

The Faith Watch

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The Doctrine Of Apostasy

Pastor Stan Gustafson

Concerning the eternal security of the believer there are basically two positions circulating in the religious arena. Those who believe in eternal security hold to the once-saved-always-saved position. These people believe that once the new birth is secured it cannot be forfeited for any reason. A convert to Christ is eternally secure in his or her salvation regardless of their fidelity to Christ thereafter. This doctrine says that salvation is complete and absolutely permanent when received and is based upon the merits of Christ for complete fruition rather than the faithfulness or the holiness of the individual. Those who hold to the second position deny that the Christian is eternally secure after conversion but that salvation can be withdrawn if the individual backslides into sin. This is called the doctrine of apostasy since the convert is said to have apostatized thus having forfeited the eternal life he or she once possessed. This view places responsibility upon the believer to perform to a certain level the will of God in daily life to retain their saved status. These congregations are urged to hold out faithful to the end lest they fall from grace.

When first confronted with these doctrines one is tempted to see the

difference as minor and as having little effect upon the practical side of Christianity as both groups preach the Bible as authoritative and the will of God for believers as paramount in daily life. On the surface in many cases the outreach efforts of both groups are similar in that the cross is emphasized as imperative in atonement, faith is urged as necessary and a conversion is required. In churches of both persuasions altar calls are usually given after an evangelistic message where inquirers can be seen kneeling in prayer to receive salvation. All of this may lead some to believe that the issue of eternal security versus apostasy is a relatively inconsequential difference of opinion between two groups of born again Christians. I believe it is much more than that. Satan is a master tactician, playing upon human nature in order to deceive and condemn.

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Pr. 16:25.

One of the devil's greatest weapons is the half truth. Proponents of the apostasy belief use terms like "saved," "born again," "repentance," "faith" and "receiving Christ as Savior." But I will endeavor to show under the three points below that behind these truths lies an error that endangers salvation itself.

1. Those who believe in apostasy must deny a full atonement.

The shedding of the blood of Christ upon the cross was to atone for ALL of the sins of the world for every generation. It is because of and only by this vicarious blood atonement that we have any relief from the guilt of sin. When a sinner is converted the atonement of Calvary's cross is fully applied. The sins of the sinner, PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE, are under the blood of Christ. The sinner then is FULLY FORGIVEN at the moment of conversion.

We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all ... this man, after that he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God ... For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified He. 10:10-14.

In Christ the sinner is justified from all sin (Ac. 13:39). There are no more sins, past, present or future to be brought against him, because the atonement which was applied to his sin debt was comprehensive. It is so complete that if it were possible to forfeit salvation by falling away, the lapsed individual could not be saved a second time since the full atonement was granted the first time.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened ... if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. He. 6:4-6

That one-time offering of God's Son

upon the cross is sufficient for our complete and eternal salvation.

He became the author of eternal salvation He. 5:9.

Those who believe that salvation can be surrendered after it is acquired must admit that the cross somehow did not cover the sins that caused the forfeiture. They were not included in the bloodshed of Calvary. This limits the atonement of Christ and does despite unto Him and to His sacrifice. They must deny a complete justification of the sinner at conversion. Apostasy doctrine says that there were future sins of the believer still in question. They were not covered under the atonement when he was saved, and when he committed them they damned him again. Can anyone fail to see that he must have been in some measure unjustified at conversion? Why was the cross not sufficient? This is a serious charge against the Lamb of God Whose soul was made an offering for sin (Is 53:10)!

When Christ shed His blood upon the cross He propitiated (satisfied) the sin debt of the world.

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 Jn. 2:2).

He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. (Is 53:11).

The Scriptures are clear. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ satisfies my sin debt to God in full. God is satisfied. It is

sufficient against ALL charges.

Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died Ro. 8:33,34.

2. Those who believe in apostasy must introduce human works into the plan of salvation.

The Word of God is emphatic that no works are included in our salvation. The concept of grace in the Bible is placed in opposition to and to the exclusion of any and all works. Ep.2:8,9 states that grace excludes works. Ti.3:5 tell us that God's mercy saves as opposed to any merit in works. Ro.3:20 declares our obedience to the law of God to be in opposition to His saving work.. Ro.3:24 indicates that grace must be free without obligation to earn it through obedience to any law. Salvation is by grace through faith. ANY OTHER METHOD FAILS TO SAVE!

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. Ro. 11:6

We see here that grace is unobtainable if any works at all are added to the plan.

Listen to Paul lament the condition of his fellow Jews in the following remark.

They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for

righteousness to every one that believeth.. Ro. 10: 2-4.

My righteous standing before God comes solely by Christ. It is His righteousness and not my own. Saving grace can not be acquired if any human merit is retained in the attempt! Those who hold to the position that salvation is dependent upon faithfulness to God's moral or ceremonial law make works a part of ultimate deliverance! I must not steal, I must not commit adultery, I must not hate, lie, curse, be proud, neglect worship, etc., etc..(They debate among themselves at which exact point a sinning believer is unsaved.). I must keep working to stay saved. I must merit Christ's continuing salvation through working out the law of God in my life. That means works! There can be no saving grace whatever in such a system. Those who understand this now know the depth of the import of the issue before us.

3. Those who believe in apostasy have not yet trusted Jesus Christ.

God's plan to save sinners is narrow. Jesus Christ is the only Savior. He is the one and only way (Jn. 14:6). He is the one and only door (Jn. 10:9). He is the one and only mediator (I Ti.2:5). He is the one and only advocate (I Jn.2: 1). The Bible is clear that salvation is "by Him, through Him and In Him". Saving faith must be in Him. (Jn.3:16-18,36).

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Jn. 3:18.

My trust for salvation must be in Him.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Ep.1:13.

I have conversed with countless people who told me they were saved by Jesus and His blood yet insisted that merely trusting Him was not enough. The apostasy doctrine they believed had backed them into a theological corner until they had to take the position that faith in Christ was not enough ... that a one-time conversion by faith was too easy. They were trusting Jesus in addition to their own faithfulness. Their faith was divided between the two. (They will argue all night that this is not the case.) When pressed they could not affirm that to trust Jesus alone to save freely and completely by grace through simple childlike faith was sufficient. What an untenable position! What an unsavory spot! Can such an individual be saved? He has yet to fully trust Christ!

I assert upon the authority of God's Word that salvation is a free gift.

... so also is the free gift ... the free gift is of many offences unto justification ... even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. Ro. 5:15-18.

To those in the apostasy doctrine salvation can never be free. It will cost them a lifetime of service. It seems unnatural to think that a Christian can stumble into a deep pit of sin and retain his standing as a child of God, but that

speaks of the completeness of Christ's atonement and the absolute freeness of the gift of eternal life. There are many well-meaning religious people who have a divided faith. Some divide it between Jesus and the church to save them. Some divide it between Jesus and their baptism or confirmation. Some trust in Jesus and His mother Mary. This apostasy belief forces people to divide their trust between Jesus and the faithfulness of their own Christian walk. Have they put unconditional faith in Christ? Can they be saved?

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand. Ro. 5:2.

My fear is that this diabolical doctrine drastically reduces the number of those who are genuinely saved. There are few saved, far fewer than most people realize (Mt.7:14). Many professors are not possessors. Such is the case among those who deny the eternal security of the believer. They may attend enthusiastic churches, study their Bibles, and try their best to live holy lives, but they are victims of a sinister Satanic delusion. I fear for the multitudes involved in evangelical circles, inter-denominational ministries, Pentecostal Holiness groups, Freewill Baptists (they are not true Baptists) and others who are victims of this teaching. They have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (II Ti.3:5). They being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God (Ro. 10:3). These are, I am afraid, many of the tares among the wheat (Mt. 13:25).

Do I believe that a person can be truly saved and then be led into this apostasy error afterward? I do believe that, but I also say that God has promised to lead His people into all truth, that the Holy Spirit teaches us and bears witness to the truth to prevent doctrinal error among true believers. This precludes large numbers of true believers from straying into grievous doctrinal error. Oh, I believe the numbers of those who are truly saved from among these groups to be much smaller than most people think!

That individual who goes to Christ, trusting Him with no strings attached, understanding that he has no righteousness of his own, that he is totally unprofitable (Ro.3:10-12), that throws himself completely upon the mercy of God through His Son comes away eternally saved. But that poor soul who has been instructed in the falsehood that Jesus must save but then only continues to save as long as the believer holds out faithful, is unable to actually trust Christ when he calls to be saved. When he approaches the Savior to settle his eternal state he can hold only a limited trust in Jesus, the rest goes to his own faithfulness ... he can not at that point be saved. How dastardly destructive is the half-truth of Satan! So close ... but lost!

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Mt. 7:22,23).

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*A MAN CANNOT BE AT
PEACE WITH HIMSELF
WHILE HE LIVES IN
DISOBEDIENCE TO
KNOWN TRUTH.*

The Life of Christ - by Man Part I

by Barbi Daffara

A long time ago, there was great unrest in the Middle East. Lands exchanged hands frequently, lives were taken for the sake of power and money, and no one could be trusted. Each monarch tried to keep control of his land from interlopers and assassins, and each city was full of people who were living day by day in fear of what would take place next. The people were waiting for someone who would come to deliver them from this tyranny and provide a safe and calm land for them to live out their lives. Some of these people loved God very much and knew that God had promised a Savior. They waited hopefully for the day he would arrive to deliver them.

Amidst this unrest lived a king and a queen. The king and queen lived in a city called Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the exception to the rule of the times. There was no fighting in this city. This was a place of refuge away from the chaos where peace and harmony were supreme. All people from the servant to the farmer to the tradesman to the king were thought to be created equal and were treated as such.

The king's family was very well known throughout the entire world for their great minds and great riches. The queen was very beautiful and came from a family just as well known as her husband's. The couple had known each other since their childhood, and it was understood that they would get married some day. Luckily, the king and queen fell in love with each other and were happy to wed.

One day, the queen came to her husband with some great news. She was going to have a baby. The king was very excited and hoped that she would have a boy who would some day take over the throne. Nine months later, the baby was born, and it was a boy! Heralds were sent to spread the news throughout the kingdom of the auspicious occasion. All were expected to come, and knew they were not expected to show up empty-handed. Soon the castle began to fill with expensive toys, clothing and gifts of money to celebrate the birth of this new heir to the throne. People came from all over the country to bow before this baby prince. They worshipped him and praised him as he would be their leader some day. Everyone who saw this child loved him and vowed they would give their life for him. He was beautiful to look on, a charming handsome boy who was very special.

As the prince grew, it became apparent to his parents and to the rest of the kingdom that he was different from other children. While the other kids were out playing childhood games, he was learning all he could about the scriptures and God. He had a love for God that was rare. He was a very spiritual boy. He was even found in the temple discussing religion and questions that had confounded man since creation. He was brilliant and astounded many with his knowledge. Still, he carried himself with such humility and kindness that no one ever felt looked down on in his presence. He could speak with a magistrate in the same manner as a peasant, and each would walk away admiring him greatly. He was well known throughout the country and loved by all.

God had given the prince abilities that normal men did not have. He was

able to perform all kinds of miracles. The king and queen were very proud of their son and his talents, so much so that they held carnivals and parties where the main attraction was their son's "miracles."

People from miles around would come to see what the special young boy could do. Many times he even helped people who had something wrong with them. He could make a blind person see, a lame man walk or a deaf man hear. Everyone was very impressed with this young man's abilities, but they were not surprised. If anyone were going to have special powers, it would be this prince because he was so very wonderful himself. There was even talk that it was very possible that this young man was the "Savior" God had said he would send.

Eventually, the king passed away, and with much sadness, the prince took over as king. As a prince, he was well loved and well known, but now as king, he showed a wisdom and fairness that garnered respect and loyalty from all of his subjects. He was very peaceful and did not have a hunger to take over more land or more areas than the kingdom which he ruled. When an issue was presented to the king, he would consider each side, pray for the knowledge to handle the situation and follow the Lord's guidance.

There were many other countries and lands that had heard about the new king and wanted to take over this wonderful land with all of its riches and resources. The time eventually came when the city was pressed on many sides and the only way to survive the sieges and the wars was to go on the offensive and fight back. While our young king was not aggressive and power hungry, he was a

warrior when it came to protecting his people. The king trained his men hard, but not any harder than he himself worked. He was strong in mind and in body and had many good strategies to bring to the plans.

It was time to go to battle. The people were worried for the lives of their loved ones who would be going to fight. Their minds were minimally eased by the knowledge that the leader was quite possibly the "Savior" that would take the world out of this quagmire of hate and deceit and bring about peace and tranquility. As they rode, there were throngs praising and encouraging the troops led by their fearless leader. Many shouted his name and words of praise. He was revered and respected now even more than before because of his bravery while facing the very real danger that was upon each of his subjects.

The battle was fierce. The king was cunning and brilliant tactically. It took only a short time before the other smaller armies that were warring between themselves came to see him as their leader and began to work together. Lands were united. People were linked in friendship and trust of their brothers in battle. The young king's militia continued to march forward adding to his army of loyal men. After a long hard road to victory, the king finally returned to his city a hero. His city had now become the headquarters of the world. He had united the world in peace and harmony. The people had a celebration to rival all celebrations to welcome back their Savior. For they now knew that this king, this wonderful, beautiful, kind, wealthy, strong man, had been sent to them by God to deliver them from the depths of despair that was their lives. The fighting and hatred was gone, and

all lived in peace and happiness. Long live the king, the deliverer, the Savior!"

This is a wonderful story, a nice fairy tale, and this is what would have happened had man written the plans for a Savior. I will expound on this story and all of its problems in the next issue of *The Watch*, so stay tuned for Part II.

The Marolfs' Salsa

16 to 20 cups (8 quarts) of cooked fresh tomatoes

4 cups of finely chopped celery

3 cups of finely chopped carrots

6 cups of chopped onions

1/2 cup of chopped garlic

3 cups of finely chopped green bell peppers

2/3 cup to 1 cup of finely chopped jalapenos,

1 cup finely chopped sweet banana peppers

1 1/2 cup of mixed, finely chopped hot banana peppers and anaheim peppers

3 tablespoons of dried cilantro

3 tablespoons of chili powder

2 1/2 tablespoons of salt

1/2 cup of red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons of prepared horseradish

Mix well and stir often. Let boil 20-25 minutes. Drain juice before putting into jars. Pressure Cook at 6 pounds for 20 minutes or cold pack and let come to a boil for 20 minutes.

Makes 16- 19 pints.

Bernetta's Babbles

Continuing along the lines of words with the letter "F" in the middle, Faith is our next word.

1. What is faith?

a. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that: *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

2. Do you have faith?

a. Luke 8:25 asks us: *"Where is your faith?"*

3. Have you no strong faith?

a. Matthew 6:20, Matthew 8:26, Matthew 14:31, Matthew 16:8.

b. Luke 12:28: *"O ye of little faith"*

4. We need to pray for faith.

a. 1 Thessalonians 3:10: *"Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith."*

b. James 5:15: *"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."*

5. Therefore we are saved by faith.

a. Ephesians 2:8: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."*

b. Some more scriptures for this are: Luke 7:50, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Romans 3:22, Galatians 3:26, Philippians 3:9, Colossians 1:4, Colossians 2:5, 2 Timothy 3:15.

6. Then after we're saved by faith, we're kept by faith.

a. Romans 11:20; *"Well; because of*

unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:”

b. 1 Corinthians 16:13, 2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Peter 1:5, 1 Peter 5:9, Jude 1:20.

7. Hold to the faith.

a. Hebrews 10:22-23: *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”*

8. Comforted by faith.

a. 1 Thessalonians 3:2; *“And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:”*

b. 1 Thessalonians 3:7 *“Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:”*

9. Justified by faith.

a. Romans 1:17: *“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”*

b. Romans 5:1: *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”*

c. Romans 3:26-27: *“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”*

d. Galatians 3:24: *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified*

by faith.”

10. Obedient to the faith.

a. Acts 6:7, Romans 1:5, Romans 16:26

11. Add to your faith.

a. 2 Peter 1:5

12. Then finally, we need to pray for the Lord to increase our faith.

a. Luke 17:5: *“And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.”*

Let this be our prayer each day. Let us realize that faith starts with yourself. If you have faith, you have enough to follow it. After all, it takes more faith to believe than it does to disbelieve. As we said in the beginning, Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Until next issue, see if you can come up with the next word with “I” in the middle.

Sara Shipp

Evolution Is a Myth

Sir Arthur Keith, a leading evolutionist of the twentieth century, candidly admitted, “Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We [evolutionists] believe it because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable.” Yes, once it is admitted that there is a God to whom an accounting must someday be given, belief in special creation must be avoided at all costs.

- Calvary Contender

THE RAPTURE AND COMING EVENTS

There is a day that is coming--it could
be today

When all the "real" Christians shall be
caught away.

The graves will burst open--the dead in
Christ shall rise

And those who remain shall be
changed--"in the twinkling of an
eye."

They'll be a meeting in the air--as the
trumpet is heard

By God's "elect"--those who believed
in His "Word"

That told about the "blessed hope"--
Christians called the "Rapture"—

The hearts of believers--Jesus did
capture.

His "chosen" few who trusted in Him—
Set apart,, sanctified, free from "sin".

The tribulation begins; many tears are
shed—

While loved ones are "snatched" out of
their beds.

All the precious "little children" shall
vanish and disappear.

As chaos takes over heavy hearts do
fear.

Excuses will be made--perhaps U.F.O's
they will blame.

The "Anti-Christ" they will worship--
without any shame.

Without the Mark of the Beast--they
can't buy or sell.

And once they've received it--their souls
are bound for Hell.

But the "Mark of the Beast"--they'll
gladly receive.

As the False Prophet deceitfully, dupes
and deceives.

Some will be martyred--"666" they
refuse.

144,000 shall preach--all virgin male
Jews—

From the tribes of Israel--as
"Revelation" declares—

God's Holy Word (praise the Lord) they
shall share!

As the "plagues" do come--hearts will
grow harder

They'll curse Jesus Christ and the
Heavenly Father!

And death will not come--though death
they'd prefer

Famine, pestilence? disease--without
cure.

They'll shake their fists toward heaven
above

As the rivers, sea, and fountains--turn
into blood...

While their tongues gnaw in pain from
the hot fiery sun

Scorched, burned bodies, will find no
place to hide or run.

Five months shall pass and they'll beg
to die!

Because of a scorpion's sting they'll wail
and cry.

Through a mighty earthquake with
lightning and thunder

Like the children' of Israel--they will all
wander.

Arrogant, disobedient,--on Jesus they'll
not call

As the hailstones from Heaven cause
them to stumble and fall

Down on their knees--remorseless,
they'll not relent

From all of their sins--they'll still not
repent!

With their last breath--they'll blaspheme
God

As He returns to rule with an iron of rod.
Then the fowls of the air will gather for
a feast—

The flesh of Kings and Captains--those

who worshipped the "Beast."
A Lake of Fire burning with brimstone
will be their eternal tomb- -
Where their worm dieth not"--where
they'll never be consumed.
Where they'll remember the day they
vehemently rejected the Blessed
Redeemer—
"Salvation" neglected!

Then Jesus will come-Satan shall be
bound
1000 years of peace on earth shall
abound.

So my dear friend, please listen to me
Give your heart to Jesus – from “sin”
be set free.

Then the "Great Tribulation" you'll not
partake

No martyrs death - for Jesus Christ's
sake.

No plagues, no earthquake, - no
“supper” to “feast”

No hail no Hell fire – NO MARK OF
THE “BEAST!"

But rather, be "caught up" in the
"twinkling of an eye"

To greet our precious Saviour – in that
:meeting in the sky."

*“And the devil that deceived them
was cast into the lake of fire and
brimstone, where the beast and the
false prophet are, and shall be
tormented day and night for ever
and ever.” Revelation 20:10 "And
whosoever was not found written
in the Book of Life was cast into
the lake of fire. " Rev. 20:15*

*"For the Lord himself shall
descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of the archangel, and
with the trump of God: and the
dead in Christ shall rise first: Then*

*we which are alive and remain
shall be caught up together with
them in the clouds, to meet the Lord
in the air: and so shall we ever be
with the Lord. Wherefore comfort
one another with these words.” 1
Thess 4:16-18*

Love,
“Patches”

Voyage Ended

An old writer tells is of a ship coming
from India to France. The crew was
made up of French sailors who had been
long from home, years gone away from
their families.

As the ship came along the coast of
France, the men became uncontrollable.
They skipped the deck with glee and
pointed to the spires of the churches
where they had once worshipped and to
the hills where they had played in
boyhood.

But, the writer says, when the ship
came into the port and these sailors saw
the father and mother and wife and
loved ones on the wharf and heard these
loved ones call them by their names,
they sprang ashore and rushed up the
banks into the city. The captain had to
get another crew to bring the ship to her
moorings.

Thus Heaven, our fatherland, will
after while be so fully in sight that we
will see it's towers, its mansions, its
hills; and as we go into port and our
loved ones call from that shining shore
and speak our names, we will spring to
the beach, leaving this old ship of a
world to be managed by another crew,
our rough voyaging of the seas ended
forever. - T. DeWitt Talmage

SERMON OFFER

The following sermons were preached from the pulpit of Faith Baptist Church, Moline, IL. They are available either on cassette or CD at a cost of \$1.00 per copy. They will be of value to those who desire a further understanding of the Word of God, and side one will be especially helpful to someone who has yet to be converted to Christ.

WHAT THE RICH MAN TOOK WITH HIM

In this message from Luke chapter sixteen an unconverted man passes from this life into the fires of hell. Though it is said you can't take it with you, it is interesting to examine the things he retained in the afterlife.

RESTRICTIONS

Here is a good look at God's rationale behind the things He tells us are off limits. This is a good sermon for Christians who are battling with letting go of things God has forbidden. It helps us actually appreciate divine boundaries.

Send requests for tapes or CDs along with the appropriate funds to:

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
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Moline, IL 61265

IS IT TOO LATE FOR AMERICA?

By **ROLLAND. C. STARR**, Pastor
**CORNERSTONE BAPTIST
CHURCH**
P.O. BOX 438
BELMONT, MA 02478

I know one thing, it is very late! It seems to me we are pretty close to the days in Israel when God said to Jeremiah, "Pray not for this people." It was too late! The scare of 9/11 has worn off and it is business as usual, which is typified by an underlying humanism and a wicked hedonism.

Quite a few quotes here are found in *The Death of the West*, by Pat Buchanan. Other sources include previous issues of the *Cornerstone Challenge*. We are living in very ominous times and the truth is the West, Europe and America, are about as far as one can get from God and ripe for judgment.

Four major trends prevail today! My purpose is twofold: first, hopefully some Christians will get serious as to why we are here; second, hopefully parents will wake up and prepare their children for the difficult days ahead.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MULTI- CULTURISM!

This is seen as a great thing. Let us have many cultures; many countries within one land. It may sound good, but it only weakens and leads to divisions. President Theodore Roosevelt said, "One absolutely certain way to bring this nation to ruin...would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities."

Before WW II immigrants, who came to this country, became Americans and were proud of it. Not so today! Today we give them bilingual (even multi-lingual) education and they cling to their old culture. Europe and America are swamped with third world immigrants; besides millions of legal immigrants in the U.S. we have 11 million illegal ones, if not more.

In 2000, President Fox of Mexico (where 50% are in poverty) proposed that the U.S., Mexico and Canada become one nation. President Clinton thought it was a great idea. So did the Wall Street Journal! By 2005, in just three years, 43% of all Californians under 18 will be Mexican.

According to many historians, every great country was held together by some religion. The West was at one time "Christian" - not born again, but held to a basic Christian philosophy. Christianity of any kind, to all intents and purposes, has been dead in Europe for a long time. The R. C. Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Murphy O'Connor said, "As a guide to people's moral lives in Britain, Christianity has vanished." Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey said, "A tacit atheism prevails."

The U.S. Supreme Court in the past 30 years has outlawed Christianity in public life. Ultra-liberal Justice Wm. Brennan said, "(Judges) are not mere umpires, but in their own sphere, lawmakers!" They have proved that! Today, the West is basically humanistic! Christianity has very little influence upon the masses.

A Princeton survey in 1996 revealed that 62% of Protestants and 74% of Catholics believed that all religions are equally good. Can you imagine, Hinduism with its millions of gods is just as valid as Christianity! Roman Catholic Bishop Fulton Sheen in 1931 said, "We are producing a group of sophomoric latitudinarians who...not only say one Christian sect is as good as another but that one world religion is as good as another."

GLOBALISM: ONE WORLD!

This is the next logical step - many cultures in one world! We have written on this subject several times. The Bible tells us there will be one world government and one world religion under antichrist. Fundamentalists believe this, but they cannot see it forming right under their noses. They think it is a great way off and most are simply living for today.

The Humanist Manifesto says, "We look forward to a world order based on transnational federal government." Strobe Talbot of the Clinton administration said, "Within the next hundred years nationhood as we know it will be obsolete; all states (countries) will recognize one global authority." It will probably be long before 100 years.

John Lennon expressed it like this: "Imagine there's no heaven - It's easy if you try. No hell below us - Above us only sky; Imagine all the people living for today. Imagine there's no countries; It isn't hard to do. Nothing to kill or die for; And no religion too. Imagine all the people - Living life in peace."

In order to do this, one must destroy patriotism. Arthur Schlesinger said, "The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history. Then...manufacture a new one." That's been going on with a vengeance for the past 40 years! School textbooks have been so altered as to erase our past and downgrade America's heroes, substituting liberal radicals.

Fifty years ago, 89% of men and 94% of women said this was the greatest country in the world. Today, it's 58% and 51%. In 1992, UCLA was given \$2 million by the U.S. Education Department to develop new history standards. Here's what they came up

with: “No references to Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell or the Wright Brothers... Harriet Tubman - six times while Robert E. Lee only once. The founding dates of the (very liberal) Sierra Club and the (very feminist) National Organization for Women got special notice... the Constitutional Convention was never mentioned. The Presidency of George Washington was not mentioned nor his farewell address. The only congressional figure (out of tens of thousands) was Tip O’Neil.”

A recent survey of 556 seniors from top college and universities asked 34 questions from a high school history course. Four out of five - 80% flunked! Only 22% linked “government of the people, by the people...” to the Gettysburg address. A U.S. News and World Report survey found that NOT ONE of 55 elite colleges and universities require a U.S. history course to graduate. The average parent (including many Christians) do not have a clue as to what has happened.

HEDONISM AND MORAL BREAKDOWN

The European and U.S. birthrate is at a dying rate. They are not producing enough children to replace themselves. In 1960, 25% of the world’s population was of European descent; by 2000 it was less than 17% and by 2050 it is predicted to be 10%. Today, 47 European countries have more deaths than births. Only one has more - Albania which is Muslim.

Popline, a liberal population news service predicts that by 2050 Russia will have only one hundred million people. The third world adds one million new persons every 15 months. What does this

have to do with morality? The West is not producing many children. Why not? Mainly because of birth control and abortion. Few want babies, it would hinder their life style.

That’s one reason we have 1.5 million abortions here every year - sex but no babies. With rare exceptions, abortion was unthinkable 50-75 years ago. Pioneer feminist Elizabeth Stanton said in 1848 abortion “was a disgusting and degrading crime.” Before WW II, Margaret Sanger (founder of Planned Parenthood) said, “The most merciful thing a large family can do to one of its infant members is to kill it.” Today, only 17%-19% of Americans favor outlawing all abortions. Unmarried couples have increased 1000% since 1970; 64% of women with children are in the work force (another Marxist ideology).

Homosexuality and pornography have made astounding gains. Thomas Jefferson said homosexuality was worse than bestiality and punishable by death. Then, we have sex education in the schools, TV and internet pollution, etc. Two generations have grown up in this culture and they think it is normal.

THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA’S YOUTH

The last two or three generations of young people have been brought up on the humanistic philosophy of relativism, there are no absolutes. Most people know about the disastrous situation in the public schools. The “dumbing down” of our schools didn’t happen by accident but by design. In 1983, The Humanist said, “The battle for mankind’s future must be fought in the classroom.”

The truth is they have won! Greening

of America, states: "An examination is a form of violence. Compulsory gym...is a form of violence... Compulsory attendance in the classroom is a form of violence..." History has been rewritten; Martin Luther King is a hero while true patriots are debunked. A recent study shows 1/2 of the Ivy League seniors could not name the author of the Gettysburg address; 98% could identify rapper "Snoopy Dogg." The most used history book in America mentions Martin Luther King 67 times - Thomas Jefferson once.

The entertainment industry is a cesspool of iniquity. The Chicago Tribune said, "MTV is the single most powerful force in popular music, and also the most ruinous." Wm. Lind, Dir. for Cultural Conservatism said: "The entertainment industry has wholly absorbed the ideology of Marxism and preaches it endlessly... children are wiser than their parents, homosexuals lead normal lives..."

Though Marxism failed in Russia (it is not dead) social Marxism is flourishing on the campuses of America. Marx and his successors taught that producing a hedonistic society would bring down any people.

Why am I bothering to write this? Because most Christians are living with one foot in the world and one in the Church. They are asleep and their children are being caught up in the worldliness and carnality that is all around them. Few Christians have a clue that things have changed drastically!

They live pretty much like the rest of the people, occupied with things, pleasure and selfish ambition. I am writing this to wake you up! The world is going down fast and many professed believers with it. Some of you will lose

your children unless you get serious with God. God tried to wake them up in Jeremiah's day but they didn't want to hear it.

God says, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to wake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light." Rom.13:11,12. We may not be able to save America, but maybe we can save our young people! It is going to take some serious repenting!

The Authority For Faith and —

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both faith and practice.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both faith and order.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both faith and works.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both faith and principles.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both faith and policies.

For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. Job 19:25-27

FAITH BAPTIST WATCH

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*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:
it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9*