be long-suffering and grant us conviction and repentance of the heinous sin of trimming.

¹ Daniel Webster, As quoted by Dr. J.V. McGee, *Lamentations*, Thru The Bible Volume III, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN, page 434.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Christian Friends,

May the Lord abundantly bless your labors and we pray all your needs are being met. I enjoy reading The Projector every time it comes into our home. We hope it will continue with the Lord's help for many years, Lord willing. May this small token help in some small way. PA

Although it is not possible for us to be with you this special week of Anniversary, we want to tell you how much we appreciate your faithful labor for the Lord in the row He has let you hoe for the last 50 years...I've met folks over the years whose lives have been touched by yours, and changed for the better. The Projector has often reminded me of truth I needed to be aware of and practicing...May the special week crown 50 years of ministry and fuel as many more! FL

I enjoy receiving the PROJECTOR. I do appreciate the timely and informative articles, and also the good messages. FL

I know you and your people are excited about the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of Grace Bible Church. The church has a wonderful history of fifty years of faithfulness to the Word of God and a testimony for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...You and your people are to be commended for standing strong for fifty years and fulfilling the great commission in many ways...Only God could have done this, and He receives all of the glory as you celebrate this wonderful occasion. NC

We just want to thank you for everything you have done for us. We miss you and pray for you. I cannot forget all the prayers you had for us when we were still lost. Then, the knowledge we received under your teaching that helped us to be a strong Christian. PA

I was pleased to note in the summer edition of The PROJECTOR that Grace Bible Church is observing the 50th anniversary...Having just read "Just Hoeing My Row" and the church history summary in The PROJECTOR, I felt that I was re-living that portion of church history that I had been exposed to and realize how fortunate that I have been to have been influenced by it.... PA



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"My deepest appreciation for your book, "Just Hoeing My Row"...I sat up last night and read it through. I was very impressed with the power of our Lord in it?" PA

"I finished reading your book... This younger generation knows nothing of what we went through, and your book helps to refresh them on some history that they know little of. Thank you for your valuable contribution. I hope that it receives wide circulation." NC

"I especially liked your prayer at the beginning of the book, p. 19... 'No matter what it might cost'. The Christian life isn't an easy life but very rewarding life." ME

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The Bandit
 By
"Aunt Carolyn"



Penelope Patricia Pendergast!" Oooh! When Penny was called that way she ran like sixty to the house. She knew Mother was angry, but what had she done? What had upset Mother?

Penny was forever getting in trouble, but oddly enough, she could not figure the offense this time. She didn't slow down though. The sooner she answered Mother the better!

Mother was standing on the porch, hands on her hips, and a grim look on her face that would freeze a polar bear.

"Yes, Ma'am?" Penny questioned.

"Yes, Ma'am, indeed!" Mother stormed. "Where are the bulbs? Where on earth did you put the tulip bulbs? I told you once, I even told you twice where to put them, and are they there? No!"

"Well," Penny answered innocently, "I did put them right where you said."

"Well, they certainly are not there now! What do you suppose happened to them?"

Penny was puzzled! She was flabbergasted! After all, tulip bulbs couldn't just get up and walk away!

This was getting serious. The same thing had happened yesterday with the seed beans. Penny had left them on the work table by the garage until Mother was ready to plant them, but when she called for them, they were gone! Now it had happened again with the tulips. It made Penny begin to look untrustworthy. Mother was beginning to doubt her word.

"Oh, Mother, I don't know what to say. I don't know what happened. I put the bulbs right here where you said!" Penny blinked back the tears.

"Well, we'll just see about this, Miss Priss! You had better be telling the truth!" Mother scolded.

"Yes, Ma'am," Penny replied in defeat.

The next day Mother brought up some more tulip bulbs from the cool cellar and got ready to plant them. Penny had doubts about helping, but she thought she would try. She opened the porch screen door just in time to see - to see - to see - a - THIEF!

She dared not yell for her mother. Instead, she closed the door as quietly as possible and ran to the garden. "Mother! Mother!" she called in a hoarse whisper, "Come! Come quickly!"

The distress in Penny's voice made Mother drop her hoe and turn as Penny pointed toward the work table.

"Well, I do declare!" Mother exclaimed.

There on the table as happy as could be was a little masked raccoon making a fine dinner of Mother's tulip bulbs! He was too cute to scream at! Mother just pushed back her sun hat and laughed out loud.

"Well, my Dear, there's the answer! That little rascal of a raccoon, masked face, ringed tail, and busy fingers has been getting our stuff. I know squirrels, raccoons, and such varmints will dig bulbs and roots up from the garden to eat, but I have never seen

one steal the seed before it was planted! I'm sorry I doubted your word, Penny, but I simply could not find the tulip bulbs."

"That's okay, Mother. I didn't know what happened to them either."

"Well, I'm glad we saw that little critter or we still would not know. We had better put out some feed corn far from the garden to lure that bandit away. He is cute, but our garden vegetables are too precious to let him eat them up! — You know, Jesus spoke of the seed of the Word of God being snatched away. We must guard against the devil stealing the Word of God from us either by keeping us from Sunday School and church where we hear God's Word or by snatching it from our hearts and minds after we hear it. We must guard against the love of the world, its ways, pleasures, and possessions choking and stealing the Word from us. (Luke 8:12-15). Beans in the ground will produce good food to nourish us; tulip bulbs well planted will produce color and beauty, and the Word of God planted and cultivated in our hearts will produce a life that will love, please, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and bring honor and glory to Him! Nothing could be better than that!"

Penelope Patricia Pendergast wished she could catch that little raccoon rascal that caused her so much trouble, but then she guessed he had taught her some pretty good lessons.

Ω



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ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS


The last issue of The PROJECTOR was dedicated to the 50th Anniversary Jubilee of Grace Bible Church giving anticipated plans for the occasion on August 5th. The response of our PROJECTOR friends was wonderful with letters, calls, and flowers coming from all across the country. The Church family and The PROJECTOR staff send warm gratitude for every contribution. Each was recorded in a special Keepsake Book. It was also a delight to have many former teachers and staff members as well as friends of the ministry both locally and out of state come to join in the celebration.

The Lord greatly blessed in the day with Dr. Bill Hall preaching the morning service and the afternoon Jubilee service. A young military officer received Christ as Savior, which was a joy as well as a great way to mark 50 years of ministry and begin the next 50 years. Special music and

testimonies were also a blessing. Dr. Hobbs gave a short review of the Lord's good hand upon the ministry through the years. Rev. Tod Brainard then read a resolution of the Church Board honoring Dr. Hobbs for his fifty years of dedication to the Lord as founder and pastor of the Church. Dr. Hobbs then recognized Rev. Brainard for his work and leadership since joining the ministry staff in 1987 and appointed Rev. Brainard as pastor of Grace Bible Church and saying that he would continue to preach and minister as Senior Pastor and Board Chairman.

We deeply appreciate the many people who prayed and worked to make the Jubilee a success and honor to the Lord. The emphasis of the day was well expressed on a large plaque crafted by Mr. Lud Opager, writer of the "Proverbs Practical" column. The beautiful wooden plaque permanently mounted behind the pulpit reads:

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1951 — 2001 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Lam. 3:23)		2001 "Occupy Till I Come" (Luke 19:15)
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(Continued from page 4)

glory of God. The Scripture is very clear, however, that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). Dr. Bob, Sr. used to say, "You can be saved in a moment, but it takes a lifetime to build Christian character."

Biblical Culture

We desire that our offspring be affected as little as possible by the anti-god, humanistic culture of our day. The more our children are engaged in that culture, the more they will be effected by it, obviously. Our responsibility as Christian parents is to create as much as is possible a different culture, a Biblical culture, in our homes; a lifestyle wherein the precepts and principles of Scripture are the everyday guidelines of our practice, not just our knowledge. Living in a home where the parents are professing Christians, where the family attends a Bible believing church and where the children of that home attend a Christian school, or are home schooled, does not necessarily mean that the parents of these children walk daily in these Biblical principles that are taught at church and school. It is the *walk* of parents that is important not what they teach. When we in fact bring the culture of this age into the home by means of T. V., magazines, music and other media, we undo anything we may say about a desire to rear children for God. Biblical culture must replace the world's culture in fact. The Bible must be our rule for faith and PRACTICE in order to produce servants for Christ.

Herein lies the problem. To paraphrase another's reasoning: Christian education has not been tried and found wanting; it simply has not been tried. If, indeed, we could filter out all the inconsistencies and contradictions that corrupt the education we call Christian, have a full set of teachers and administrators on board who are committed to Biblical Christian Education, have children to teach who come from real Christian homes not just professing Christian homes, then we could expect to see a large contingent of young folks indoctrinated with Scripture rather than the world, with an honest to goodness interest in Scriptural matters, and excited about a life of love and service to Christ. Ω

(To Be Continued Next Issue)