



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDING EDITOR

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

Gone to Thessalonica

by Pastor Tod Brainard

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved (agapesas- having willed to fall in love with) this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...."

II Timothy 4:10

"Demas, loving this present world, I fear, has left me and gone to Thessalonica...."

--Phillips Translation

Demas, whose name means, *ambitious, studious of the favor of the people, popular, enjoying the favor of the people*, was a protégé of the Apostle Paul and may have traveled with him on his second and definitely on his third missionary journeys. On both trips, Paul traveled through Thessalonica. It would be in Thessalonica that Paul would lose Demas. Demas "is departed" is *eporeuthe* in the Greek, meaning *to transfer over to, to pursue the journey on which one has entered*. He found Thessalonica to be the place that he thought he would satisfy his love for the world system.

Demas, unbeknown to Paul at the time, was on a personal journey into the culture of his day. He loved the world and slowly began to dismantle the Biblical barriers that kept him from the life he longed for in Thessalonica.

Paul's Deep Concern for Timothy

Paul had just encouraged Timothy in verses 1-8 of our passage with several commands. Verse 5 is especially important because Paul, I believe, has Demas in mind as he admonishes Timothy. *"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*

Let me read the translation by Phillips on verse 5, *"For yourself, stand fast in all that you are doing, meeting whatever suffering this may involve. Go on steadily preaching the Gospel"*

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Why Study Prophecy Now?

by Dr. Manfred Kober

1. The Convergence of the "Signs of the Times"

Never before has there been such a multiplication and convergence of certain signs of the times, that is, events predicted for the seven-year tribulation which are apparently in their beginning stages now. Prophetically, Israel does not need to be in the Promised Land until after the rapture, and yet in 1948 the chosen people, scattered worldwide, became an independent nation.

A European political and economic union began to emerge in the 1950s, called today the European Union, which may well be a precursor of the Revived Roman Empire under

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EDITOR'S DESK

Pastor Tod Brainard

"Unity" among believers is much talked about by pastors and para-church leaders today. In my opinion, there is little Biblical understanding of the term and I believe it is on purpose. Social media is loaded with "Christians" talking about getting together with their friends at church and in the same breath talking about having a beer or a glass of wine or going to watch the latest filth from Hollywood in a local theater. Worldly "unity" is nothing like "Christian unity." Christian unity is built on Christ and therefore focuses on the pure and holy.

A.W. Tozer was a gifted and discerning preacher who was not impressed with the spit and polish preachers of his era who focused their ministries on a man-made unity absent of Christ-like purity. He challenged the thinking of Christianity through his incisive preaching and masterful writing in the 40's, 50's and early 60's. He warned in his book, *"The Pursuit of God,"* of the tug of culture and worldliness on the heart and mind regarding a manufactured "unity" within the church, absent the power of God.

In *"The Pursuit of God,"* Tozer wrote, *"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So, one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship."*

How many in our religious culture today do you suppose are genuinely "tuned to Christ"? It is interesting that those who talk the most about "unity" are always emphasizing the need for Christians to forget their differences, get along, do not criticize each other, don't get too hung up on doctrinal differences; it's all about closer fellowship. But what is the basis of this kind of "unity?" It is a people-oriented unity rather than Christ-oriented unity. It is a false amnesty granted to those

who may be religious, but living in error. It permits those in error to have a free pass to "fellowship" without the obedience to the standards of the Word of God. That is not unity, it is lawlessness.

Christian unity is not about just "getting along." It is about, as Tozer so ably rendered, *"being tuned to Christ."* James 3:17-18 reminds us that *"...wisdom (that wisdom which God gives to His children to live life effectively here on earth) that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."* When in tune with Christ, purity of heart and life is the focus and unity without hypocrisy among believers takes care of itself.

Evangelical "unity" that we hear so much about was clearly defined many years ago by Billy Graham: *"...down in the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, the ministers of our town forgot their differences; the laymen, together with the ministers, held a city-wide evangelistic campaign."* (Quoted from *Revival in Our Time*, Van Kampen Press, Wheaton, Illinois, 1950, p 78). If forgetting differences entails compromise with error and deception then it is not what our Lord had in mind when He prayed to God in John 17:22, *"that they may be one..."* Being in tune with our Lord is far different than forgetting our differences. As my friend, Curtis Sluss, has written, *"Forgetting our differences is Satan's counterfeit for Biblical unity."*

Where does this man-made 'unity' take us? It takes us to a counterfeit that will produce a false spirituality and false worship. The Most High God desires for His people to be unified around His Son for that kind unity is free of hypocrisy.

Every generation of believers faces the same temptation to ignore Biblical injunctions in exchange for what is considered the greater good; unity. We must never forget that the greater good is always the holiness of God and consecration to Him. Ω



The PROJECTOR

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FOCUS ON RELIGION

Generational Failure Jeremiah 9:13-14 by Pastor Adam Watt

The prophecy of Jeremiah concentrates on the proclamations of judgment upon the people of Judah because of their unfaithfulness, immorality, and idolatry. Even though he was often heartbroken, Jeremiah continued to proclaim that the deep sins of the nation had produced the consequences of judgment.

In chapter 9, a unique insight is given concerning the repeated failure of the people from generation to generation. In describing the root cause of the judgment, the Lord proclaims that the people have walked in the ways of Baal, *which their fathers taught them*. The practices and habits of idolatry were passed down to the children who then perpetuated the same sins to their children until after several generations, Jehovah worship was unrecognizable. The word *taught* used in verse 14 is the idea of “exercising in” or “training.” Rather than teaching their children the ways of Jehovah, the parents were training the next generation in the ways of Baal.

The command to instruct the children in the ways of Jehovah is frequently referenced in the Pentateuch, especially the book of Deuteronomy. The parents were to teach their children to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, utilizing every possible opportunity (6:3-15). Furthermore, parents were to instruct concerning not only the holy and separated nature of God, especially related to marriages with the Canaanites (7:1-8) but also a practical walk with

God that avoided the path to idolatry (11:18-25 and 13:6-18). However, rather than following the training pattern provided by God through Moses, the nation of Judah chose to train up their children in the precepts, rituals, and worship of the Baals.

Such abandonment of responsibility resulted in an extensive generational failure—a dereliction in the spiritual duties of parenting. Perhaps the true teaching of Jehovah had been forsaken for so long that the people were truly convinced that they were teaching true worship. Jeremiah points out several aspects of this generational failure.

- **Failure** to illustrate a genuine walk before Jehovah (9:13). Generational failure can occur when a hypocritical and false life is displayed. The nation forsook the law and did not walk in the ways of Jehovah. This forsaking of Jehovah involves the idea of apathy, not caring about what was left.
- **Failure** to model obedience to Jehovah (9:13). If the parents are not obeying Jehovah, why should the children? The next generation witnessed the disobedience and disregard for the law and would simply follow that example.
- **Failure** to submit to Jehovah’s authority (9:14). The people followed the stubbornness of their own hearts, persisting in their own thoughts and desires. The worship of Baal typically involved fleshly and sensual activity, and the nation stubbornly pursued this lifestyle.

The generational failure of Judah provides a vivid reminder for all who have an influential role in the lives of young people, from parents to teachers, youth workers, and pastors. Sadly, we have witnessed the decline of education’s purpose throughout the history of this country. Far gone are the purposes of the Old Deluder Satan Act, whose goal was to teach children so that they could learn the Scriptures. Now, the goal of society is to produce an evolution-minded, humanistic, and self-centered generation that is tolerant to diversity in all areas of culture. Generational failure in our own country has resulted in the mocking of truth and exaltation of evil such as evolution, abortion, immorality, and atheism.

However, generational failure is also being witnessed in Christian homes as well as the spiritual development of children is abandoned for the pursuit of worldly desires and materialistic possessions. As Christian parents, are we concerned about what influences our children? Are we diligent to monitor the world’s influence on our children that comes through technology, social media, and friendship choices? Christians cannot afford to be ignorant about what is influencing the next generation, for if our personal love for the world, hypocritical walk, and self-centeredness dominates our thinking, the conditions are ideal for generational failure.

Let us find a fresh commitment to faithfully promote God’s truth to the next generation so that genuine love and obedience to God are cultivated.



FOUNDER'S FORUM

Attitudes of Fundamentalists

By the late Editor, Dr. Dayton Hobbs
(Written in 2003)

Unscriptural compromise takes you down, not up.

When Fundamentalists change, it always seems to be toward a weaker position. The trend seems to be always down, never up. I was informed on one occasion many years ago that a particularly well known Neo-evangelical was assuring Fundamentalists that he was going to change and become a Fundamentalist. I informed the one who told me that this would be the first one I had ever known who changed from the Neo-Evangelical position to a Fundamentalist position. Some twenty-five years or so have now passed, and the person to whom I refer is still in the Neo-Camp, and less a Fundamentalist than ever. An unsaved Neo-Evangelical might become a Fundamentalist by the new-birth experience, but so may any other unsaved person.

Qualities of Fundamentalists

1.) Fundamentalists must have what is called in boxing a "killer instinct." You can't let up on your attack until the enemy is thoroughly defeat-

ed. Phinehas of the Scriptures possessed this trait. His action ended the terrible plague that Israel's sin had caused. Phinehas' love for God and his obedience to Moses, in my estimation, gave him this "killer instinct." God greatly approved his action and gave Phinehas His "covenant of peace" "the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was jealous for his God..." (Numbers 25:7-13).

2) Fundamentalists must be unaffected by criticism. Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. used to tell us preacher boys, "You cannot move without producing friction." We need to be sure we have a good quality of enemy even if the quantity isn't that big.

3) Fundamentalists must take the Lord's side (the Bible position) on every issue. The Lord's side will always be the strong side.

4) Fundamentalists must not wet the finger and put it in the air to decide which way the wind is blowing before taking a side. Be sure you are

right and move ahead. (*The prophet Zedekiah, the son of Chenaanah in I Kings 22:11, wanted to impress Jehoshaphat and Ahab by making horns of iron which he used to illustrate that Israel would push back the Syrians until they were consumed. The problem was, he was lying. He "wet his finger" to take Ahab's temperature [what Ahab wanted to hear] and then made up a prophecy of "winning" when God had determined that Israel would be defeated.*)

5) Fundamentalists must stay out of relationships or friendships that bridle the tongue and keep us from speaking up for what is right and godly. My liberty in Christ is too precious to bow to another man, no matter who that man may be in matters of truth.

6) Fundamentalists' preaching must be pointed. When Jesus spoke, the Scripture says, "**They perceived that He spake of them**" (Matthew 21:45.) Again, Dr. Bob, Sr. reminded us to keep shooting down the rat hole till the rats run out. I'm afraid compromise or trimming has become our preaching style, as weak and anemic preaching has replaced "**reproving, rebuking and exhorting with all long-suffering**" (II Tim. 4:2). Ω



Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 31:3, **Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.**

This is the heart-cry of a mother to her son, King Lemuel. The context indicates that she had made vows to God regarding her son. Before he came into the world, she had purposed to give her son to God for she named him Lemuel, meaning "belonging to God."

She had not brought her son into this world through the pain and travail of childbirth for a vain purpose. She would not give her words of instruction for no good cause. She had given Lemuel to God through her vows and she intended for him to honor the LORD. She expected her son to bear fruit for God and to live his life for Him.

But there were two extreme dangers before her son and, therefore, warnings needed to be given. She admonished him to **beware of women and wine** (vs. 3-7)! She realized intently her responsibilities as a mother for she did not take her vows lightly.

In our passage, Lemuel's mother pours out her heart to him! She says in essence, "What I must teach you is all important to your personal life, Lemuel, and to the success of your kingdom. Don't give your strength to women! Don't fall to fleshly temptation

for it will destroy your life! Because you are now king, temptations are increased and you are more subject to this kind of danger. Beware of your passions, King Lemuel!"

The wisest man who ever lived was turned away from God by the power of women. This power of women is great. Solomon sinned in giving his strength to women instead of remaining pure for God. **"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God..."**(1 Kings 11:4).

Before Solomon's birth, his father, David, gave his strength to Bathsheba resulting in deceit, adultery, and murder. His lust cost David greatly and his sin brought the sword to his household.

What of the judge Samson? Was his great physical strength any match against the wiles of beautiful Delilah? Were his muscles enough to resist her enticements? Judges 16:15 states, **"And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength**

lieth."

Delilah wore Samson down with her enticements. Little Delilah, beautiful Delilah, deceitful Delilah took down strong Samson.

Samson, David, and Solomon all gave their strength to women which brought ruin and destruction to their families and administrations. Through the lust of the flesh they placed themselves under the control of women, and they lost their effectiveness for God. The burden of Lemuel's mother was this: Do not allow enticing women to control your life.

Dear women, do you hinder your husband from serving God! Does your husband give his strength to you when he should be involved in service to God? Do you make demands on him that place him in a position of choosing between serving you or obeying the will of God?

How often have women pleaded or even demanded of their husbands to stay home instead of answering the call of God? Is this not the act of a woman who desires the strength of the man be given to her instead of to God? It ought not to be found so of any woman who desires to please God!

Ω



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and carry out to the full the commission that God gave you."

Paul did not want to see Timothy go down the same road as Demas. Demas had not stood fast. He did not meet head on whatever sufferings were involved in ministry. He did not steadily preach the Gospel and assist the Apostle Paul. He did not live a consecrated life unto God. Demas quit! The allure of Thessalonica was too great. Paul wanted Timothy to stay on the straight and narrow.

Thessalonica in the New Testament Era

Paul visited the town, together with Silas and Timothy, on his **2nd missionary journey**. He had been at Philippi, and traveled passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia on the way (Acts 17:1). He found at Thessalonica a synagogue of the Jews, in which for three successive Sabbaths he preached the gospel, basing his message upon the types and prophecies of the Old Testament Scriptures (Acts 17:2,3). Some of the Jews became converts and a considerable number of proselytes and Greeks, together with many women of high social standing (Acts 17:4). Among these converts were probably Aristarchus and Secundus, natives of Thessalonica, whom

we afterward find accompanying Paul to Asia at the close of his **3rd missionary journey** (Acts 20:4). How long Paul remained at Thessalonica on his first visit we cannot precisely determine. In any case, we learn that the Philippians sent him assistance on two occasions during the time which he spent there (Philippians 4:16), although he was "working night and day" to maintain himself (1 Thess. 2:9; 2 Thess. 3:8).

Paul, the great missionary strategist, must have seen that from no other center could Macedonia be permeated with the gospel so effectively as from Thessalonica (1 Thess. 1:8).

But let us also be aware that there were significant negatives there. The secular and cultural paganism that permeated the city was at work night and day. Paul's success roused the jealousy of the Jews, who raised a commotion among the city populace (Acts 17:5). Foreseeing further trouble if Paul should continue his work in the town, the converts sent Paul and Silas (and possibly Timothy also) by night to Berea, which was off the main road.

In addition, we are told that the Berean Jews showed a greater readiness to examine the new teaching than those of Thessalonica, and the work of

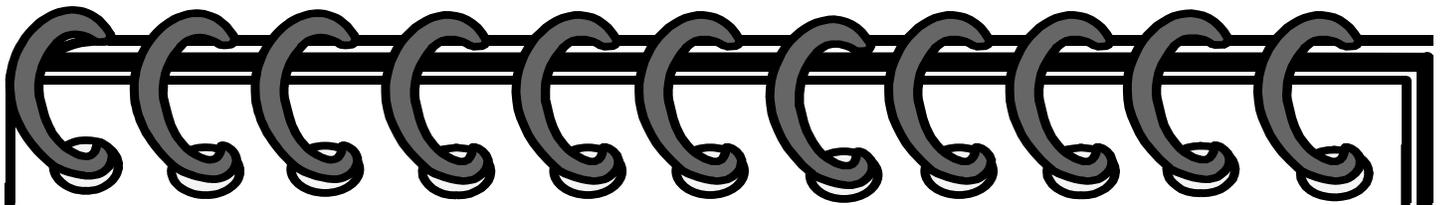
the apostle was more fruitful there, both among Jews and among Greeks (Acts 17:10-13). But the news of this success reached the Thessalonian Jews and inflamed their hostility afresh toward Paul. Going to Berea, they raised a tumult there also, and made it necessary for Paul to leave the town and go to Athens (Acts 17:14,15).

At Thessalonica, the culture was worldly and alluring. It was a Greek commercial city and a seaport, a "free city" moreover, enjoying a certain amount of autonomy and its own constitution. In Thessalonica, there was an intolerance of Paul and his preaching and he was charged with trying to replace Caesar by another king; the rioters wished to bring him before "the people." (Acts 17:5-9). It was a city intolerant of those who spoke the truth, but tolerant of the gain-sayers. Thessalonica was both a ministry opportunity and worldly trap at the same time!

The Thessalonian Church

The Thessalonian church was a strong and flourishing one, composed of Gentiles rather than of Jews, if we may judge from the tone of the two Epistles addressed to its members, the absence of quotations from and

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Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Bullies

In any group of people – no matter the age group – there will be those who are known as bullies. All children must be taught to cope and deal with these bullies and the sooner they learn these skills, the better. Bullies are folks that take control of any situation and turn it to their own advantage. They are usually intelligent and many times are type A (Take control) personalities. However, they do not understand empathy. They are the ones that have the problem, but the rest of us must deal with them and that makes them our problem. Think about various bullies mentioned in Scripture – Goliath, Ahab, Esau, Cain, Laban, Jacob's father-in-law and Haman, to name a few. In every case, God's Word depicts bullies and lets us know where their actions lead – (it's never good)!

Parents assume, wrongly, that if they put their children in a Christian school, their child will never have to face a bully. This is a "Pie in the Sky" attitude that is wrong! No matter what the group, someone will step up to behave badly and in a mean way. All this is all part of our sin nature! Accepting that others will sometimes be mean, act ugly, and occasionally hurt our children, we must give them the skills to cope. I remember an old Andy Griffith Show about a bully tormenting Opie. In the program, Andy taught Opie coping skills: talk firmly, stand your ground, and fight only if you must. In that show, the bully backed down once Opie stood up for himself. In fact, the bully drew a line on the ground and told Opie not to cross. When Opie did cross the line, the bully backed up and drew another line. Finally the bully ran off. That is usually how it is.

Bullies are very insecure people. They want things their way and demand that others give it to them. Most of their actions are bravado and they will usually back away if someone stands up to them. Occasionally, a bully will fight or act aggressively in a physical manner and that requires an adult to help in order to fix the problem. Some children are aggressive because they have been teased and taunted when they were younger and they are simply repeating actions that have been done to them. A good dose of Salvation will help these people turn from their wicked ways and become the person God intends for them to become.

Bullies, whose actions push people away from them, are actually in need of friends; however, they do not know how to be friendly. They need to learn skills to help them act in a friendly manner without any threatening behaviors. They need to practice kindness, being helpful, and looking out for others physically weaker than themselves. They need to learn to empathize with other people. One way to accomplish this is to get the home involved. Parents need to help their children learn to recognize other people's needs and look for ways that they can meet those needs. Too many bullies are self-centered and never learn to look for ways they can be a blessing to others. Empathy is learned by putting yourself in another person's "shoes" or viewpoint for a bit. They need to learn how to serve others – not just themselves. Parents must provide opportunities for their "little bullies" to serve others rather than always looking for others to serve themselves.

Christian school teachers need to be in tune in their classrooms to also provide their "little bullies" an opportunity to be helpful to others. Examples:

- 1) Before going out for recess, ask your "little bully" to play with another child who they had mistreated and help them learn a new playground skill such as catching or kicking a ball.
- 2) Encourage them to help someone with an academic skill.
- 3) Point out that they can be a blessing by sweeping up a mess, taking out the trash, or washing up the desks.
- 4) Have them read stories about children who have been mean and discuss the lessons that must be learned: Bible stories like those mentioned above, Fairy tales like *Cinderella's* step-mother, the bad-guys in the *Boxcar Children*, The girls in *The One Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes, Nellie Olsen in the *Little House* Books, Jonathan Lyte in *Johnny Tremain*, etc. (There are bullies mentioned in most children's literature.)
- 5) Give your bully an opportunity to "fix" his mean actions by correcting and "redoing" his ugly act by showing a proper, kind manner.
- 6) Point out to the class that they must stick together to help a bully learn a better way to act. Many times, another child can help by simply standing up with the child being picked on (a good form of peer pressure!).

There have always been bullies, but with so many children being raised in a self-centered manner along with modern, progressive forms of discipline being used, we must realize the problem is real and must be addressed. As Christian school teachers, we have an opportunity to pray for each student in our classrooms and be a blessing to these children. They have personal problems that only the Lord can remedy. The bully problem is really a sin problem. When that is addressed, solutions to helping these bullies reform their ways is much easier. Ω



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allusions to the Old Testament, and the phrase "*Ye turned unto God from idols*" (1 Thess.1:9; compare also 2:14).

"Once and again" the desire to return to preach the Gospel was strong in him, but "Satan hindered" him (1 Thess. 2:18)--a reference probably to the danger and loss in which such a step would involve Jason and the other leading converts. But though himself prevented from continuing his work at Thessalonica, he sent Timothy from Athens to visit the church and confirm the faith of the Christians amid their hardships and persecutions (1 Thess. 3:2-10).

The favorable report brought back by Timothy was a great comfort to Paul, and at the same time intensified his longing to see his converts again (1 Thess. 3:10,11). **This desire was to be fulfilled more than once. Almost certainly Paul returned there on his 3rd missionary journey**, both on his way to Greece (Acts 20:1) and likely again in Thessalonica after his first imprisonment. From the Epistle to the Philippians (Acts 1:26; 2:24), written during his captivity, we learn that his intention was to revisit Philippi if possible, and 1 Timothy 1:3 records a subsequent journey to Macedonia, in the course of

which the apostle may well have made a stay at Thessalonica.

The only other mention of the town in the New Testament occurs in our text where Paul writes that Demas has forsaken him and has gone there. Whether Demas was a Thessalonian, as some have supposed, cannot be determined. This backdrop is helpful to understanding Demas' desire to be in Thessalonica.

The Pull of the City

Cities have always been a problem for mankind. The first city was Babel. It was built in direct defiance and rebellion of God's command to spread out and to multiply in the earth. Instead, Nimrod, gathered the people together to build a city and a skyscraper to the clouds to show man's defiance of the Creator God. We know how that ended.

Genesis 11:4, "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven, and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

Jude 7 "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are

set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Hebrews 13:14 "*For here we have no continuing (lasting) city, but we seek one to come.*"

Dismantling Barriers

I have been in the ministry now for 30 years. I have watched as the culture: cities, government, schools, universities; even churches, Christian schools and Christian colleges, slowly and deliberately dismantle barriers that once kept them from doing certain things that were detrimental to moral, ethical, social and spiritual well-being of people.

Barriers are good things. But we have been told by the culture that barriers and walls are bad things. Genesis 6 records how society removed the barriers and mankind did that which was right in their own eyes. Slowly, but surely, barriers have been torn down in our generation with little consideration to the consequences of such actions. We hear boasting that open-mindedness and tolerance are wonderful things. But the Bible has told us that there are many things that we should be close-minded and intolerant about. The barriers must stand!

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Antichrist. An imperialistic, militaristic Russia and China cause world-wide concern. The one-world church and the United Nations emerged and are moving toward their position forecast for the tribulation.

2. The Conflict in the Arab World

Arab dictators unexpectedly and inexplicably are losing their stranglehold over their populations. Old alliances are dissolved; new alliances emerge, almost overnight. The winners in these Arab countries, whether Egypt or Libya and soon in Syria, seem to belong to the extremist Moslem Brotherhood. The oft-repeated diatribes of the Brotherhood leaders against Israel has prompted many students of prophecy to surmise that it is an alliance of Moslem nations which will join Russia (Gog and Magog, Ezekiel 38-39) in its futile, suicidal attack on Israel in the middle of the tribulation.

3. The Conspiracy Against Israel

Anti-Semitism is sweeping the world, spearheaded by Iran, which is frantically completing a nuclear bomb to be used against Israel. Israel and its allies take seriously the threat of Iran's former president, Ahmadinejad, "Israel must be wiped off the map" (10/26/05). He insists that Israel is "an insult to humankind" (8/16/12). The former president of Egypt, Mohammed Morsi, is shown in a video, mouthing the word "Amen" as his radical imam prays, "Oh Allah, destroy the Jews and their support-

ers" (10/21/12). The situation will become even more aggravated after the rapture when a virulent world-wide anti-Semitism will break out (Matthew 24:9).

Meanwhile, Reformed theologians go to lengthy efforts denying that an ethnic people called Israel will possess a future geographical area called the Holy Land. The promises to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18) are everlasting (Genesis 17:19). They are unconditional and have neither been fulfilled nor abrogated because of Israel's disobedience. In a document entitled "An Open Letter to Evangelicals and Other Interested Individuals," signed by R. C. Sproul and over 200 other clergymen and Christian leaders, our Reformed friends insist that all the promises to Israel were fulfilled under Joshua. Regrettably, these influential individuals deny that Israel has a right to a homeland now; that Israel will have a glorious national future, and that Jesus Christ will rule for a 1000 years from the throne of David in Jerusalem over the twelve tribes and the rest of the world.

4. The Collapse of the European Financial Structure

The so-called "PIGS Nations" (Portugal, Italy, Greece, Spain) are dragging the rest of the countries in the Eurozone into ever deeper depression. The situation may end in dissolution or a dictatorship. European politicians are virtually begging for a strong leader to rescue the situation.

On January 1, 2002, publications heralded the introduction of a

common currency, the Euro, as the last great step toward a political union of European nations. These are exciting times for students of prophecy! The European Union might crumble, but it seems as if the stage is set for a Revived Roman Empire, foretold by Daniel (Chapters. 2, 7). Before that sees fruition, the church will be raptured from this earth by her Bridegroom.

5. The Culmination of the Prophetic Studies in the End Times

By studying prophecy, the believer in the twenty-first century, with the benefit of great prophecy teachers gone before, is actually fulfilling the prediction of Daniel 12:4. Daniel is told to seal up the words of his prophecy until the time of the end, at which time "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." It is true that increased travel and knowledge characterize the last days, but the metaphorical expression "running to and fro" means to "run through a book, i.e. to examine it thoroughly" (Gesenius, *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*, 810). The book is apparently that of the Revelation, and the prediction is that the knowledge of prophecy will be increased.

6. The Content of Scripture with Eighteen Prophetic Books

The biblical emphasis on prophecy makes the study of end-time events unavoidable. One-fourth of the Bible at the time of its writing was prophetic. Approximately one-half of these prophecies have been literally fulfilled.

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 8 - *Gone to Thessalonica*)

Demas went along with Paul for a while, but he was quietly and secretly planning his exit from the ministry. The lure of Thessalonica increased as the third missionary journey brought Paul back a second time to Thessalonica. Demas had torn down the barriers that kept him from the pull of the city and when they arrived, Demas left Paul. His love for the world system of his day caused him to pursue his dream of independence from God and Paul.

What did the city life of Thessalonica offer to Demas? Maybe it was the promise of amusement in the city or maybe the promise of anonymity as one participated in the vices in the city. Maybe it was the promise of attention and advancement in the city such as what Lot experienced in Sodom and Gomorrah. Maybe it was the thought of absolution – no need to be ashamed of behavior in the city. Everyone lives according to what feels good. No one will criticize you for your exploits in the city. Don't be afraid of judgment! The barriers were gone, dismantled by Demas, and he could do as he pleased.

There was Hope for Timothy

Timothy had been to

Thessalonica and had not stayed. He left with Paul. Paul had admonished Timothy to “*flee youthful lusts*” (II Tim. 2:22; I Tim. 6:11); and he had done so, praise be to God! Paul was careful to remind Timothy that “*at the first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me...*” However, Timothy had not forsaken Paul. What an encouragement! There was hope for Timothy because he maintained the barriers rather than dismantled them. He loved God rather than the world system. The allure of Thessalonica was great, but it did not impact Timothy as it had done Demas. Dear reader, the maintaining of Christ-honoring barriers before this wicked world will make all the difference as to whether you will stay on the right way or go to Thessalonica. Oh, how we need Timothies! Sadly, the Demas' seem to grow exponentially as the love of this world draws them away from Christ. God help us all! Ω

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(Continued from page 9 - *Why Study Prophecy*)

The books of Isaiah through Malachi and Revelation are preeminently prophetic. Other books contain major prophetic truths. For example, every chapter in 1 and 2 Thessalonians deals with the glorious prospect of the return of Christ. The man of God must declare “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), and that necessitates his speaking out on major prophetic themes.

7. The Comfort of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit enabled the biblical writers to reveal “things to come” (John 16:13). The believers are to use these truths for mutual instruction and comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 18). The Spirit of Truth disclosed blessed truths to encourage the saint. Thus it is wonderful to realize that the dead in Christ are safe with the Savior (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, “them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him”). Moreover, the Savior might return at any moment for the living saints (1 Thessalonians 4:18, “wherefore comfort one another with these words”). Knowledge of the future allows the believer to live in the calm of eternity now. Ω

— *From Foundation Magazine, Issue 2, 2017 (published by the Fundamental Evangelistic Association). Dr. Manfred Kober served as a Bible college professor for thirty years and has led over forty Holy Land tours as well as many Reformation tours in Europe. He currently speaks at churches, Bible conferences, and Christian camps.*



Stars of the Morning

RODEOS and WRANGLERS by Aunt Carolyn



(Part I)

Oh, say it's not so! Don't tell me Aunt Carolyn is getting soft as she grows older. Well, not exactly, but she just sees both sides of the show now.

From late summer through fall, from the vast pastures of Wyoming and Montana, to the great central prairies, to the southwestern plains and Texas grasslands, the highlight of the year was Rodeo Time. No matter how many days a fellow had been working the corrals or open range, when word spread that the **rodeo** was coming, the crowds gathered. Whether it was at the State Fair, the County Fair, or the local show arena, the fanfare and hype were enough to get any youngster fired up!

The show opened with a Grand Parade with all of the contestants in the rodeo led by the entry of fine horses and riders bearing the flags followed by cowgirls in flashy Western outfits atop beautiful horses circling the arena. How could they stand up like that on the horses going at such speed? How could that girl manage to handle two horses standing with one foot on each horse's back? If she didn't keep them in step and together she would be split between them and crash to the ground! Then there were the trick horses performing amazing stunts – bowing, playing dead, counting, and other feats. Fascinating!

But then came the real show – **Bull Riding!** The fierce, dangerous, powerful bulls were brought to the pens ready to defy any daring rider! Bulls were rated by their "meanness" and the number and speed of their successes throwing their gritty riders off into the edge of eternity! Points went to the rider according to how many seconds he could stay with the mighty critter before the eight-second "time" horn blew. What power churned through the muscles of those mighty creatures! Thrills, chills, and spills! What an experience!

Calf roping was a little hard to watch. The crowd

shouted and clapped for the cowboy who could lasso the calf so quickly, but you felt the thud when the calf hit the ground. It was an invaluable horse who was trained to hold the lasso rope taut while the cowboy hog-tied three of the calf's feet then threw his hands high in the air to be judged on his quick time. Quite a feat! A well-trained roping horse could make all the difference in a roper's time in the rodeo contest or on the open range!

Now **saddle "bronco busting"** isn't much fun if the bronc wins and the rider lands hard in the dirt! Bronco riding in the rodeo isn't much better since the rider has only one rein and has to spur the horse the whole time, and the broncs are trained to battle and buck and get rid of that man on their backs! Most times, that is exactly what happened. The cowboy stayed on as long as he could, then scrounged himself up off the ground, picked up his hat, dusted it off against his chaps, and strode back to starting gate, hoping his "ride" lasted long enough to boost his score for the night.

The **clowns**, yes, the clowns! They looked ridiculous, and their acts drew lots of laughter with their antics, jokes on each other, and rolling in barrels. But their "fun" was serious business! It was often their crazy, brave stunts that protected a thrown cowboy from the charge of a fiery bull as he scrambled to get out of the way of the furious beast! The clowns were life savers, distracting the bull, waving flags, sometimes jumping into the barrel to save their own hides from a close call – leading the bull to gore the barrel with his horns instead of the clown!!

Yes, rodeos are great, but somehow experience and years have dampened the fun of the show. "Hats off" to the bull and bronco riders! For sure, it takes talent, experience, and lots of grit to crawl atop a churning, seething, powerhouse of an infuriated brute beast! Give them credit! But we now know of

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 ★ (Continued from page 11 - Smokey Blue)
 ★ the wicked burrs sometimes forced and tightened
 ★ under the cinch of the bull or bronco to agitate, vex,
 ★ and cause fury. No wonder they fight so hard to get
 ★ rid of the heavy critters on their backs! Nowadays, I
 ★ pull for the bull and hope he throws his rider as soon
 ★ as he gets out the gate – in less than two seconds,
 ★ way ahead of the horn! And “Bully for the Bronco”,
 ★ too! Let him come down hard on his hooves, arch
 ★ that back, and throw that cowboy high enough to
 ★ count the seconds on his way down!
 ★
 ★ **Riding Fences**
 ★
 ★ Much of ranching has changed over the years, but
 ★ some jobs remain the same. Summer pasture still
 ★ means freedom to roam for the cattle, but not for the
 ★ cowhands. They still have important work,
 ★ including riding fences, making sure there are no
 ★ breaks in the barbed wire where cattle can break out.
 ★
 ★ Riding fences is a safety measure to avoid big
 ★ trouble! Christian boys and girls, “young ranch
 ★ hands” in the Christian life, need to take precautions,
 ★
 ★ too. Paul reminded Timothy of certain “fences” to
 ★ tend in his life. “Be thou an example of believers, in
 ★ word (what you say), in conversation (in your
 ★ actions), in charity (love for Christ and others), in
 ★ faith (trusting God in every situation), in purity
 ★ (living a pure life)...Give attendance to reading
 ★ (study God’s Word daily), and other important
 ★ instructions, (I Tim 4:12-16), including “Take heed
 ★ to thyself” (v.16)! Don’t let your guard down! Do
 ★ right in every situation! Paul also warned, “Flee
 ★ youthful lusts” (II Tim. 2:22). When you face
 ★ temptation, don’t stick around! Move! Get away as
 ★ fast as you can! “Resist the devil and he will flee
 ★ from you” (James 4:7). “Wrangling” as God’s
 ★ “ranch-hand” isn’t for the weak or timid. God is
 ★ looking for boys and girls who will dare the hazards,
 ★ be strong in the face of conflict, and have backbone
 ★ to stand for the Lord Jesus Christ and for His Word
 ★ no matter the cost!
 ★
 ★ *To be continued next issue: Watch out for Rustlers!*
 ★
 ★ *Visit the CBC website for Aunt Carolyn’s new book,*
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 ★*****