

The PROJECTOR

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

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, Editor

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THE APOSTASY OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH

By Dr. Dayton Hobbs

REVIVAL OF POST-MILLENNIAL TEACHING

Our subject is the apostasy of the Church. We have been studying in the Book of Isaiah and other prophesies concerning the last days as regards Israel. It is very important to always keep distinctly in our minds the difference between Israel and the Church. There are those we call "covenant theologians," who are having quite a revival in our time. Most of them are post-millennial in their thinking and doctrine. Understand that immediately following the completion of the

Scriptures in the first century, during the days of the apostles and their descendants, the only preaching was pre-millennial preaching. Even the post-millennialists admit to that. They say and know that the early Christians were pre-millennial. But as time went on the Roman Catholic Church became the dominant factor. Although there was always a remnant of believers, for some fifteen hundred years the Roman Catholic Church kept the world in darkness. Then there were awakenings during the renaissance period, the time of the reformers, such as Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Knox, and others who

once again began to make the Word of God preeminent in the lives of the people. There still was a great deal lacking in eschatology, the study of last things, and most of these men were post-millennialists, that is, they taught that Christians would bring in the millennium and once righteousness was established and peace had come to the world, Christ would then come and sit on the throne. Some emphasized different aspects of that thought, but that was and is basically the post-millennial position. There were also amillennialists, who said there was no millennium at all; however, the early Church was pre-millennial in its doctrine and practice. If you take a literal approach to the study of the Scriptures, letting them speak for themselves, I believe you will come to that conclusion. One has to symbolize the Scripture, which destroys the message of the Word of God, to conclude otherwise. It is important, as Paul pointed out to Timothy, that we "rightly divide the Word of Truth." We, of course, must have the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order to rightly divide God's Word.

ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

By Missionary Randall Douglas
30 Year Missionary to the
Caribbean Islands

A. The Plain Intent of the Biblical Record is of Great Importance.

Clearly, writers of Scripture intended that their readers understand by the description and duration of future punishment that the miseries of hell are conscious and continuous. Scripture nowhere leads, or misleads, anyone to conclude that future punishment is remedial, as universalism teaches, or temporal, as annihilationism teaches.

The Biblical record, when taken at face value, can only be understood to mean that future punishment is endless in process, not eternal in result. Scripture threatens the wicked with the reality, the eternity, and the possibility of the torments of future punishment.

1. Men are to fear God's wrath. The Biblical description of hell's misery is intended to strike terror and alarm in the hearts of the wicked. They are intended to galvanize the sinner to positive action.

It is well to keep in mind that most of what is recorded in Scripture about the terrors and torments of future punishment were uttered by our Lord Jesus Christ: See Luke 12:5; Matthew 10:28.

Read and ponder the following Scriptures: Mt. 7:22,23, 11:23, 13:41,42,49,50; 23:16,33; 26:24; Mk. 9:43-48; 8:36; Lk. 9:25; 12:9,10; 12:46; 16:22,23.

We can rest assured that the warnings of our Saviour as to the terrors of endless punishment are not empty or exaggerated. He never uttered false threats! It would be duplicity of the basest kind to arouse terror in the hearts of people when there was never anything to fear in the first place. The truth is that the torments of hell are real and endless and Jesus warned all men to fear the wrath of God! Knowing this ought to give a sense of urgency to the sinner and the soulwinner. See 2 Cor. 5:11; Jude 23.

See Punishment, Page 5

Covenant theology basically teaches that the Church is an extension of Israel. These post-millennialists teach that Old Testament prophesies concerning Israel's going back into the land at a future date are not to be taken literally. The reconstructionists, as post-millennialists call themselves today, promote this heresy; however, the Bible clearly distinguishes between the Church and Israel. God is going to fulfill in detail every promise that He made to Israel. He is going to fulfill all the prophesies of the Old Testament that tell of the coming kingdom, of a remnant of believing Jews that is going to be in the land, of that land blossoming as a rose, of the Lord Jesus coming to sit upon the throne of His Father David, and of His thousand year reign of peace, at which time the

See Apostasy, Page 2

Editor's Desk

"Ole Dog Tray was beaten for being in bad company." The echo of this truism so often quoted by my father when I was a boy still rings in my ear. The statement came from his youth and was found in either the old "blue-back" speller of Noah Webster or one of the McGuffey readers, I'm really not sure, but it had made an impression on my dad and certainly made an impression upon me.

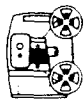
"Guilt by association" is as old as the third chapter of Genesis, and as new as today's compromise in the ranks of the Fundamentalists. I really do get quite amused at institutions, as well as individuals, trying to have it both ways; that is, take on the odor and/or appearance of the worldly "Christian" crowd, and yet scream bloody murder when someone properly lays on them the charge of guilt by association.

Birds of a feather flock together. In my early days of classroom teaching (in the middle 50's) I would never assign seats to my junior high students for the first few days, then I assigned seats being assured the flocks of birds were properly divided. It never failed to bring groans and moans and never failed to improve my position as teacher.

I don't have a problem with God's people who are desirous to please only God and openly identify themselves as enemies of the world and its styles and associations, but I have no time for those who want to straddle the fence in order to have the support of the God fearing folks, and at the same time, the friendship of the world which gives them success in worldly terms.

Some try to say that bad style does more damage than bad associations. I don't buy that at all; your associations are your best identity.

The PROJECTOR



EDITOR
Dr. Davton Hobbs

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Thank you.

T.J.B.

I am enclosing a small amount to tell you how much I enjoy The PROJECTOR. Also, I would like to receive a copy of the "Gothardism Evaluated".

Thank you.

R.S.

Dear Dr. Hobbs:

The PROJECTOR has encouraged us along the way. Keep up the good work.

R.F.

Dear Dr. Hobbs:

Thank you for your faithful proclamation of truth in The PROJECTOR. It has been a blessing and encouragement to read. As you well know, pastors are often on the cutting edge of issues and it is a great help to read the views of others.

R.A.

Dear Dr. Hobbs:

I appreciate The PROJECTOR'S continuing ministry. It doesn't seem like it's been 20 years! Your recent article on the shallowness of some of today's evangelism was right on the money. We see so many who "prayed a prayer" or "made a decision" and never manifest any spiritual fruit yet continue in their carnal security. May God give us real "conversions" as we preach His Gospel His way.

R.B.

Dear Sir:

I have recently joined the ministry of First Baptist Church, and for the first time came across your publication. I appreciated the articles in your 20th anniversary edition.....May God "project" your ministry into many more years of Christian service.

C.C.

Apostasy, from Page 1

curse will be removed from the earth. It is going to be a glorious, wonderful period of time, and everyone of those promises is going to be literally fulfilled. Israel is going to inhabit all the land that God promised them. It is theirs. God gave it to them, and all the promises and covenants God gave to Abraham are still in effect today. The Jews are still the chosen people of God. It does not mean that God endorses what they are doing today, or that He endorses individuals or movements or their activities of today. That is not the question. God is going to fulfill His promises, and their merit or demerit will have nothing to do with it. There are some promises of God that have to do with our faithfulness, but the covenants have nothing to do with man's faithfulness; they all have to do with God's faithfulness. God will keep His Word to Israel.

As we come to the Church, we see clearly, in Ephesians and other of Paul's epistles, that the Church is a "mystery" not taught in the Old Testament. God is doing something he had never prophesied He was going to do. He knew He was going to do it, but He had not revealed it. God gave to Paul and by Paul to the other apostles the mystery of the Church and what God was going to do through the Church. We must distinguish between Israel and the Church.

Now, we want to look at prophecies concerning the end of the Church Age to see what the Scripture has to say concerning the apostasy of the last days of the Church.

THE FALLING AWAY

If Thessalonians 2:1, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled," (obviously here 'our gathering together unto Him' has to do with the true Church, which is His body and its Rapture.) "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that day of Christ, (or the day of the Lord) is at hand." (He is saying that it is not present now.) "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a (the) falling away first." (It is a particular, specific falling away; the apostasy, at the end of the Church age.) So that day, the day of the Lord, "shall not come except

See Apostasy, Page 4

Stars of the Morning

By "Aunt Carolyn"



Peace Pie

A True Story of Pioneer Days

Mattie sang softly as she hung the clothes to dry in the bright sun. Summer days were long and hot on the wide Kansas prairie, but Mattie was sure summer was better than the long cold winter with its bitter wind blowing mercilessly around and through the little sod house. So Mattie was glad for the heat and sun and even for the extra heat from the big oven this morning, for before she started her wash with the tub and scrub board, she had made pies — cherry pies, wonderful, sweet, fresh, cherry pies, and they soon would be done and ready to come out of the oven. Wouldn't her husband be glad when he returned home to find such a rare treat waiting?

They had homesteaded this plat of prairie and slowly eked out a living. Four years had passed since they had staked out their claim and had begun farming the land. One more year and it would be theirs! That hope was a great encouragement and prod through difficult times, though life on the prairie was very lonely. Homesteaders were far apart. There were no neighbors. There was just Mattie and John and now their darling daughter. Little Cynthia added great joy to their lives and was a lot of company to Mattie when John was gone to the fields for long periods of time.

As Mattie worked, she kept a constant eye on her child at play in the prairie grass. She hung up a couple more sturdy cotton shirts and then called lovingly to the toddler, "Come on, my little prairie chicken. Let's go see about those pies."

She took the child's hand, and they went into the sod house. Carefully Mattie removed the precious pies from the oven and set them in the open windowsill to cool. How sweet and fragrant was their aroma!

"Ah," she smiled at Cynthia, "You will like to taste these good sweets when your Papa comes home tonight, won't you? I wish he were here to taste them while they are still warm, but they will be good tonight with a little warm cream — that is, if the cream has not soured by then. Yes, little prairie chicken, you and I must be patient until Papa returns. In the meantime, we have plenty of work to do."

As she brushed her soft, brown hair away from her face, she looked out the open window, past the pies, and stopped short, startled at the sight. There, only a few feet from the house, not far from where she had been working, were two big Indians astride their painted ponies. Leather leggings, feathered headbands, and bare, bronze shoulders shining in the sun, their sharp eyes stared down at her. Wichitas? Pawnees? Mattie could not tell. It really did not matter right now. The thought of being alone with her baby terrified Mattie. Her mind raced with memories of the accounts of Indian raids on wagon trains, of the massacres at Pawnee Rock, and of the ruthless slaughter of homesteaders. Her heart seemed to pound out loud. What should she do? What could she do? The baby! She must hide the baby! She must be careful. Any noise would bring the intruders. That was it! The churn! Tenderly, but quickly Mattie lifted Cynthia into the big wooden churn, by the stove, pressed her head down, and with a whisper to quiet the child, put the lid back on top with a prayer that the child would not be found.

"Oh, dear Lord, I do not know what to do. Save us, protect us!" She had no time to pray more, for the Indians were coming! Mattie froze by the open door. Closing a door would not stop wild savages. Closer, closer they rode toward the cabin — not toward the door but toward the window! The window! The pies!

Her heart pounding with fear within but moving with deliberate calmness without, Mattie went to the window and carefully took down the pies. With one on each hand, she walked out and slowly approached the Indians. Forming a smile on her face, she lifted the pies in a friendly gesture toward the formidable braves. The horses kept coming. No word, no sound came from the savages. At last, they were face to face. There was no more Mattie could do. What would happen?

The Indians jerked their ponies

to an abrupt halt on either side of Mattie. Each Indian leaned down, took a pie from her trembling hand, and without a sound, hurled his horse around and galloped away across the prairie.

Mattie stood watching in amazement until they disappeared over the horizon. First, she burst into tears of relief, then she ran in to the house to rescue her baby from her churn prison. Then hugging her child close to her breast, she burst into thanksgiving and joy over how wonderfully God had protected them.

She was more eager than ever for John to come home. She could hardly wait to tell him the whole story. She would make him more pies soon, but for now she was grateful for two, warm, sweet cherry pies, which had purchased peace and safety that day. After many an Indian conflict, she thought, there had been a Peace Pipe, but today there was a Peace Pie!

Whatever the vile intentions of those two Indians, that warm, sweet aroma, carried by the prairie wind to their nostrils, had melted their vengeance, and they had accepted the delicious pies as a peace offering.

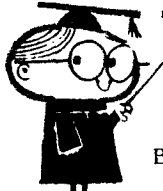
Boys and girls, as sinners, like all mankind, stand condemned before a holy and righteous God, whose judgment for sin awaits every unrepentant heart. We are helpless to save ourselves and unworthy to be saved from death and punishment in hell, yet Christ, "loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." (Eph. 5:2). Christ died in our place — His life for ours — and God will accept His offering for our sin if we will accept His Son. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." (1 John 5:11). □

HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU LATELY?


If you appreciate The PROJECTOR and would like to see it continue its ministry, we need to hear from you yearly with a donation of \$6. to \$7. or as much as you can afford to help with paper and postage.

Thanks!

The Editor



Teaching Tips
By Mrs. Doris Peppard



The Rockets Red Glare

An adventuresome way to add interest in a physical science, general science, or physics class is to teach rocketry. High school students can be challenged to widen their horizons and develop skills they probably never tried before. This unit can fit into any nine-weeks period without ruining your curriculum.

The Estes Company, 1295 "H" Street, Penrose, CO 81240, has many rocket models available for various skill levels. Our Physical Science class put together a science kit that built the launch pad, launch controller, and a two-stage, payload rocket. Everything is contained in the kit except materials such as glue, paints, tape, and sandpaper. The Project Manual explains in concise, easy-to-follow steps each activity necessary from beginning to launch and even provides information on altitude tracking and record keeping.

Rocketry is an excellent way to teach students how to organize and carry through a science project. Each section is divided into projects and experiments and is suitable for making reports. Students learn to read graphs, follow an electrical hook-up, measure and weigh accurately, and keep records.

Our entire school became interested and excited as word spread about our projects and as "Rocket Day" approached. From the bleachers on the athletic field, younger students led the countdowns and applauded each launch and recovery. This built school spirit and added pride in our young scientists' accomplishments.

Watching a rocket launch and drift back on a parachute can bring out the "kid" in all of us. It is a fun demonstration that will whet students' appetites to learn more, and the more they learn, the more they will enjoy it. This is one experience my science class will never forget. □

Apostasy, from Page 2

there come a falling away first, and that man of sin, (the lawless one; one who is totally without the restraint of divine law) be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth, (that which restrains or holds back) that he might be revealed in his time." (In other words, there is someone present in this world, who is keeping the Antichrist from being revealed. He cannot be revealed until a certain event takes place.) "For the mystery of iniquity, (the mystery of lawlessness—I use the word lawlessness rather than iniquity, because we usually think of iniquity as certain kind of sin such as immorality or murder, and those things may be a result of lawlessness; whereas, lawlessness is a basic disregard for divine law and authority.) doth already work." (Paul said it was already at work in his time.) "Only he who now letteth (hinders) will let (hinder) until he be taken out of the way." He is speaking of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is taken out then that lawless one will be revealed. By the way, if the Holy Spirit lives in you, you are supposed to be a hinderer of Satan's work. The Holy Spirit lives in blood-washed individuals, so it is these individuals who are to resist sin in the power of the Holy Spirit. If you are not resisting evil, you are not in harmony with the work of the Holy Spirit. He opposes, He resists Satan's work. He speaks up; He says, "No, I don't agree with that.



I'm opposed to that." He speaks up, and He hinders that lawless one from being revealed.) "And then shall that Wicked (lawless or iniquitous one) be revealed." As soon as the Holy Spirit is taken out, the Lawless One is revealed. The Holy Spirit indwells believers, and all God has to do to rapture the Church is to recall His Ambassador! When God recalls the Holy Spirit, the rapture will take place. That's the trump, the call to recall His Ambassador, and when He does that, all who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit will go. When the redeemed who are alive upon the earth at that point in time are raptured out as the Holy Spirit is taken, then the Antichrist can be revealed. He cannot be revealed until the rapture takes place. "And then shall that Wicked (lawless one), be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

THE CHURCH'S CONDITION

Let us look at the apostasy in the Visible Church at the time of the rapture, vs. 9 & 11, "Even him, (antichrist) whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders," and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness..." (Unrighteousness is so deceivable. Men love to be deceived, and this one is the arch-deceiver.) "In them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a (the) lie." (It is the lie; it is not just any lie. It is the Lie.) The lie is that Antichrist is God, that man is God, that man

See Apostasy, Page 6

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Punishment, from Page 1

2. Men are to flee God's wrath. See Mt. 3:7; Lk. 3:7. Common sense alone would teach us that if the "wrath to come" was only remedial or temporal there would be nothing to fear or flee. But the language of Scripture is clear and plain. The wicked will be summoned before, sentenced by, and separated from God in the Lake of Fire to suffer endless torments.

B. We Must Understand the Biblical Purpose of Fire.

Consistently, Scripture reveals the purpose of "eternal fire" is not to consume but to torment. Fire is not intended to terminate a sinner's existence but to torment the sinner in his existence. Note the following Scriptures.

1. Luke 16:24

Clearly, the rich man was not being consumed. However, he was tormented in the flame. Furthermore, he held no hope that the torment would end. He only plead for temporary relief from the torment of the flame.

2. Matthew 25:41,46

The wicked will "go away into everlasting punishment." They will not "go unto everlasting punishment." The preposition "into" denotes the process, whereas "unto" would denote the result. The wicked will "go into" eternal, conscious punishment but will never be delivered out of it.

The states of the wicked and the righteous are contrasted. "Eternal life" awaits the righteous. "Everlasting punishment" awaits the wicked. The words "everlasting" and "eternity" translate the Greek word aionion. "Eternal" denotes unbounded, eternal duration. See 1 Tim. 1:17; Jn. 5:24.

3. Jude 7

The cities were destroyed and reduced to ashes by fire. However, the inhabitants are (presently) "suffering (undergoing) the punishment of eternal fire." In other words, the fire that destroyed the cities was not "eternal fire." When Jude wrote his epistle the inhabitants were suffering the torment of eternal fire. Their suffering only continued in another place after the cities, not the people, were reduced to ashes.

4. 2 Peter 2:6-9

"Under punishment" translates

kalozzo, which means the continuation of punishment. The ASV translates this verse thus: "The Lord knows how...to keep the unrighteous under punishment unto the day of judgment."

5. Revelation 14:10,11

The fire is the source of suffering and not the symbol of annihilation.

6. Revelation 19:20

Satan will be "cast... into the bottomless pit" (19:13), which is called a "prison" (19:7). He shall remain there one thousand years, after which he is released (19:8). Fire falls on Satan and his armies and "devoured them" (19:9). After this "devouring," he is "cast into the Lake of Fire" (19:10). Obviously, "devoured" does not mean annihilation. See also Rev. 20:10.

The design of the fire is that Satan should be "tormented." The duration of the torment is "forever and ever." Note that after one thousand years in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20) the beast and the false prophet are not annihilated. Evidently, the fire in the Lake of Fire is not a fire that consumes or destroys in the sense of annihilation, but is fire that holds the wicked under punishment and torment.

7. Mark 9:43-49

The context deals with punishment (9:44,46,48). This passage speaks of two things: unquenchable flames and undying worms. The "worm" has been understood to mean one of two things: the never dying memory of man or worms that devour and decompose a dead body. Either view will permit only one conclusion; punishment is eternal.

The wicked escape annihilation because "the fire" acts as "salt" (9:49). In other words, the fire preserves the wicked for the purpose of enduring suffering. The wicked will be preserved for suffering, not from suffering, by fire.

C. We Must Understand the Meaning of Destruction and Related Terms.

"Destruction" translates appolumi. Annihilation is never its intended meaning. Primarily, the word means ruin, not extinction; loss, not of being, but of well-being. Appolumi means ill-being, never non-being. A comparison of the way the word is translated will bring out its intended

meaning.

Appolumi is translated marred (Mk.2:22), lost (Mt. 10:6; 15:24; 18:11; Lk. 15:4,6,32), perish (Jn. 3:16; Mt. 9:17, I Cor. 8:11), waste (Mt. 26:8; Mk. 14:4), spoiled (Jn. 6:27), and die (Jn. 18:14). None of these verses mean extinction of being or annihilation. Note carefully the following Scriptures.

1. Psalms 78:45

The Egyptians were not annihilated by the plague of frogs. This was the second plague. Had they been consumed, the remaining eight plagues would have been unnecessary.

2. Isaiah 57:1

The evident meaning of this verse is that the righteous die and none is concerned. No one would teach that the righteous are annihilated or cease to exist.

3. Jeremiah 7:28

Truth is forever settled in heaven and cannot be annihilated.

4. Hosea 13:9

Obviously, Israel has not annihilated herself. Even though the nation has become unprofitable for God, Israel has not ceased to exist.

5. Matthew 27:20

No sane person would argue that Jesus is annihilated. The word "destroy" refers to the fact of His crucifixion. See Jn. 2:19.

6. Matthew 26:24

Never to have been born is not the same as to die. If Jesus Christ was referring to annihilation, He should have said, "It will be good for that man when he dies."

7. I Corinthians 5:5

Only "flesh" is destroyed. The body dies. The spirit cannot die.

8. I Thessalonians 5:3

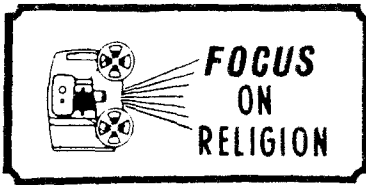
"Sudden destruction" comes upon false prophets and teachers during this life. The fact that unbelievers shall stand at the Great White Throne Judgment indicates this is not annihilation.

9. 2 Thessalonians 1:9

"Destruction" translates olethros, and means "the loss of a life of blessedness," not extinction of being. The judgment is "from the presence of the Lord," that is, it comes from Him and results in banishment from Him.

The judgment of God on the

See Punishment, Page 6



By Rev. Tod Brainard

**CHOOSING CHRIST
HONORING MUSIC**

In our study of the subject at hand it is important to remember that music delivers a message all its own; it has a special intrinsic quality. Music without words can stir a person to emotional responses the same as music with words. Music is moral. Now, a musical note by itself is amoral. It is neither right nor wrong. But when musical notes are combined together in harmony, you have created a moral expression that communicates a very specific message.

The Word of God tells us that our singing must be Holy Spirit controlled. This is found in I Corinthians 14:16, "I will sing with the spirit, I will sing with the understanding also." A better translation may be rendered, "I will sing with Spirit controlled understanding."

There are three areas of music that must be Holy Spirit dominated and controlled in the believer's life.

- 1) Melody as it relates to the spirit. I Corinthians 14:15,16; I Corinthians 2:15, Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 5:18,19

It is extremely important to underscore the truth that "melody" is always the most important element in music. The Scriptures declare that we are to sing with "melody in our hearts to the Lord." The spirit is the essence of our being and the Word of God expresses that our worship, our daily walk should be in "spirit and in truth" as opposed to fleshly. God's Holy Spirit bears witness with "our spirit" that we are the children of God.

- 2) Harmony as it relates to the mind. I Corinthians 2:16; Amos 3:3; Romans 6:4; I Timothy 1:7; I Samuel 16:14-17,23.

Philippians 4:2 tells us that we should "be of the same mind in the Lord". As Christians we "have the mind of Christ." Harmony, according to Webster's 1828 Diction-

ary, means "a suiting or a fitting together; a joint." Agreement, concord, or consonance that pleases the ear is a suitable definition for harmony as it relates to music. As a sinner, I must come to Christ and agree (be in harmony) with God concerning what He has said about my sinful condition. Believing and agreeing with God involves the mind and when the sinner receives God's perfect remedy for sin that one can now walk in agreement (harmony) with God. The harmony of faith in Christ pleases a just and holy God. Abiding in Christ brings perfect unity and harmony with God and fellow believers who also are abiding in Christ.

- 3) Rhythm as it relates to the body. I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 6:15, 19,20; I Corinthians 9:27; Romans 12:1; I Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 6:4

Sinful mankind always has and always will emphasize the body. Almost all forms of entertainment

and sports emphasize the physical body. Man glories in his body, yet God, on the other hand, emphasizes the spirit.

Rhythm is the uniform recurrence of a beat. Our physical body has a natural rhythm. Rhythm is a God-created factor of our physical being. It is part of God's orderly arrangement of His creation. The entire universe has an orderly rhythm and cycle. But as God's word tells us, this earth and all nature is under a curse, and all things are degenerating. This world is groaning under the curse and the corruption of wicked man and is slowly breaking down (Psalms 102:25,26.) We must never let the physical become the predominant motivating factor in our choices. We are corrupt by nature and our heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Our body cannot be trusted.

Bible truths must be our standard to judge our choices in music for worship and personal listening.

WHAT IS "CHRISTIAN" PSYCHOLOGY?

(Article from The BDM Letter, Vol. 1, No. 5, May, 92)

Most Christians mistakenly believe that there is an identifiable body of knowledge known as "Christian psychology." That simply isn't true. There is no Christian who is recognized as being on a par with Freud, Jung, Rogers, Maslow, et al, and who is the founder of a particular school of psychology known as "Christian" psychology. No such school is recognized even by Christian psychologists and certainly cannot be found in any psychology textbook. One can be a Rogerian therapist, a Freudian psychoanalyst, or the follower of any one or a combination of numerous schools of psychology (such as behavioristic, humanistic, transpersonal, etc). But Christian psychology? It doesn't exist.

Then what is meant by this term? What is so-called "Christian" psychology? It is simply one form or another of secular psychology developed by godless humanists hostile to the Bible and now dressed up in Christian language. Nor do Christian psychologists even agree among themselves—they are the followers of many different contradictory schools of secular psychology.

That this is the source of all Christian psychology cannot be denied. One of the "fathers" of

Christian psychology Bruce Narrmore, for example, writes: "Under the influence of humanistic psychologists like Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow, many of us Christians have begun to see our need for self-love and self-esteem." He's saying that nobody in 1900 years of studying the Word got that idea out of the Bible. It came from the humanists. And you, therefore, can't check it out from the Book to see if they're telling the truth or not. The Bible is no longer sufficient.

Narramore admits that godless humanists opposed to the gospel were the ones who gave Christian psychology a new interpretation of the Bible unknown to the Church until that time. The same is true of every idea that is being seductively brought into the Church through Christian psychology. And we are supposed to be pleased that the Bible has been reconciled to humanism and has wonderfully been shown to be in agreement with the theories of Freud, Jung, et al! We are asked to accept "new insight" into the true meaning of God's Holy Word, an insight that was conceived by enemies of the cross of Christ.



Apostasy, from Page 6

be in full apostasy. We are in the midst of the darkest time the Church has ever seen. We are in the darkest time America has ever seen. We are not in the midst of any awakening! God in every age and time has saved people, and there are folks being saved today. In some places there may even be revivals taking place. There are certain countries where people have responded to the Gospel, who have not before. In some places there are even Moslem people, who before were hardened to the Gospel, who are responding. I'm not saying that there are not places where folks are being saved, but what is the moral condition, what is the spiritual condition of America? What is the moral condition of England? These two great western powers into whose hands God put the Gospel and the privilege of sending out the Gospel. In the 1800's it was England; in the 1900's it has been primarily America, but what now is the condition of our nation? Well, here in II Timothy, we find it described. You must realize that the world would not recognize this, and the institutional Church, itself, would not recognize it because it is a part of the blindness. "This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves." (I never, until the last ten years, heard men talk about loving themselves. I heard them talk about loving others, but the message today is that you cannot love anyone else until you love yourself. Well, if that's the case, we really ought not to have any problem with loving others, because we surely do love ourselves! The Scripture says that there has not been anybody who has ever lived that hated his own flesh (Ephesians 5:29.) We love ourselves; that's our problem! And that's what the Scripture says: "Men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." It sounds as if I am reading a description of the world, doesn't it? It is not. It is a description of the apostate Church. You say, how can that be? Yes, this is a description of the Church in the last days. We are not talking about the world. Everybody knows the world is unbelieving and rotten, but this is a description of the Church. If you don't believe it, look at verse five. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." They profess to be the godly. They

profess to be the righteous, but they deny the Holy Spirit and the authority of the Word of God over their lives. Oh, they hold up the Bible. They speak a lot of mushy, sweet talking, sugar-coated Christianity. They talk pious, sweet, and religious. They have a form of godliness. They have a good veneer, but they deny the power. Listen, folks, they deny the power! What is the power? What is the authority? The authority is the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to interpret the Word of God, and they deny it. They talk and preach from the Bible, but the Bible does not guide their lives. The Bible does not regulate their conduct. The Bible does not say to them what they should do and what they should not do. It does not regulate their lives. They make those decisions themselves. Do you not see that this is the condition of the visible Church today? This is the condition of the Church in the apostasy. Paul said in II Thessalonians 2:7, "The mystery of iniquity (lawlessness) doth already work," that was in his day. It has had almost two thousand years since to be developing. This "leaven" in the "meal" has eaten and eaten its way out until it has corrupted the whole barrel. Today the whole barrel is rotten! Now God has His saved people; God has His remnant. Some churches are still fighting the battle and standing true for God. There are those individuals in almost every congregation who love the Lord. Some of them are like Lot in his day, heartbroken because of the conditions, but they themselves are many times part of the problem, because they don't come out and take their stand. They do like Lot and stay in a corrupt situation, usually losing their children and being ineffective as a force to resist the evil of the day.

NO RETURN

Now this condition of apostasy will get worse and worse till the true Church is raptured out. I believe that the apostasy is so deeply upon us today until the institutional Church is in such a deceived condition that it cannot even see its condition and how desperate it really is. Now this word, apostasy, simply means falling away or departure, a departure from where you used to stand. It is the act of professed Christians, who deliberately reject revealed truth, (that is, the deity of Christ, redemption through His atoning and redeeming sacrifice, etc.) not just error concerning truth. We need to understand the difference between apostasy and error. People can be in error concerning truth and

still be saved. For instance, you can be a Christian and believe you can lose your salvation. Well, you are in error when you believe that, but you can still be a Christian. So it is possible to hold to error and still be a Christian. Apostasy and error are not the same thing. It is possible to be an heretic and be saved. You can hold to something that is not a Scriptural teaching and still be a Christian. II Timothy 2:25, 26 speaks of those who are under the snare of the devil. You can be a Christian and get caught in the snare of the devil. You see, ignorance can be eliminated by accepting and growing in truth. Error or heresy can be eliminated by recognizing the fact that you are holding an unscriptural position and then rejecting that position; however, apostasy has no cure. One who has been exposed to the light of God's truth and then turns from that truth, cannot be restored to that truth (Hebrews 6:4-6.) Remember, apostates start out saying they believe these truths, but in time by their life, if not vocally, tacitly, if not openly, they deny the faith.

WALK, NOT TALK

Now, how do you tell the difference? You tell not by the talk but by the walk. The first thing that a wise, discerning Christian learns to do is to pay no attention to what people say but to look at what they are. What message does your life give out? Genuine believers produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their walk and their talk.



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