

# The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNGING EDITOR

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

## Facing the Future

by Dr. Clay Nuttall

Dr. Nuttall is the author of two published books in ecclesiology, numerous articles and a monthly journal "Shepherdstaff". In addition to theology, he has taught extensively in the areas of contemporary theological issues, apologetics and hermeneutics. At present he serves as Academic Administrator of the National Theological College and Graduate School in Lexington, NC. He served in the United States Navy at the end of Korean War. He has been married to Ruth for fifty four years. They have five children and fifteen grandchildren.

Our nation is in big trouble. Every area of life has been affected. Nothing has escaped the impact of humanistic socialism with this tidal wave of decay and destruction. Our education system has been a major tool in turning the culture to atheism, and the

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## Worship and Personal Music Standards for God's Glory

by Dr. Randy Cornelius

Founder and Director of the Harbour Light of the Windwards Radio Ministry

Continued from last issue:

**Worship that glorifies God is separated from the world.** That is what holiness is all about! God commands: *As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy (1 Peter 1:14-16).* This doctrine of holiness, of separation, permeates all of the Scripture. Separation assures the purity of the individual and the church. The whole point of the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is this matter of our being consecrated to Christ in contrast to our culture. A lack of separation causes both believers and unbelievers to be confused about God's holiness. Recall what happened to King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18. The "high places" were vestiges of the heathen worship of the Canaanites that the Jews adopted and employed in the worship of God! Over and over again, God mentions those high places and the fact that king after king, though some did what was right in the sight of the Lord otherwise, did not remove the high plac-

es. The high places had been part of their compromised worship for so long that the heathen kings of the land thought King Hezekiah had actually displeased God by destroying them! However, in 2 Kings 18:3-4, we are delighted by this report about King Hezekiah: *And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did. He removed the high places, and brake the images (the golden calves), and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.*

Mixing the holy with the profane (the notorious "sin of Jeroboam") so permeates Christianity around the world today that most Chris-

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## EDITOR'S DESK

by Pastor Tod Brainard

### What has happened with our leadership?

I believe that many would agree with me, that our leaders today, in general, evidence a profound lack of wisdom and understanding. If this nation is to survive, of which I have serious doubts, we must have the kind of leadership that was provided by our founding fathers. They were men who were willing to sacrifice all for the good of the cause. The problem is, I do not think we have the same type of character that was self-evident in our founding fathers. This astounding situation has occurred many times in the history of the world.

I was reading recently in II Samuel 15 and came across verse 11 which says, *"And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; **and they went in their simplicity, and knew not any thing.**"* In Absalom's day, he surrounded himself with men who either did not take the time or did not care about what direction Absalom was going. Their way was one of ignorance and careless indifference. They had been won over to Absalom, not by knowledge, but by emotions. Evidently, Ahithophel, David's own chief counselor, had persuaded these men to join with Absalom, but did not divulge Absalom's plans and purposes. The Bible seems to infer that these men asked no tough questions about Absalom. They were impressed with Absalom's persona but did not ask the deep questions that would have revealed the

utter moral bankruptcy of his character. How sad, for these followers of Absalom were destroyed in the end by their own carelessness and indifference.

There is a contrast of leadership given in the Old Testament with David's men. He surrounded himself with good men, capable men who provided critical leadership at a decisive moment in the kingdom. King Saul was seeking to kill David, the newly anointed king as recorded in I Chronicles 12. David fled to the mountains and caves of Ziklag, running from Saul's army. There were good, honorable men in Israel who came to realize that God had abandoned King Saul. They saw in David God's esteemed choice. They also realized that a change in leadership would require mighty men to lead and to ferret out the perverse men who had aligned themselves with King Saul. They had an **understanding of whom to follow**. They searched and found David hiding in the mountains. *"Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war"* (I Chronicles 12:1). What an encouragement they were to David!

God is looking for some mighty men, wise men who, though hidden from the limelight of publicity, have resolve, strength of character and an understanding of the times. God identified these men as "mighty helpers" from almost every tribe in Israel. *"And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness **men of might, and men of war fit for the battle...**"* (vs. 8). These men had a **back-**

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## The PROJECTOR

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*The Projector* is a fundamentalist publication that seeks to "project the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day." It desires to honor Christ by articulating a clear testimony for Biblical separation from error in these last days as God's answer to the deepening apostasy of the visible church.



(Continued from page 1 - Worship and Personal Music Standards)

tian people and many unsaved people think it is something which God approves of! Christian people have become so accustomed to the "high places" and this "golden calf" style of "worship" that their ears are deaf to what is biblically sound, clean, and godly. They cannot discern whether a song is pleasing to God or not (or don't want to)! I think some Christians are trying to do "what is right in the sight of the Lord" but are not wholeheartedly following the Lord by removing the "high places." The "high places" with their "golden calves" are but symptoms of the problem. The real problem is in the heart. It will require the wholeheartedness of a "David" or a "Hezekiah" or a "Josiah" to take the necessary action to recognize the deviant nature of the "golden calves" and "high places" of worldly worship, and to break them down and burn them. Where are the Hezekiah's in our churches today?

It is interesting to note that in addition to destroying the high places, King Hezekiah also destroyed the brazen serpent. Even though it was commanded by God and a symbol of God's mercy and grace, King Hezekiah recognized that it had become an object of deviant worship and must be destroyed! God must have laughed when Rabshakeh arrogantly slandered Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18:22 when he ignorantly said, *But if ye say unto me, We trust in the Lord our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and*

*Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? Praise the Lord for the discernment of King Hezekiah! He looked well into the matter!!*

**Worship that glorifies God dares to contend earnestly for the faith....** *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude verses 3-4). "Lascivious" is a word synonymous with lustful or lewd or unruly. A quick search of the titles and lyrics of the music this world loves and of what the composers themselves say they are communicating with the sound they create will reveal that it is nothing short of lascivious in every sense of the word. It is abusing the grace of God for Christian people to "glory in" ANYTHING that sounds like that to "worship" God. *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid! (Romans 6:1-2).* It is a leaven that permeates so-called Christian music today. How much of the world's "leaven" does it take to spoil the whole lump? 1 Corinthians 5:6-7 says, *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.* The only thing for Christian people to do with the lascivious leaven of the music this world loves is to get rid of it! 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 says, *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.**

Can we honestly say that the sound of the popular music of this world is not evil? Can we honestly say that the popular "Christian" music today does not sound like the popular music of the world? Is it not, then, – at the very least – an appearance of evil? Can "holy" words somehow purify the lascivious sound of the world's music? *Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean (Haggai 2:11-13).* Lascivious music defiles the holy words! God says we cannot combine the holy with the unholy and end up with something that is holy and acceptable unto Him! God cannot and will not accept that offering of worship. Verse 14 goes on to say, *Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the Lord; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean.* We need to look well into this matter so that both the sound and words combine to bring glory to God.

Remember the question with which I began this article; "Why are your children calling the evil spirits?" Do you want to know what those missionary children were doing to "call the evil spirits?" They were "just" listening

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# Spotlight on Contemporary Issues

## National Decadence

by Curtis Sluss

Isaiah described a time of national decadence, marked by violence, iniquity, strife, and the absence of both justice and judgment (sounds like today). Truth failed, equity carried no weight as evil reigned and those living righteously were persecuted.<sup>1</sup> Bloodshed was common as the law was given lip service, but not obeyed. The government leaders were rebellious and companions of thieves, taking bribes, leading the people astray. The priest and the prophet erred in vision and stumbled in judgment. The prophets taught lies. The people were evildoers, corrupters, and laden with iniquity. They forsook the Lord, they provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, and they went away backward.<sup>2</sup> God warned His people to turn to Him or they would be devoured with the sword.<sup>3</sup>

Several years later, another prophet, Habakkuk, was burdened by the rampant national, religious, and moral decay. Life was marked by violence, iniquity, strife, and the absence of both justice and judgment.<sup>4</sup> Habakkuk was grieved seeing the wickedness in the culture of his day and cried out be-

cause of God's apparent indifference to the national wickedness.

God answered him; He pronounced violent, swift judgment and captivity on His people (just as Isaiah warned) at the hands of the fierce wicked Chaldeans! Habakkuk did not expect the answer God gave! Habakkuk seems to question God, reminding Him that God's holiness will not allow Him to look on iniquity, and then he asks God why He would use a wicked people to judge a less wicked nation. Habakkuk even reminds God that the Chaldeans will attribute their conquest over God's people to their own gods!<sup>5</sup>

God's anticipated rebuke to Habakkuk was clear; lifting Habakkuk's eyes to issues far greater than national decadence and the impending death and destruction of a nation. God showed Habakkuk a glimpse of the unfolding of the future; an appointed time, a series of woe's, stones that cry out, shameful spewing on the wicked, living by faith, and the time when the knowledge of the glory of the LORD would cover the

earth! The sovereign God revealed that He is in control and man need not fret or worry as nations rise or fall. "But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him."

Habakkuk was given a view of God and His justice and judgment: "When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled..."<sup>7</sup> Habakkuk saw God's glory covering the heavens as pestilence, burning, scattered mountains, sun standing still and other wonders attested to the march of God through the earth in indignation and anger. God will bring affliction to the wicked and salvation to His anointed!<sup>8</sup> Selah!

From burden to rejoicing, Habakkuk meekly and obediently submits to the Almighty God who sets up and puts down kingdoms. He rests in God who is his strength and who will carry him through. No longer will the corruption of culture rob him of his joy in God!

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the

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# Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 30:13, **“There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.”**

God in His infinite wisdom paints in this verse “the look of pride.” He draws us to the eyes of a generation whose eyelids are lifted up. This is a generation whose pride is beyond patriotism; it is profoundly wicked. It is a generation whose eyes reveal sinful pride.

God's Word is clear as to what He thinks of “lofty eyes” for in Psalm 101:5, He says **“...him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.”**

God has no patience with a wickedly proud generation. God is always longsuffering with the humble, but He has no mercy for those of the generation of high looks.

Jesus Christ justified the publican, who, standing afar off would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, **“God be merciful to me a sinner.”**

God honors the request of the humble but brings to dishonor those of lofty eyes who exalt themselves. They will be abased who compare themselves among themselves as 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.”**

It is interesting that the Pharisee prayed with himself. Being so proud, he thought of himself as the one to answer his own prayer. Note that his standard of righteousness was

other men, **“I am not as other men are!”**

So what! What's your point, Pharisee? So what that you are not like other men! Does that give you status before God? Does God show favor because you compare favorably with other men? Where is it said that God sets up this kind of economy? Pharisee, upon what authority do you base your idea? Recall the lofty eyes of King Nebuchadnezzar who compared himself among men. Oh, king, what did you say to earn the loss of your kingdom? Was it your humble and contrite heart that resulted in your fall? Didn't I read in God's Word that you said, **“Is not this great Babylon, which I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?”** Nebuchadnezzar, there is no honor to God in that

***God has no patience  
with a wickedly proud  
generation.***

sentence! No humble and contrite heart there, O king Nebuchadnezzar! And then: **“While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.”**

Nebuchadnezzar! How did you like eating grass as the oxen? Did you get used to the wetness of the dew of heaven? It seems your sinful pride made your hair

as eagle's feathers and your nails like birds' claws!

In the end, God received glory when, **“at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:”**

Remember another lofty eyed king named Herod, who accepted the worship of the people as they shouted, **“It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.”** God did not suffer him a moment! **“And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.”**

The worms obeyed their Creator with much delight doing their duty in the body of Herod. God is a jealous God and will not share His glory with another. The lofty eyes of the wickedly proud are tender morsels to the worms of death!

The “lofty eyes” of these two kings are but introductions to the “lofty eyes” of the one to come. Daniel the Prophet tells about the one who will deceive the world with his lofty eyes and his pride declaring himself to be God. Exalting and magnifying “himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods...yet he shall come to his

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to contemporary Christian music! That incident took place in the 1960's. Allow me to relate to you another, more recent story from Liberia. In the summer of 2009, Humphrey Hawksley, a BBC news reporter, spent some time in Liberia. At the village of Zorgorwee, a devil dancer was to perform. Mr. Hawksley recalls the village chief's words: "My name is Jacob Kermon," he said in a booming voice that carried above the sound of singing and drums heralding the arrival of the devil. "And Jesus Christ is my personal savior." "Then, why are we here worshipping (sic) the devil?" I [Hawksley] asked, slightly confused.<sup>1</sup> Good question! How could a devil-worshipping chief say, "Jesus Christ is my personal savior"? What happened? Christian missionaries who brought the Gospel to them did not look well into this matter of worship, of personal standards. They thought that the music did not matter, that music is neutral, that music choice is a preference. They thought that CCM was harmless. Little did they know that these and other careless compromises planted the seeds of deviant worship. The fact is, those missionary children WERE calling the evil spirits. But because they did not look well into the matter, they did not think there was anything wrong with putting one foot in the "civilization" of God's Word while firmly planting the other foot in the "bush" of the world! As consecrated Christians, we must be careful about where we are standing and about everything else we do!

*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:12-17).  $\Omega$*

- 1) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8174516.stm> Accessed December 16, 2013

### **FROM OUR READERS**

**"Thank you for the excellent articles in the Projector. Even though Satan seems to be winning the battle, we know the Lord is in control!  
W.S.G - Curwensville, PA**

**"Greetings to you in our precious Lord's Name. I am in receipt of the Spring 2014 Issue of the Projector and I have found it very helpful and informative. I appreciate your addressing New Calvinism and I am planning on securing some additional resources from Dr. Congdon."**

**J.B. - Forest Hill, MD**

**"Thank you so much for your faithfulness to the Word of God...not too many of you out there still standing."**

**D. P. - Greenville, SC**

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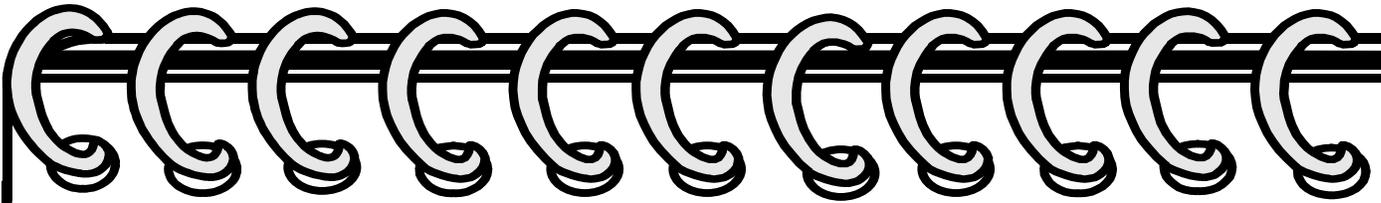
economy has fallen so deeply into debt that the average person cannot even begin to perceive the danger. Our government has left the rule of law for the whim of the individual, and the flawed courts leave little hope for even the law-abiding citizen. Moral standards have sunk lower than those of Sodom and Gomorrah. Like it or not, this nation stands on the verge of civil war if something isn't done soon to rein in the lawlessness of our high national leaders.

### **WAIT JUST A MINUTE...**

Is it really that bad? It is probably even worse, because we haven't yet mentioned the rapid rise of Islam and the daily growth of hate speech and anger toward true Christianity. Now that I have your attention, let me take a guess at your response to such strong language. There are three possible responses: one would come from the optimist, another from the pessimist, and a third from the realist.

The optimist would say "It's not that bad; things are pretty much like they have always been. There are some good things, and others are getting better". That is actually denial, apathy, or ignorance; and it doesn't respect reality at all. Some believers would say, "It really doesn't matter; God is in charge, and everything will come out all right in the end". Their thinking is

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*Teaching Tips*

*by Doris Peppard*

## GRADE INFLATION

Why are more high school students graduating with higher GPA's than ever before? Are students today more gifted than those of the past? No. Modern educators have suggested that grades should reflect a child's effort, rather than mastery, in any subject. This, they believe, would encourage the child to have a good "self-esteem." "In the same way a snowball begins as a single snowflake, grade inflation begins with a single undeserved increase in a grade." (Kevin Buice, *The Effects of Grade Inflation on College-Bound Students*) However, the student who works diligently by putting in the time, energy, and effort to study, completing projects and assignments on time, and learning a body of knowledge presented in a class will expect the "reward" of a good grade. This is where grade inflation becomes a big problem. When a few teachers hold to one high standard (mastery) and other teachers "give" grades for effort, grade inflation takes place. "Some students realize that so long as you hand something up you will pass – this disheartens others and they ask, 'What's

the point of trying to do well?'" ([www.science20.com](http://www.science20.com))

Because of grade inflation, students and parents have come to see any grade below an "A" or "B" as unacceptable. They have also developed a sense of entitlement and expect that they will continue to achieve at a high level at every level of education. Many high schools and colleges are getting away from plus and minus grades, (all grades 90 – 100 are "A's"); teachers will often round up to allow more students to get "A's." When teachers "give" points, they are taking away the student's opportunity to develop character and realize his true academic ability. This then sets them up for failure when mastery becomes important. "Not being more rigorous in grading doesn't allow room for the truly and unusually gifted students to distinguish themselves," (Schlessel, Brown Daily Herald, 03/12/2014) When teachers round-up grades, they defeat the whole purpose of a grading system.

Teachers who practice grade inflation are more popular with students. They also rank higher in end-of-

course evaluations than those who hold students to a "mastery of material" standard. Teachers who assign grades based upon mastery are often criticized for being too hard, uncaring, or even ineffective. "An inherent problem with inflated grades is that they give very little information about the level of mastery in the subject. Grade inflation enables students to complete classes and obtain diplomas and enter into jobs for which they are not a d e q u a t e l y qualified." (Alexander Stanoyevitch, NEA Higher Education Journal, Fall 2008).

Two ways teachers practice grade inflation are giving bonus points to students that do not need them (giving grades over 100) and allowing students to have too many "extra credit" assignments. There are times when "mercy" assignments are extremely helpful and beneficial to students; but they need to be kept to a minimum or students will come to depend upon them to bolster their laziness, forgetfulness, or poor work ethic.

Christian educators must

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**ground of preparation.** They willingly paid the price of leadership, and that price is always the deep sacrifice of preparation of soul, mind and body for whatever duty is required.

Godly leaders need to be prepared. God is not interested in warm bodies. He desires men who have a sense of moral righteousness and courage to lead others in the direction of God's revealed righteousness found in the Word of God. If you read on in our passage you will come to verses 14 and 15 that say these *"sons of God...went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west."* Crossing over Jordan and putting to flight the enemies of Israel refers to the days of Joshua. These men had an **appreciation of history** and the importance of the knowledge of the whys and wherefores of the past. **One of the things that marks a corrupt generation is that they have no appreciation of history.** In fact, they seek to rewrite history to suit their own perverted way of thinking. It is my belief that it is not possible for a man to be a good leader if he does not have an appreciation of history. These men of David had

knowledge of and respect for the past and those who had gone before.

Finally, verse 38 of our passage says, they were *"men of war, that could keep rank."* These men had an **appreciation of personal and military discipline.** God cannot use the slothful and the unruly. If God is going to bring about change in this country, He will have to raise up leaders who put self last and put God first. He will have to raise up leaders who love righteousness and equity even if it costs them personally. The lazy and the indolent never put themselves last and they do not love righteousness. The result is an utter lack of understanding and knowledge that leaves them in the same camp with Absalom and his followers. They are nothing more than useful idiots.

There is no question in my mind that there are difficult days ahead for America. In fact, there are difficult days ahead for Christians specifically. To make things worse, there is a remarkable deficiency of leadership and character similar to Absalom's day. God must work and we must be faithful to Him.

I trust this issue of *The Projector* will stimulate thought, concern and Biblical action that draws the remnant closer to God and closer together. Ω

(Continued from page 4-National Decadence)

labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places".

Dear friends, in time of uncertainty, moral collapse, and failing justice; the blood bought child of God can rejoice as he turns his eyes upon Jesus, who is our strength, who will lift us up and carry us through. Do you need encouragement? Read Habakkuk.

<sup>1</sup>Isaiah 59:14.

<sup>2</sup>Isaiah 1:15, 1:23, 28:7 9:15, 1:4.

<sup>3</sup>Isaiah 45:22, 1:20.

<sup>4</sup>Habakkuk 1:2-3.

<sup>5</sup>Habakkuk 1:5-17.

<sup>6</sup>Habakkuk 2:20.

<sup>7</sup>Habakkuk 3:16.

<sup>8</sup>Habakkuk 3.

<sup>9</sup>Habakkuk 3:17-19.

**“Man’s words lack convicting power, but God’s words are filled to overflowing with convicting power.”**

**-The late Dr. Frank Sells**



*(Continued from page 6 - Facing the Future)*

that such things are not our responsibility, that all we need do is to love people and share the gospel. The problem with that view is that it is derived from only a small part of scripture. The Bible's answers and important truths are always supported by the whole of Bible truth, not just a part.

The pessimist would wail, "All is lost; there's no sense in trying. I knew it would all fall apart, so what's the use, anyway?" Or what is even worse is when the pessimist is so filled with fear and an absence of hope that he decides he will solve the problem himself, and consequently we end up with another mass shooting. There are probably a lot more people in our society who hold this view than you could ever imagine. This part of our culture is a time bomb ready to go off, because they really think that they, along with their friends, can fix it. The problem with this one is that it is based on philosophy, just as is the optimist's view.

The realist is the person who sees the problems and seeks to understand both the problems and the reasons behind them. Liberalism is not reality, but rather a dream world. The liberals don't understand the problem and have no idea how to fix anything. This movement tends to create prob-

lems and then blame them on someone else. The realist knows that there are some good things going on. He knows that God is in charge and that in the end true believers will have already won. He knows that love and the gospel are powerful elements of change. He knows that God is the only answer to all the evils in this society, and he seeks to know the whole counsel of God, not just a part that relieves him of responsibility. Unlike the optimist, he is willing to accept his assignment from God and His Word and to participate in the answers God has provided. He is not a coward, nor is he willing to hide truth under a bushel of excuses.

#### **GOD'S ANSWER FOR THE REALIST**

Love for the lost and the glorious gospel of grace are important, and they carry mountains of truth that God intended for us to communicate in the midst of a pagan culture. Some prefer silence, but silence isn't always golden; sometimes it is just plain yellow!

The whole of scripture is clear: God has given us truth, and it is our obligation to clearly repeat that truth, because it is truth that will set one free. One cannot be an obedient believer and stay quiet where God has spoken on an issue. We want sinners to love God, but they hated the Savior

and He warned us that they would hate us as well. God has spoken on the issues of abortion, infanticide, sodomy, etc. He has not been quiet, and He does not expect his servants to be silent. It is our sovereign God who decides what we are to speak about, and not temporary earthly leaders. That means we cannot abandon the public forum where God has spoken.

#### **AN ILLUSTRATION**

In my book, *The Coming Conflict*, published by Faithful Life Press, I point out that The Separation of Church and State is not a political issue; it is a biblical issue. What God has said in His word about the relationship between temporal government and the church is the final word. This is also true of the believer and temporal government. While our Baptist brothers claim this as a distinctive, there is little understanding of what the Bible teaches in this area. That lack of understanding is going to bite us very soon.

Our country is about to come apart, and most churches have no idea what should be the response of the church and the average believer. We have our pat philosophical responses, but they are empty. Let me whet your appetite. How many details do you know about the opening of the

*(Continued on page 10)*



*(Continued from page 7 - Grade Inflation)*

take a stand against grade inflation. Schools need to set a standard based upon mastery, and all teachers must be consistent with the policy. We should not “give” high grades for mediocre work.

- “A” must stand for Excellent
- “B” must stand for Above Average
- “C” must stand for Average
- “D” must stand for Below Average
- “F” must stand for Failure

Students realize what their academic standing is early on. Regardless of what you name reading groups, students innately know which the top group is and which the bottom group is. Beginning in the early grades we need to teach our students to do their best work and be satisfied with it. The only shame in making a low grade is when a student does less than his best. When an average student makes a “C”, God is honored. We need to instill in our students that God will hold them accountable for their use of the talents and abilities He has given to them.

Parents need to understand their children’s true academic abilities and their only expectation should be for them to do their best. It is not reasonable to assume all children are excellent or above average students. God does create average and below average children and uses them for His honor and glory.

I Corinthians 1:26- 29 states, “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; . . . That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

It is vitally important that Christian educators be held to the high standard presented in God’s Word. It is wrong to “give” or “pad” grades just to make children feel better about their self-esteem. Grading is both objective and subjective; therefore, we must strive to assign grades which are fair and just. Proverbs 11: 1, “A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight.” Ω

*(Continued from page 9 - Facing the Future)*

American Revolution? Do you know what part pastors and the churches played? Do you know where the first battle took place, where the munitions were stored, or who was the first casualty of the battle? Do you know that there are philosophers who believe that Americans were wrong to fight for freedom? (Watch out for their theology!) Are you familiar with the doctrine of “the right of revolution”? No wonder there are so few realists. My task is only to make you think. Ω



## Congdon Ministries International

**P.O. Box 1785 Greer, SC 29652**

*Dr. Rob Congdon has recently released a new book entitled “Oops, I Thought I was a Four-Point Calvinist.” It is a thorough overview of Five point Calvinism. This book offers a system of theology that is Biblical and harmonizes with the Scriptures. Further, it enables the reader to properly understand God’s purpose and plan for earth’s history and eternity.*

*In addition to this recent publication, Dr. Congdon has several books and booklets related to New Calvinism as well as Prophetic Studies.*

*Dr. Congdon’s website is [www.CongdonMinistries.org](http://www.CongdonMinistries.org). The editor highly recommends the ministry of Dr. Congdon. He is available for meetings and can be contacted at 864-498-0988 or by email at [info@CongdonMinistries.org](mailto:info@CongdonMinistries.org)*

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# Stars of the Morning

## SWEET, GENTLE BESS

By "Aunt Carolyn"

Years ago in an earlier generation a stalwart old preacher of the Gospel, Dr. Robert P. (Bob) Schuler, preached his classic sermon, "Some Dogs I Have Known," and later compiled a book of sermons by the same title.\* He spoke of the stellar qualities of several dogs. His opening statement was, "The more I know of some dogs, the less I think of some folks."

I agree with him, but I'd also say the same about horses. If you've never met a horse, get someone to introduce you! And while you are "sizing up" the horse, just know that he is sizing you up, too, and probably with more accuracy than you are of him!

God created horses special! He put in horses great pride, beauty, and strength. God describes His magnificent masterpiece in Job 39:19-25. It begins, "Hast thou given the horse strength? Hast thou clothed his neck with thunder? Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? The glory of his nostrils is terrible. He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength:..." And so on. I hope you will look up Job 39 beginning at verse 19, and read more about God's magnificent masterpiece.

I could tell you about several fine horses, but today I'm going to narrow in on one I used to know named Bess – sweet, gentle Bess, a pretty sorrel with a flash of white on her face. All little calves need a friend, and Bess was their self-appointed guardian angel. What a sweet horse. Some horses need a slightly curved bit in their mouths to control their moves. A few, early on, might even need a harsher bit, but not Bess. Her bit was straight and smooth, needing the least pressure to be guided. She knew her job better than most men and hardly needed a rider. On a long spring cattle drive when the day and the trail rolled on, when little calves grew tired and began to lag behind, when keeping up with "Mama" was more than their spindly, young legs seemed able to manage, Bess didn't lose a-one. Her quick nip on their hind quarters gave them new courage to run to find Mama and keep up with the herd.

Yes, Bess had a quiet gentleness and caring way that left no cause for fear in her presence. We saw another side of her, though, when one summer a city teenager was sent to the farm to work. It seemed he had a great propensity to get into trouble and something had to be done before it was too late. If Dad would be willing to

take him on, they would send the boy to him. Dad made no claim or pretense about it, but somehow folks had a confidence that he had an inner know-how to tame what needed taming, whether horses or boys (or girls)!

So the city dude got a shock to his system when farm work ran from before dawn to after dark. Heat, fatigue, or resistance, nothing was an excuse to quit. So it was that one day he was told to ride a corralled pony and bring up another horse from pasture. No problem, or so he supposed. The job went well until city boy rode too close to Bess. She thought he was after her *new colt*, and every defense in her system came alive! Her whinnies, rear-ups, and flying hooves quickly turned away the intruder and his mount, but Mother Bess wasn't satisfied. She turned after the offender, threw her head high, showed her huge teeth and zeroed in on the boy. In total terror, he barely dodged her vicious bite that could have crushed his ribs. As it was, she just "skint" a big hunk of skin off his side with her teeth and gave notice who was in charge!

After it was all over and Mother had patched him up and we knew he was all right, we all had a good

(Continued on page 12)

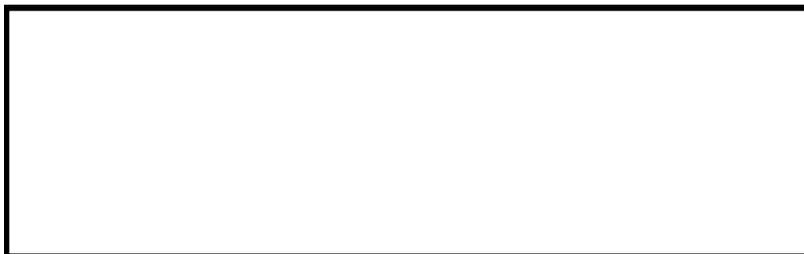


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 ★ (Continued from page 11 - Sweet Gentle Bees)  
 ★ laugh. But somehow the injured  
 ★ young man didn't think it was  
 ★ funny. Greatly embarrassed, he  
 ★ insisted, even begged that *no one*  
 ★ would tell *anyone* about the  
 ★ incident! "How," he lamented,  
 ★ "Can I ever explain that a *horse*  
 ★ bit me?"  
 ★ Bess' gentle, guardian angel,  
 ★ protective attitude was balanced  
 ★ by a fierce fighting spirit when  
 ★ harm threatened her precious  
 ★ colt! -- Our dear Lord Jesus Christ  
 ★ also reveals that wonderful virtue  
 ★ toward His children. He is, after  
 ★ all, the Good Shepherd, tender  
 ★ guide, provider, and comforter of  
 ★ His sheep, but He is also the  
 ★ valiant Defender of His flock!  
 ★ Deuteronomy says, "For the Lord  
 ★ your God is He that goeth with  
 ★ you, to *fight* for you against your  
 ★ enemies, to *save* you (Deut. 20:4).  
 ★ "Because of his strength, I will  
 ★ wait upon thee: for God is my  
 ★ defense (Ps.59:9). Jesus is our  
 ★ sure Defender! Every Christian  
 ★ young person should desire those  
 ★ virtues – love and compassion for  
 ★ unsaved people and for God's  
 ★ people, but an instant spirit to  
 ★ fight and defend against any who  
 ★ would distort God's Truth or  
 ★ destroy the faith of His precious  
 ★ children! Paul told Timothy to  
 ★ "Fight the good fight of faith" (I  
 ★ Tim. 6:12). Stand true to God and  
 ★ His Word! Be loyal to the Lord  
 ★ Jesus Christ no matter the cost!  
 ★ God will reward His own! Ω  
 ★ \*Schuler, Robert P. (Bob), *Some Dogs I*  
 ★ *Have Known*, Wheaton, IL: Sword of  
 ★ the Lord Publishers, 1953.  
 ★ \*\*\*\*\*

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 (Continued from page 5 - Proverb Practicals)  
 end, and none shall help  
 him" (Daniel 11:36, 45), so  
 says Daniel in the Word of  
 God. Lofty eyes and eyelids  
 lifted up are those of the  
 Antichrist. They are the eyes  
 of his generation. They are  
 the mark of the enemies of  
 Jesus Christ and ought never  
 to be found in His  
 followers.  
 Those of us who follow  
 Jesus Christ are to give our  
 eyes to God as a living  
 sacrifice and by His grace  
 never to be found full of  
 sinful, wicked pride.  
 Proverbs 30:13, "There is a  
 generation, O how lofty are  
 their eyes! and their eyelids  
 are lifted up." Ω  
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