

The PROJECTOR

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

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, Editor

P.O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32572

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THE APOSTASY OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH

PART TWELVE (CONTINUED)
by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Woe to her that is filthy [rebellious] and polluted [defiled], to the oppressing city! She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God. Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow [they leave nothing for the morning, NAS]. Her prophets are light [arrogant] and treacherous persons: Her priests have polluted [profaned] the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law (Zephaniah 3:1-4).

SERIOUS CHARGES ARE here laid against Jerusalem in the prophet Zephaniah's day. It was a time of moral corruption, and the leadership that should have been pointing the people to Jehovah was deeply engrossed in selfish endeavors: corrupt activities that revealed their love of self and their failure to fulfill their offices which were set up by God for the welfare of His people. The princes, the judges, the prophets, and the priests were taking advantage of the people for their own personal satisfaction and gain.

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ILLUMINATING ISSUES

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WITH THE LORD



REV. RANDALL EUGENE DOUGLAS, 58, a 30-year missionary to the West Indies, went home to be with the Lord on March 29, 1995, after a battle with cancer. The singular story of the Lord's care for His faithful servant in bringing him home from the field so the sickness could be revealed and treated is one of blessing and exaltation of the Lord.

In the midst of a fruitful ministry, the cancer came as a shock, but Brother Douglas was yielded to the will of God. "I do not understand," he said, "but I do not have to understand. I just trust."

Brother Douglas was a dedicated Christian, missionary, and servant of the Lord. At his funeral, fellow preachers who knew him best testified that he loved the Word of God and was an avid student of the Scriptures. Several of his articles have appeared in The PROJECTOR from time to time. He will be greatly missed by all of us at The PROJECTOR.

Promise Keepers

by M.H. Reynolds
Editor, FOUNDATION magazine

A NEW MEN'S MOVEMENT called *Promise Keepers* is sweeping our nation like a wildfire. Is it of God or man? Will it solve the problems of those who have embraced its principles and teachings, or will it compound those problems? Can a Biblical answer be given to those important questions now, or is it best to withhold judgment until a later time?

Obviously, some very conflicting views already exist as to the basis, programs, benefits and goals of the *Promise Keepers* movement. This report is based upon the actual words of its leaders made in public meetings, contained in press releases, or printed in books, magazines and articles which have either been published or endorsed by leaders of the *Promise Keepers* movement. It is obvious that this movement is superbly organized and has tremendous financial resources at its disposal. The way it has caught on since its formation in 1990, and its ambitious plans for expansion in the future, require our immediate response and warning.

See PROMISE page 9

The Editor's Desk

Thomas Moore (1818-1871) in his commentary on Haggai and Malachi gives his definition of the prophetic gift. "It was a direct communication of God to the soul, either by visual, audible, or purely mental impressions, *authorizing* and *requiring* the person thus acted upon to speak *authoritatively* in the name of God, the things thus communicated."

Today, we have the completed Revelation of God to man, the totality of all the product of the prophetic gifts including the words of the Prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ Himself is the only true prophet, and the prophets were simply speaking what the True Prophet would have them speak through the agency of the Holy Spirit. The prophet could only speak with authority the message he was given to speak; whereas, since the Canon of Scripture has been completed, we who are called to "Preach the Word" can speak with a "Thus saith the Lord" all that has been written.

Just as God's prophet was *authorized* to speak for God, just so are we. Just as the prophet was *required* to speak his message without taking away from it or adding to it, just so are we. Just as the prophet was required to speak *authoritatively*, just so are we.

Those who have trouble with the word "authority" have trouble with God. The person who is given authority and does not use it is just as guilty as the person who is under authority and rebels against it. Authority is a beautiful word. Don't try to explain it away, weaken it, or make it null and void. Preachers need to preach the whole counsel of God authoritatively. It is a requirement for those authorized to preach by God.

BE STILL!

by W. Arnold Long
Pioneer Missionary to Australia

IN MANY PARTS of inland Australia the plain turkey is still to be found, a large, heavy bird which is an easy target for sportsmen. It is very slow to move off the ground, and though protected by law, it is frequently the victim of vandals. For the aboriginal hunter, without cars, horses or rifles, it was not always an easy prey. Among the methods used to secure this bird, which provides a surprising quantity of meat, is an apparently very simple ruse.

The hunter goes to a clump of bushes bearing great numbers of berries which the dark folk love, and which are just as tempting to the turkeys. Before the first light of dawn he conceals himself in a thick bush and sits there patiently waiting. If his desire is fulfilled, the early morning brings a visit from some of these coveted birds. Without a movement the hunter waits, calm but perfectly alert for the opportune moment, when he stretches out his hand and seizes the turkey by the legs. The object of his quest is gained, seemingly with the greatest of ease.

If some watcher, ignorant of his design, should observe the motionless figure in the bushes, he might wonder what could be the sense of such silent

vigilance. Is this a hunter? He is doing nothing! He is just sitting there idle! Why is he not traversing the country looking for game?

But there is the wisdom gleaned from ages of bushcraft in the apparent idleness of that solitary hunter. His stillness is part of a plan. It is a result of shrewd observation and calculation, and is justified often by its success.

Even so in the purposes of God there is frequently a time and place for silence

and stillness. Those who are familiar with the lives of great servants of God know well that He has often led them aside from the busy world to say, "Be still, and know that I am God." How often have His plans been made known to His servants, even as the result of sickness or apparent disaster, or any circumstance which God may use in His infinite wisdom to bring His servants to a halt for a time.

This is something which the natural man cannot receive. He can comprehend rush and bustle, noise and activity, but silence and stillness are beyond his understanding. See Elijah by the brook. Other men are rushing about seeking water and sustenance for cattle and for themselves and their families. Israel is in the grip of a drought. It is a time of national emergency. And there is Elijah doing nothing!

But is he doing nothing? He is awaiting the fulfilment [sic] of God's Word, the ripening of God's purposes. The drought is doing its work: it is doing God's work. It is preparing Israel for the assembly on Mount Carmel, and meanwhile Elijah is gaining strength for the conflict. He is

*"In the purposes of God
there is frequently a time and place
for silence and stillness."*

beholding, too, the faithfulness of God and his tender care in the supply of daily needs. Who knows what lessons he may be learning, what enrichment is flowing into his life, what enlargement of his vision is transpiring?

To the outward world Elijah is indeed doing nothing; he is exasperatingly still. But God knows and His servant knows that Elijah is doing the most important thing on earth or in heaven. He is doing the will of God. ★

Excerpt from *The Secret of Endurance*
by W. Arnold Long: Renown Press Pty. Ltd.
Carnegie, Victoria, Australia. 1962.

Stars of the Morning

by "Aunt Carolyn"

THE SILENT STALKER

THE SILENT STALKER

66 **Q**UICK, MOTHER, QUICK!" Jeannie forced a hushed whisper and motioned for silence with her finger before her lips. The urgency in her voice caused Mother to leave her baking and come quickly to the window.

"What is it? What is it, Jeannie?"

No answer was needed. There in the window sill, pretty as a picture, sat a lovely little yellow canary, frightened and, no doubt, very hungry.

"Shhh," Mother whispered. "Ease the window up and back away. Maybe he will come inside."

Jeannie was too nervous to "ease" the window up, but somehow she managed, and sure enough, after a few anxious moments the little bird hopped to the inside sill and then darted over to a high cabinet. Needless to say, there were some anxious moments, but at last the little canary was captured and gently put into a clean white box with plenty of air holes. Jeannie's heart danced with excitement. It was as if she had found a boundless treasure!

"Oh, isn't he darling, Mother? Isn't he just precious? Oh, we can keep him, can't we? 'Losers weepers; finders keepers!'"

"But we must try to find the owner," Mother cautioned. "Someone may be very upset at losing the little bird. Also, if the little fellow had a good home, he is no doubt frightened and lonely out in the big, cruel world. The old saying, 'Losers weepers; finders keepers' stands only if one cannot honestly find the true owner of the property."

"Yes, ma'am, I understand, but I still hope . . ." It was with much uneasiness that Jeannie helped form the short ad for the classifieds in the next morning's newspaper. "Found. Crystal Park area. Beautiful, tame bird. To claim, call 734-6464 and describe."

"That's good," said Mother. "That way the owner must identify him exactly. No one can claim him falsely."

Every morning Jeannie scrambled to get the newspaper and turn to the Lost and Found section. As days passed there were no ads for a little lost bird, and there were no phone calls answering their ad.

By now, the little gold painted cage Mother had found for the bird at a yard sale looked quite natural in the family room, and Petey, as Jeannie had named him, seemed a part of the family. The little sounds that at first came only as single, timid notes were now bold, joyous warbled melodies. Petey became the darling of the household and a joy to everyone who heard his beautiful song. No one could stay grumpy or frumpy around that bright, cheery little feathered friend!

"I don't know why the Lord let Petey come to our house, but I am surely glad He did!" Jeannie chirped.

As weeks passed and cool weather began to settle in, Jeannie also became more settled within. No one had called to claim Petey. He was now her very own little canary. How carefully she fed and watered him and cleaned his cage. She talked to him, and Petey twittered back just as if he understood the whole matter. She always covered his cage at night, because that is what you are supposed to do for little canaries, and the whole house was warm with the heater, so Jeannie was sure that Petey was comfortable.

Saturday came. It was cage cleaning day. Jeannie was eager to get started and rose earlier than her parents to go in and see Petey. Gently she removed the white cover from the gilded cage. What Jeannie saw caused a terrible strike of fear in her heart. Petey didn't sing. Petey didn't flutter. Petey didn't move! Petey lay perfectly still—silent and still on the floor of the cage.

"Petey?" Jeannie spoke hesitatingly with a question in her voice. "Petey!" she repeated in terror. There was no motion or response.

Jeannie fairly flew to her parent's room crying all the way. "Mother, Mother, come quickly! Something is wrong with Petey!" She knew very well what was wrong, but she didn't want to say it.

From the anxiety in her voice, Mother and Dad both came immediately. Mother gathered Jeannie into her arms and held her close. "I'm so sorry, Honey. I'm so sorry, but Petey is dead."

"He can't be, Mother, he can't be dead! What's wrong? What could have happened? He . . . he . . . he was all right when I covered him for bed last night."

"Oh, Dear, I know. I can't imagine what happened!"

"Wait, Margaret!" Suddenly Dad spoke very sternly and seriously. "Petey may be telling us something important!"

"Whatever do you mean, Dear?" Mother asked with grave concern.

"I don't know for sure yet. You and Jeannie get dressed and go over to the neighbor's house for a little while. I have to go to the hardware store."

It was mysterious, but they knew by Dad's tone of voice it was time to move, and they did exactly what he said.

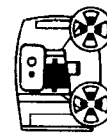
Upon returning from the hardware store, Dad immediately set up the gas detector he had purchased. In only a few minutes the sensor went off with a loud warning alarm. It was just as he had suspected. Indeed there was a gas leak from the old heater, and the deadly fumes were slowly filling the house. They had been strong enough to kill the little bird and, without his warning, would have killed the whole family. Dad lost no time in turning the gas off and calling the company to come replace the heater and be sure it was safely checked.

As soon as the "all clear" signal was given, Mother, Dad, and Jeannie returned to their home with a great sense of relief, thankful that God had spared their lives from the deadly fumes, and they could not help but be thankful for little Petey, who through death had caused their lives to be saved.

Jeannie was silent for a long time. She was sad for little Petey and missed him. At last she spoke quietly.

See STARS page 8

The PROJECTOR



EDITOR
Dr. Dayton Hobbs

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PROVERB PRACTICALS

by Ludwig Opager

*A fool hath no delight in understanding,
but that his heart may discover itself (Proverbs 18:2).*

THIS PROVERB IS about a bonafide, full-fledged, Bible-defined fool that says in his heart that he has no room for God. He says, "No God for me. Don't complicate my life with true understanding. I desire to live in a world of my own making." Any understanding or knowledge which he may seek is for the purpose of uplifting himself in position or power in a world of his own making. It is motivated by a desire to elevate himself instead of the Lord Jesus Christ. Having only interest in the preeminence of himself, he has no interest in the preeminence of our Savior. True understanding, the understanding of the holy, complicates his life and will cause the building blocks of his fool-filled life to fall.

In the Book of Acts, "When Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said to him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money"

(Acts 8:18-20).

Simon was not interested in understanding about that which is holy, but was interested only in that

which promoted his financial well-being. He discovered that from his heart.

King Agrippa said to Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28). "Almost" is a key word for a fool. His heart allows him to come to the gate called "almost," but at that point he must stop. Why? For the lack of a delight in understanding.

Delighting not in understanding, the fool is like the Pharisee, who "stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give

tithes of all that I possess" (Luke 18:11-12). "I like to discover my own heart, and I like others to discover it also. It is such a beautiful heart of my own making; take a look!" But when you do, you will see the same heart that Jesus Christ calls "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness" (Matt. 23:27).

But God, by His Word, gives His people discernment. We are told that a mark of a fool is his delight in his heart discovering itself. A fool, an explorer of his own heart, puts Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan to shame. The astronauts are neophytes at discovery compared to the fool. Devoting his life to exploring and discovering his own heart, he finds all he wants to know.

"Discover" means to denude, to reveal, to advertise, to uncover. It does not necessarily mean the heart is discovered to another; it simply means the heart is discovered to itself. It may be revealed to another by the practices of the fool, but it

also may be concealed to others and only revealed to the fool. The fool hath no delight in true understanding, because the only place

he goes for understanding is his heart. All his systems of belief and understanding are built upon the foundation of a heart that God has pronounced "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). He goes to the same heart where Communism, Nazism, evolution, abortion, humanism, and self-righteousness were hatched. He goes to the same heart that brought about the Holocaust and the heart that burned men and women at the stake because of their love for the Lord Jesus Christ. But this is his resource! The fool chooses to have no other resource than his heart. That is where all discovery takes place, and he loves to dwell there.

*"A mark of a fool is his delight
in his heart discovering itself."*

GOTHARD PROPHECIES AT ECUMENICAL MEETING

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOUNDER Bill Bright fasted 40 days last summer during which he received a "prophecy from God" that a mighty revival is coming. He then issued a call for hundreds of liberals, charismatics, and new-evangelicals to gather in Orlando Dec. 5-7 to fast and pray for revival (11/15 CC). The 3/95 Charisma quotes various attendees. Pro-Catholic Charles Colson sees denominationalism as the biggest barrier to prison outreach. Carlton Pearson said lack of church racial integration hinders revival. Bright embraced him and asked forgiveness for white abuses and prejudices of the past. Charisma continues: "Then Bill Gothard said he felt impressed to share what he believed was a prophetic directive: 'God is going to use African Americans to bring revival to America.'" Charismatics have long claimed to have extra-biblical revelations and "prophetic words" from God.

Excerpt from *Calvary Contender*,
March 15, 1995.

Summer Activities

SINCE SUMMER IS APPROACHING, we would do well to consider activities to keep our children's minds busy, as well as out of trouble. Many parents work through the summer months and need child care. The last thing the children want is more "education," and the last thing they need is all play and free time.

There is much truth to the old saying, "Idle hands are the devil's workshop." Our children should continue their "education" in avenues less developed during the school year. Their time should be balanced between work and play.

Consider these special projects to help your children have an enjoyable summer:

SPECIAL WORK PROJECTS. These might range from painting your home to planting a new garden. Children love to help, and, depending upon their age, they need to develop skills in as many areas as possible. We never know how or where God will use our children. We should prepare them to serve the Lord in many ways.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS. Cleaning your church, school, playground, etc. is a good way to develop children's hearts to give of themselves. Doing things for others is great for young people. Too many live only for self and fail to see the needs in others' lives.

READING. This is an old but invaluable standby! "If you don't use it, you will lose it!" This skill must be exercised, but choose books the children probably would not be assigned during classes.

SUMMER CAMPS. There is a wide variety of Christian Day Camps for the younger set as well as overnight camps for the older young people. Some camps highlight specific skills and talents such as music, sports, science, etc.

ARTS AND CRAFTS. Knitting, crocheting, rug braiding, basket weaving, etc. definitely keep young hands and minds busy. Cost need not be a deterrent. Most discount stores sell small kits with all the necessary supplies included.

PLAN A TRIP. Get your child(ren) involved in planning where to go, how to get there, and budgeting for necessities and souvenirs. Children enjoy trips more if they plan ahead for their activities.

Have a happy and safe summer!



From APOSTASY cover

Three moral charges are laid against Jerusalem because of her decadent leadership.

REBELLION

Rebellion is a grievous sin. It is the rejection of the Word of God which effectively removes God's authority from our lives. A person's authority lies in his word to us; and when that word is not heeded, that person's influence over us is effectively removed. Samuel explained to Saul, on the occasion of Saul's sparing Agag and the best of the animals contrary to God's direct words to him to destroy "all," that "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity [lawlessness] and idolatry" (1 Sam. 15:23a).

POLLUTION

Moral and political pollution always follows rebellion. Men and/or nations first throw off the restraints that righteousness puts about them. They do not want to be told what is right and what is wrong; they then become devoted to the pleasures of the mind and body, involving themselves in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Having become slaves to their own bodies, they become unjust in their dealings with their fellowman.

OPPRESSION

This is the final charge God makes against Jerusalem, the city that at one time in her history was referred to as "the faithful city," which was "full of

judgment" and "righteousness lodged in it" (Isaiah 1:21). Now Jerusalem is rebellious, polluted and oppressive. What a fall! Woe to her! It is hard for me to speak of this change in Jerusalem without thinking of our once great nation, America. No nation of history deserves God's judgment more than America, in my opinion, because no nation has had the light and opportunities that we have had. The more light, the more responsibility, and the more severe the judgment when that light is rejected.

It is ever the same with individuals or nations. Continuing in rebellion (often described in Scripture as iniquity or lawlessness) leads to pollution of mind and body (all manner of moral corruption, especially of the sexual variety), which in turn leads to the oppression of others, usually of those who are helpless and unable to defend themselves. Oppression by individuals is often directed against those who should be the object of their love and protection. I'm reminded of an old song sung by the Ink Spots, or perhaps it was the Mills Brothers, which said, "You always hurt the one you love, the one you shouldn't hurt at all."

THE PROGRESSION OF APOSTASY

Notice the four definite steps of Zephaniah 3:2. "She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the Lord; she drew not near to her God."

DESTINED FOR DISASTER

We have here four definite steps to disaster. We could look at this from the positive or reverse side and see it as four steps to blessing—four steps to victory, that is—if the "not" is removed from each step. The notable quality about steps is that steps go up and steps go down. It depends on which way you are going. If you are at the bottom of the steps, then you go *up* the steps; you can rise. But if you are at the top of the steps (the same steps), then you go down; you fall in position.

Now, if we think of these levels as righteousness or unrighteousness, blessings or tragedy, then going up the steps would be blessing; whereas, going down the steps would be tragedy. Here we

See APOSTASY next page



Book

by Rev. Tod Brainard

For the Good Of Your Child

by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Gospel Projects Press, Milton, FL 1994.

This booklet is a compilation of articles written in The PROJECTOR over a period of three years. Dr. Hobbs is no stranger to the issues facing the Christian family, especially in relation to the rearing of godly children. He writes, "Parents of today seem to have little understanding as to what is really in the best interest of their child . . ." Although there are countless psychologically-oriented books on the market today concerning child upbringing, very few tackle the difficult issues of child rearing from a distinctly Biblical viewpoint. Dr. Hobbs has done so in a concise manner.

Here is a listing of the chapter titles and a brief summation of each chapter in *For The Good Of Your Child*.

Chapter 1—Biblical Understandings: This chapter tackles three questions:
1. Do parents love their children?
2. Are Bible-preaching churches failing?
3. What is good for the child?

Chapter 2—United Authority: A Biblical understanding of authority is necessary when training children. This chapter gives some do's and don'ts for parents in the exercise of parental authority (p. 10).

Chapter 3—Training Servants For Christ: "Servanthood . . . is despised by man but highly prized by God" (p. 12). This chapter underscores the importance of training servants for Christ and assists the parent in the understanding of when to begin the servant training process.

Chapter 4—Teaching Children To Listen: The author discusses what listening involves and gives helpful pointers to aid in teaching children to listen.

Chapter 5—Voice Obedience: "How do I teach my child to obey me the first time I speak to him?" is a question often asked by young parents. This chapter answers this

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Review

question and more. The parent is reminded that voice obedience is the only obedience Scripture teaches.

Chapter 6—Training for Self-Control: Training exercises are supplied to help teach youngsters how to control themselves.

Chapter 7—The Joy Of Service: Approaching service with an attitude of joy can be taught to children at an early age. Attitudes are developed early in life and, therefore, must be shaped properly and in accordance with God's Word. Four helpful suggestions are given to remind the parent during the "attitude development" process.

Chapter 8—Making Servant Training Practical: An outline of practical suggestions is supplied to help the parent develop servants who are eager to serve God.

Chapter 9—The Woman In The Case: The author admonishes his readers that "mothers" are the key in the early years of a child's life (p. 33). Fathers will also benefit from the instruction concerning the role of mothers and the need for harmony in all matters in the home.

Chapter 10—Thinking In Absolutes: Every Christian father should read this important chapter. Six fundamentals for fathers are given on page 38 that will help every father understand better his Scriptural role in the home.

As a young father of a 16-month old boy, I have found these articles to be extremely helpful and worthy of recommendation to all Christian parents interested in training their children to be servants for the Lord Jesus Christ. This booklet is simple to read, free from technical jargon, and Scripturally sound. ★

You can order a copy of this book from:

Gospel Projects Press
P.O. Box 643
Milton, FL 32572
Cost: \$2.95

(See ad on page 8)

From APOSTASY previous page

have four steps. It all depends on which way you are going. If you are headed toward God and His truth, you will go up the steps and be blessed; but if you are running from God, you will go down the steps and be cursed.

STEP ONE—DISOBEDIENCE

"She obeyed not the voice." This first step has to do with obedience or disobedience. The first and most important thing you can teach your boy or girl is voice obedience. The most important thing you can learn as a young Christian is obedience to God's Word. That is without a doubt the most important thing you can learn. I am to understand that this Bible is God's Word; that it is God speaking to me, and I am to listen and obey. It is not just God speaking to the Jews, God speaking to the heathen, or God speaking to other folks; it is God speaking to me. You must take this as a personal Book. Then I should say, "What is my attitude going to be about this Book?" "Well, I am going to listen to it. I am going to accept it as what it is, God's Word, and I am going to let it direct my life."

The best way to prepare your child to have the very best life has to offer is to train him/her very early to immediate obedience to your voice. Isn't that what you want, parents? Don't you want your child to have the very best that there is? The best that there is is to obey God and to walk with Him! Do you want your child to have that? Then let me explain something. The first step as far as children are concerned is the same as the first step for Christians. Children need to learn to obey their parents. Now as far as a small child is concerned, obedience to parents is obedience to God. There is no difference, because a small child cannot understand the concept of obedience to God, but he can understand the concept of obedience to Daddy or Mamma. If you want your child eventually to be obedient to God, then take the first step yourself—say, "This Book is going to be the Book of my life. I am going to follow it. It is going to direct my path; it is going to direct my steps. I am going to be obedient to this Book." Having determined yourself to be obedient to

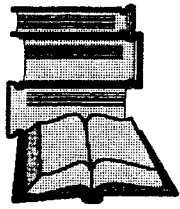
God, then start with your children to teach them obedience to you. Insist that they obey your voice.

I want you to get this truth. It may be a little philosophical, but it is truth. Authority lies in a person's words. There has to be an expression of authority. Authority has to speak. It may be written or spoken; it may be in sign language; but authority has to say what it wants and what it expects. God says in His Word what He expects. You have to say what you expect. The president of a firm, the judge, the policeman, the teacher in the classroom: authority, wherever it lies, has to say what it wants, and then those under authority have to do what authority says. It really is such a simple thing, isn't it? Yet it is basic to life. All authority comes from God. There is no authority except God's authority and that which God permits. So the first step here that Jerusalem (speaking for the nation) took was that "she obeyed not the voice." What was the voice? It was the voice of God as given to Moses in the Old Testament Law. What did Israel do with the Law of God? She rejected it; she would not obey it. So the first step down for Israel was that "she obeyed not the voice."

Now on the other hand, if you take out the "not" and obey God's Word, then you are taking a step up instead of down. We are always taking steps in our life, making decisions. That is the reason parents need to teach their children decision making (how to make wise decisions). Oh, that ought to be so important that you plan it, work at it, and set up situations so you can do it. Teach your child to make wise decisions.

You may say, "I have made some awful decisions in my lifetime." Then you have learned the hard way that bad decisions can hurt, so teach your child to make wise decisions. The first decision to teach him to make is the decision to obey your voice as his parent. Later on, it will be the teacher's voice in the classroom, the policeman's voice on the street, or the boss' voice on the job. This is the way of peace, tranquillity, and blessing. Do you want your child to be blessed or not? That is the question. Do you want to be blessed or not? Israel chose not to be blessed of God, so she "obeyed not the voice."

See APOSTASY page 10



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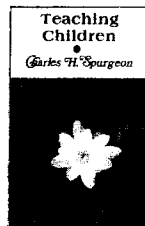


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From PROVERB page 4

"Don't bother me with your understanding," he says. "I look to my heart and there I find no God for me. My heart feeds me with plenty of understanding. I explore its hidden rooms and caverns for a lifetime, never knowing all my heart, because its depths are past finding out. My heart fills me with every imagination of thought. Call them profane and vain babblings, oppositions of science falsely so called, but they come from *my* heart. I discover within the bowels of my heart the way of Cain. I can run greedily after the error of Balaam for rewards and the gainsaying of Core. My heart reveals a section on murmuring, complaining, and walking after lusts. It teaches me to speak great swelling words. Within its depths is the ability to have men's persons in admiration because of advantage. My heart has a complete library of books in alphabetical order of adulteries, blasphemy, covetousness, deceit, the ability called the evil eye, evil thoughts, foolishness, fornications, lasciviousness, murders, pride, thefts, and wickedness. There is no end to the volumes of the library of my heart."

This shows that there is no hope for a fool, for he rejects understanding only God can

provide through a new heart. The old heart is declared dead by God. There is nothing worth discovering there, but that is where the fool lives. His haunt is the sepulchre used only to bury the dead, and anything he discovers from it will result in dead men's bones.

David had the right understanding when he said in Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." He knew that understanding is only given to a clean heart implanted by God. ★

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From STARS page 3

"You know, Mother, if it had not been for Petey, we all would have died, wouldn't we?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so, my Dear. I think we can see now why the Lord let Petey come to us. His death warned us of our own impending doom, but let's not talk about it any more."

"But, Mother," Jeannie had to talk it seemed. "You know Jesus did that for us, too. Because He died, we can have everlasting life."

"Well, you're right, Jeannie. You do well at your age to see and understand about the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us. Jesus Christ had no sin. He did not have to die for anything wrong He did, but He gave His life willingly so we might be saved from eternal death and punishment in hell."

Sin is like that awful, silent, odorless, unseen gas. It is a killer stalking every boy, girl, man, and woman, and there is no escape except by heeding the warning God gives us in His Word. All of us knew about the gas by Petey's death, but if any one of us had not heeded the warning and had not left the house, we would have died.

In the same way, we must heed God's warning. The Bible says, 'For all have sinned' (Rom. 3:23), and only through accepting His sacrifice and trusting in His name can we escape the results and judgment for sin. We must *act* upon the truth we have been given. 'How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation' (Heb. 2:3). 'For there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved' (Acts 4:12)."

Jeannie missed Petey, but she was thankful for the narrow escape his death provided, and she was very thankful for the way of salvation provided by the Lord Jesus Christ by His death on the cross, His burial, and resurrection. That salvation can be yours, too, if you will confess your sin and believe in Christ as your only hope. Illness, accidents, and other emergencies can happen so quickly, so unexpectedly. Do not wait to receive Christ. "Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart" (Ps. 95:7,8). "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). ★

From PROMISE cover

Most pastors and other individuals have so far heard only good reports about it. Even though some have questions and a feeling of uneasiness concerning it, they have had little or no opportunity to examine it carefully. While it is true that most, if not all, of the major evangelical and charismatic leaders are praising, supporting and participating in *Promise Keepers*, that in itself is no guarantee that its principles, practices and goals are in accord with the Scriptures. Having personally read every word of the book, *Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper*, as well as all the latest press releases and many of their other articles, we have come to the inescapable conclusion that this movement represents another massive effort of Satan to mix truth and error in some very deceptive ways.

Therefore, we do not hesitate to give the strongest possible warning now concerning the dangers of the *Promise Keepers* movement. Our reasons will be clearly stated and properly documented from original

sources so that God's people may be able to see for themselves how this new movement is mixing truth and error. If for no other reason, the *Promise Keepers* movement is dangerous because it promotes an unscriptural agenda of forging a religious unity which is absolutely forbidden in God's Word. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Ephesians 5:11. Its founder and several of its leaders are part of the charismatic movement which is a major catalyst in the effort to bring about fellowship and eventual union with the Roman Catholic Church; whereas in truth the Roman Catholic Church is a false church, preaches a false gospel and is not a part of the body of Christ.

Throughout the centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has been an enemy of all true believers, and the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs is upon its hands. However, for the past few decades, the Roman Catholic Church has changed its outward appearance and approaches. It has a new face of tolerance and a kindlier public image, but the damnable heresies it

proclaims remain as dangerous as ever. Furthermore, those who are only familiar with Roman Catholicism, as practiced in this country, would not believe the raw heathenism which is part of their worship in countries where they have been in control for centuries.

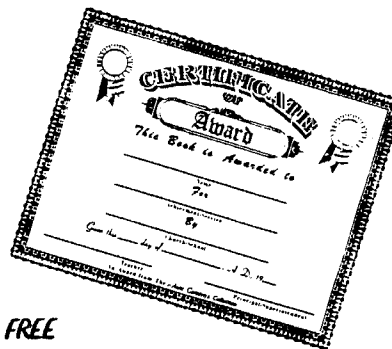
It should be of great concern to every believer to know that the *Promise Keepers* movement is taught and led by men who blindly praise the Pope and are giving Roman Catholicism an undeserved and unwarranted vote of confidence and even appreciation instead of sounding the warnings God's Word commands.

The *Promise Keepers* movement and its leaders totally reject the many plain commands of Scripture to separate from and warn about false teachers, disobedient brethren and the world. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14,15; 1 John 2:15-17. As a result, those whom they seek to "disciple" are deprived of the warnings God's Word says are necessary to preserve the purity of the Gospel and the purity of the

See PROMISE page 11

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From APOSTASY page 7

STEP TWO - RECEIVED NOT CORRECTION

What is the second step? She "received not correction." You see, it is the voice that corrects you. It is the voice that says, "Stop! Don't do that! That will harm you." If you will not obey the voice, you cannot receive correction. So what are you going to do? You are going to be harmed. Suppose a child starts to step out into the street and a car is coming. Mother says, "Stop!" If the child has not learned to obey the voice, what happens? Wham! The child gets hit by the car! That is the practical result. The same principle is true spiritually.

"She received not correction." Israel said as a nation, "We will not obey God's voice;" therefore, it was impossible for God to correct them. Now, who was responsible? God? Are we going to blame God? Who was it who made the decision not to hear the voice? Israel made the decision not to hear the voice, so you must blame Israel for the problems that came upon them. Listen, if you do not teach your children to obey your voice early, later they will not receive your correction when you wish you could stop them. They will be to blame, but as they are minors, you are to blame, because they are not of age. So who is to blame? *Parents!* Parents do not like to assume that responsibility today. "Don't tell me that my children misbehave because I have done a bad job!" Well, who else am I going to tell that your children misbehave because you have done a bad job? Shall I go down to the judge and say, "Judge, I know you have never seen this child before, but this child is misbehaving because you are a bad judge." Should I say to the teacher, "Teacher, this child is misbehaving because you are a bad teacher." That's usually the way it happens with the parents who have not required voice obedience of their children. They think everyone else is to blame. The child is misbehaving because you as a parent have not done your job before you sent him to the teacher! That's where the problem lies. The Bible puts the responsibility where it belongs. We love to shift, to get out from under responsibility, but the Bible won't let us do that. That is the reason many folks don't like the Bible. They don't want to take responsibility.

They don't want to be the one who has to answer for their failures or their child's failures.

STEP THREE - TRUSTED NOT IN THE LORD

The third step—remember you can be stepping down or stepping up—"She trusted not in the Lord." Why would she not trust in the Lord? This is where salvation comes in—faith. The word "trust" in the Old Testament is the word "faith" in the New Testament. She had no faith in the Lord. She could not trust the Lord for salvation individually or nationally. Why? Because she had not had any correction. Why had she not had any correction? Because she would not listen to His voice. She would not listen to His voice, she would not receive His correction; therefore, there was no faith there.

Faith cometh by what? *Hearing.* Isn't that wonderful? All the Bible fits together so beautifully. "Faith cometh by *hearing.*" That's the first step: obeying the voice. Until you start obeying the voice, you are never going to have any faith. Do you want an increase in your faith? Then increase your obedience to the Word of God. Do you want your children to be people of faith? Then make them *dependent* on the Word of God. Make them first of all obedient to your voice. Make them receive correction from you and accept it cheerfully, and they will cheerfully accept God's correction. Do you want your children to be blessed? Oh, it's difficult, yes, but it is the way of righteousness and blessing.

STEP FOUR - DREW NOT NEAR TO HER GOD

So, "she trusted not in the Lord," and the last step, "She drew not near to her God." That is intimacy. That is the way we want to know Him if we really are the right kind of Christian. We grow to this place of intimacy—"knowing" God. Paul said, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection . . . being made conformable unto His death" (Phil. 3:10). "That I may know Him." How do you go about knowing Him? First, by obeying His voice; then, by receiving His correction as you listen to His voice. Next, that causes you to have faith, to trust. Then the more

faith you have, the more you draw near to Him; and finally, you begin to know His heart. You begin to understand Him, His love, His compassion, His concerns, and His desires.


THE FORMULA

You see, this is the formula for spiritual growth or the formula for spiritual disaster, whichever way you climb the steps. You can climb them up to blessings or down to cursings. Israel climbed them down to cursing. The Christian church, the visible church—not the remnant—has apostatized today just as Israel did in the prophet's time because of these four steps. They will not hear the voice; therefore, they cannot receive correction. They have no faith. They have much talk. Talk, talk about Christ; talk, talk about the church; talk, talk about the program, plans, activities, seminars, etc., of the church; but genuine faith is missing. ★

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From PROMISE page 9

church. Instead of obeying the command of God's Word to "[teach] no other doctrine" (1 Timothy 1:3) and by refusing to heed the warning God gives in Galatians 1:6-10 concerning all who preach "any other Gospel," they have become "blind leaders of the blind" about which Jesus Christ warned (Matthew 15:10-14). Since the inevitable result of such spiritual blindness is "both shall fall into the ditch," should not the strongest possible warning be given immediately?

Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper is the title of a book published in 1994 by "Focus on the Family," Colorado Springs, CO, and distributed in the USA and Canada by "Word Books," Dallas, TX. It is key to the understanding of what *Promise Keepers* is trying to do. Contributing authors are:

Bill Bright,
Edwin Cole,
Dr. James
Dobson,
Tony Evans,
Bill McCartney,

Luis Palau, Randy Phillips, Gary Smalley, Jack Hayford, Wellington Boone, Howard Hendricks, E. Glenn Wagner, Gary Oliver, Dale Schlafer, H.B. London, Jr., Philip Porter and Gordon England. This 210-page book was edited by Al Janssen and Larry K. Weeden.

"Seven solid promises that will change a man's life forever"—this bold claim, printed on the back jacket of this book, only serves to heighten the need for an immediate, Scriptural analysis of the *Promise Keepers* movement; for, indeed, these seven promises are not solidly based upon the sure foundation of God's Word alone, but upon a mixture of God's Word with the supposition of men.

WHAT ARE THE SEVEN PROMISES OF A PROMISE KEEPER?

PROMISE ONE—a man and his God: *A Promise Keeper is committed to honoring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

PROMISE TWO—a man and his mentors: *A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.*

PROMISE THREE—a man and his integrity: *A Promise Keeper is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.*

PROMISE FOUR—a man and his family: *A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection and biblical values.*

PROMISE FIVE—a man and his church: *A Promise Keeper is committed to supporting the mission of the church by honoring and praying for his pastor, and by actively giving of his time and resources.*

PROMISE SIX—a man and his brothers: *A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.*

PROMISE SEVEN—a man and his world: *A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (see Mark 12:30,31) and the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19,20).*

At first glance, it is not difficult to understand why most Christians might feel that the *Promise Keepers* movement is greatly needed and should be encouraged and supported. Without question there is a great need today for Godly men who will assume their responsibilities in the home, in the church and in the world. However, by carefully examining the programs and goals as set forth by its leaders in public and in print, and by comparing these with the Scriptures, it becomes clear that discerning believers must raise serious questions now concerning this rapidly growing men's movement.

The emphasis upon self-effort within the *Promise Keepers* program supplants absolute dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Only God can unfailingly keep a promise. Therefore those in the movement will face disillusionment and disappointment because of their failure to look to God and His promises alone.

Before giving an analysis of the *Promise Keepers* movement in the light of

the Scriptures, we trust it will be helpful to mention several basic issues which should not be disregarded nor treated lightly.

DANGERS OF THE PROMISE KEEPERS MOVEMENT INCLUDE:

- ♦ *Advocacy of an unscriptural religious unity at the expense of sound doctrine and practice.*
- ♦ *Acceptance and promotion of unscriptural Charismatic teachings.*
- ♦ *Approval and use of psychological approaches and techniques.*
- ♦ *Use and promotion of corrupted modern versions of the Bible.*
- ♦ *Twisting, misapplying, and misinterpreting key Scriptures.*
- ♦ *A program stressing the importance of evangelism while ignoring the need of a pure gospel.*
- ♦ *A subtle and very harmful influence upon local churches which have heretofore resisted unscriptural programs and fellowships.*

Are the promises demanded of the *Promise Keepers* Scriptural? A careful review of their Seven Promises clearly reveals that a mixture of truth and error is involved. For instance:

PROMISE ONE—A man and his God: *A Promise Keeper is committed to honoring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

(Analysis): Technically, if these words are understood in their Scriptural and historical meaning, any true believer—man or woman—would gladly support such a statement. However, we live in days when wonderful words like these are being abused and misused.

For example, in the first chapter of the book, *Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper*, Charismatic leader Dr. Jack Hayford sets forth some precious truths concerning the different aspects of worship as set forth in the Scriptures. However, when he writes about "Redeeming Worship" on page 19, he teaches serious error. Hayford writes:

See PROMISE next page

The emphasis upon self-effort... supplants absolute dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

From PROMISE previous page

"Redeeming worship centers on the Lord's Table. Whether your tradition celebrates it as Communion, Eucharist, the Mass, or the Lord's Supper, we are all called to this centerpiece of Christian worship."

Is there any difference between the Eucharist and the Mass (celebrated by Roman Catholics and Orthodox), and the Lord's Table, Lord's Supper and Communion observed by true believers? Of course there is! Historically the mass has been recognized by Bible believers as

blatant blasphemy. Yet, today, Hayford, like other Charismatic leaders, is teaching *Promise Keepers* and others that this false view of Christian worship is

approved by God and proper for all Christians to accept. Promise One has the right words but the wrong application. Many other examples could be cited of errors concerning prayer and the ministry of the Holy Spirit which are believed and taught by

"A careful study... reveals that their programs are based upon some Biblical values given by God, but are also mixed with some very dangerous psychological principles and practices which rest upon the theories of men."

tumultuous times without depending upon other *Promise Keepers* to help keep him "on the right track" is another trick of Satan to belittle the power of God and negate His *"great and precious promises."*

God's Word repeatedly warns about the danger of putting trust in men. Isaiah 2:22, "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" Jeremiah 17:5, "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his

arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD." By contrast, note Jeremiah 17:7, "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is." God's Word clearly commands us to "have no confidence in the flesh" (Phil. 3:3). God specifically warns in I Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Those who disregard God's warnings are surely headed for a fall.

"Whereby are given unto us [all of us!] exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4). It is the promises of God that are all-important; and they assure divine power to accomplish His purpose of godliness in an ungodly day, not the promises of even the finest, most sincere men who attempt to formulate what they believe is needed to change men and then the world.

PROMISE FOUR—A man and his family: A *Promise Keeper* is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values.

(Analysis): Here is another promise which is certainly desirable as stated. However, the question which must be asked and answered concerns just what are these "biblical values?" A careful study of *Promise Keepers* literature reveals that their programs are based upon some Biblical values given by God, but are also mixed with some very dangerous psychological principles and practices which rest upon the theories of men. This unsound material will continue to flow into churches long after the initial excitement of the program wanes. ★

Continued Next Issue

Excerpt taken from reprint of Vol. XVI, Issue I of *FOUNDATION* magazine.

To obtain a copy of their leaflets, "The Charismatic Movement is Dangerous—Watch Out for It!"

or

"The Promise Keepers Movement is Dangerous—Watch Out for It!"

and

a sample literature pack, write to:

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Charismatic leaders. We have to ask, "How could anyone possibly promise to obey God's Word and in the same breath disobey that Word?" It is this inconsistency and incongruity that makes *Promise Keepers* such a deceptive movement.

PROMISE TWO—A man and his mentors: A *Promise Keeper* is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.

(Analysis): How very dangerous is this false premise which is based upon psychological theories rather than on Biblical principles. Of course Godly men can be of help to others and be helped by others. But to encourage the false notion that a godly man cannot make it on his own in the

PROMISE THREE—A man and his integrity: A *Promise Keeper* is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.

(Analysis): Once again, here is a statement that all Christians should desire to see fulfilled in their lives, not just the men but women also. But if the men have to depend on their brothers to attain these goals, what about the women? Will a women's *Promise Keepers* movement also become a necessity and be established as the newest women's movement on the scene?

In fact, however, the spiritual, moral, ethical and sexual purity needed by every believer is not to be found in making boastful promises nor in dependence upon other believers, but can only be obtained by heeding the Word of God which says,

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