

The DEFENDER - March 2019



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: Deep States

That's not a typo in the title of this month's article. The subject is plural. There are two Deep States in America today, and in fact, they reach beyond our borders as they are global in nature. One Deep State is political and the other is religious. Serious students of Bible prophecy are aware that both have been predicted to work in concert to usher in the end-time Great Tribulation **Revelation 13:13-15**.

Social justice is the manufactured crisis being used to bring the world into bondage. It's a wide net that includes things like eliminating poverty through wealth redistribution and eliminating fossil fuels in order to save the planet. Understand that social justice is a political term, not a theological one, but the liberal progressives in the church have embraced it to push religion under the wide tent of ecumenism. They are convincing the nominal Christian that a collective salvation can be achieved through healing the world by embracing these causes. This is the Christian Deep State.

People who are biblically illiterate are especially vulnerable to the lies being foisted on them in religious circles, just as there are consequences of not knowing the true intent of the Constitution of our blessed land. In the political realm, once you compromise the Law of the land—as handed down by our Founding Fathers—you have given hope and power to those who would overthrow our nation. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be the final products of this centuries old movement which is gaining speed and momentum as we get closer to the final days of history. Satan, of course, is behind it all. He has had political leaders in place since the Tower of Babel. The devil knows his end is coming, he just doesn't know when. It's God who is in control of history. And all things will come about in His time.

Satan has recruited many through the years to help him push his agenda. They are often people who have a cause of their own, which just happens to parallel what the devil is trying to accomplish. People who are otherwise ignorant of the spiritual warfare going on around us are useful pawns for Satan. In the religious realm they've been referred to as watermelon Christians. Just like the fruit they're named after, many of them are environmentally green on the outside and socialistically red on the inside. Which makes them perfect bedpartners for their political counterparts. The progressive worldview begins with the idea that we're not created by God, which allows them to violate the laws of nature and nature's God, who is the source of authority for our constitutional rights.

As believers, we're called to spread the gospel until our Lord returns. We're to preach the truth to all who will hear. They may quiet us, but they can't silence the Word of God. Nations will fall, but the gates of Hell will not prevail against the true Church of Jesus Christ **Matthew 16:18**. Keep on keepin' on, my fellow Christians. The battle is the Lord's, and He will be the victor!

Rev. David Lewis

The Forgotten Doctrine of Separation Part III – Facing Down False Gospels

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Mankind's chief adversary is a counterfeiter, a grand subversive imitator. God has a Son, Satan a "Son of perdition" (2 Thes. 2:3). Our God is a Holy Trinity, Satan has a trinity of evil (Rev. 20:10). God has adopted children (Ep. 1:4-5) Satan harbors wicked children (Ep. 2:1-3; Matt 13:38). God works in his children "To will...His good pleasure" (Ep. 1:9-11). Satan works in his "Children of disobedience" (Ep. 2:2). There is a "mystery of Godliness" but also "mystery of iniquity" (2Thes. 2:7). Christ works miracles, so too the Devil (vs 9) Christ has his church, Satan has his synagogue (Rev. 2:9). Christ is the true light, Satan a false "Angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14). Christ appointed Apostles, Satan had his false apostles (vs. 13). Satan takes captives (2 Tim. 2:26) Christ sets them free. Christ sows His good seed, Satan has his evil seed (Matt. 13:37-43). Christ brings good news, Satan an enslaving false gospel. Paul warned of this in his day (Gal 1:6-7) cursing those who brought it (vs 8-9).

Satan's false gospel is not revolution or anarchy; nor of strife or war but rather a "sirens song" of false peace and unholy unity that brings a damning fraternal spirit. Today we witness those who practice "entering the silence" and falling into "contemplative meditational trances" and claiming to hear "Jesus calling" all mankind into one great brotherhood of all religions. Man's totally depraved nature (Gen 6:5; Rom 3:10-12,23) is camouflaged with uplifting self-image masking and ecumenical cordiality and doctrinal downgrade.

Satan's gospel so captures men's minds with "this present world" (2 Tim 4:10) that Christ's absence is not felt. God is seemingly not needed, and no thought is taken of the eternity ahead. It propagates self-sacrifice for others making it welcome with the masses. It ignores man's fallen nature, neither caring or even knowing the hope of heaven lies only in being born-again (John 3:3).

Christ's gospel reveals salvation by grace alone through the GIFT of faith alone (Ep. 2:8-10) since there "dwelleth in the flesh no good thing" (Rom. 7:18; 3:20). Salvation comes not from man's "good character," rather his good character results from God's mercy alone (Rom. 9:15-16, 21-23). We are called to BELIEVE (Rom. 10:9-10,13). Temperance movements, reform movements, social justice activities yield no eternal salvation per se. There is no substitute for Christ's gospel and individual soul salvation and the indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5; 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16).

It is more effective for Satan to raise up apostate preachers than night-club keepers and slave traffickers, but we are called to separate from them all (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Many of today's pulpits no longer give the fundamentals of Christ's gospel but offer fables instead. They minimize sin if they mention it at all. Worse, they make Christ and His true apostles liars by declaring God is too loving to cast anyone into hell (Rom 10:3; 1 John 1:7-10). These are Satan's false apostles (2 Cor. 11:13-15). Multitudes are given no preparation to meet a Holy God and their trust is betrayed (Prov. 14:12) and they falter into the way of death in vain efforts at salvation through works and human attainment.

Counterfeits are only successful when they very closely resemble the genuine article (Matt. 24:24; 2 Thes. 2:9-12). Heresy is seldom total denial but rather perversion of Christ's truth. Pulpit deceivers do not usually openly deny God's Word but rather falsely interpret it and offer erroneous applications for it. A modern-day example is the deceptiveness of same-sex unions (they are not Biblically recognized marriages) and the allowing of homosexual preachers into the church pulpits. (The Episcopal church permitted an openly gay bishop and the Evangelical Lutheran Denomination ordained a homosexual woman as pastor). They reject the God of the Bible by teaching He is Father to all men. God's children are only those gifted with the faith to believe in Christ Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10; Gal. 3:26) and receive Christ by the "Will of God" alone (John 1:12-13).

Contrary to Satan's false apostles, God's word teaches that those not found in the Book of Life end in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:15). Deceivers only allow Christ to be a great teacher, but his divinity is denied as is also his vicarious death for our atonement. His bodily resurrection from the tomb is ridiculed as mere superstition fostered by over-zealous disciples.

Christ's gospel is hidden from the lost when their preacher is still spiritually dead and blinded by Satan (Ep 2:1; 2 Cor. 4:3-4) who deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9). Teachers who do not see themselves as hell-deserving sinners see no need for a savior for anyone else. They who are right in their own eyes (Prov. 14:12) fail to see no one is saved by their own supposed righteousness (Gal. 2:16; Titus 3:5).

Many raised in the Church and gone through Sunday School know of the birth, life and teaching of Jesus and believe that He lived in history as a man. But intellectual assent alone is not salvation. Believing about Jesus is not being brought to saving faith. Satan's fallen angels know the historical facts and tremble (James 2:19).

Salvation is not the way that "seemeth right" (Prov. 16:25) but only Christ's narrow way "leadeth unto life" (Matt. 7:14). The "easy path" of the "Broad road" must be rejected by those adopted into God's family (Ep 1:4-5). Appended to both a genuine heartfelt repentance for and hatred for sin AND a newly found love of holy, righteous conversation (life style) must be in evidence. Christ must reign as king over our lives (Rev. 17:14) for it is His shed blood and his perfect righteousness that redeems men's souls from eternal destruction.

Salvation begins with Holy Spirit granted belief in Jesus Christ who instructed, "Except ye repent, ye shall...perish" (Luke 13:3). God welcomes "Broken spirits" and "contrite hearts" (Psa. 51:17). To repent is to genuinely hate sin, sorrow over it and abandon it. John baptized with water, but God the Son baptizes believers with the Holy Ghost, unto spiritual rebirth (Matt 3:11).

It is foolish to believe one had Christ as Savior while their sinful lifestyle (conversation) rejects Him as Lord. We truly love Him only if we keep His commandments (John 14:15, 21; 15:10). A young lay-preacher, teaching for 7 years, and upon examination, caused doubt that he was a born again man. He was found to be imperfectly acquainted with God's Word-the Bible. He was instructed with scripture and encouraged to fervently study it. Many prayed that God would open his heart to the Savior. Soon after the young preacher confessed at an evening service, that Christ had come into his heart only the previous night. He acknowledged he had been presenting a "Christ ideal" (such as is found in the books like "Jesus Calling" which is "another Jesus" of "Another Gospel" (2 Cor. 11:3-4; Gal 1:6-9).

Bare intellectual acceptance of an orthodox doctrine about Jesus Christ's life or teachings without the indwelling, guiding Holy Spirit is only a "way that seemeth right...but are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25) and is more suited to Satan's false gospel.

Each must ask themselves whether they have truly left the world's broad road to eternal destruction to truly live for Jesus Christ (Matt. 7:13-16,22-23). Do we resist every thought, word or deed that would displease or grieve Him? (Mark 3:1-5; Ep 4:30). Do we genuinely desire Christ's Spirit to guide and reign over us? (Luke 19:14; 1 Thes. 2:13). Are we relying on His righteousness alone; imputed to us by God's foreordaining Grace? (Rom. 4:6-8; Phil. 3:9; Titus 3:5). Those trusting rituals (ceremonial baptism, church confirmation etc.) or denominational membership, may still be in that way that ends in death (Rom. 6:20-23; James 1:15). Our "pure motives" and "Noble intentions" are not substitutes or supplements to the finished work of Christ for His "friends" (John 15:15; 7:4; 19:30).

Salvation is more than intellectual assent. Mere belief does not bring justification or sanctification to the impenitent, "Except ye repent...ye perish" (Luke 13:3). To repent is to hate sin and turn from it after God draws and opens the heart (John 6:44; Acts 16:14) for "A broken...contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 51:17). Many have been deceived by modern "easy believism," trusting in the human work of "Asking Christ into one's heart" when that heart has never been broken and grieved because of sin in their lives. Christ came to save the Lost "FROM" their sins—NOT "in" them (Matt. 1:21). Christ must be Savior AND Lord. To obey God's commandments is to "forsake OUR way" (Is. 55:7). With the Holy Spirit's help, we are enabled to surrender to God's merciful, loving dominion over us. We take Christ's yoke upon us to please Him—for the rest of our lives (Matt 11:29).

Since Many in the "visible Church" remain on the broad road, they will be rejected (Matt 7:22-23). They will cry to the Lord, but he will declare, "I never knew you; depart from me." All must examine themselves to know they are in the Faith—measured by God's Word. To know if our "house is on the rock" -Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will search your heart if you ask. (Jer. 17:9-10; Rom. 8:27)

Keep looking up.



Who Can Know It?

By Nancy Long

Isaiah 64:6a --- *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousneses are as filthy rags* “

Jeremiah 17:9-10a --*“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I hold the reins* “

Mark 7: 20-23 – *“And He said, That which cometh out of the man that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”*

Wickedness, sin, and immorality lie within the core of each and every human being! It's who we are!!! Oh, we really don't want to believe this, especially when speaking about ourselves, and we often rationalize to soften the fact, by calling it the flesh, or even just our human nature. Each of our hearts though, the seat of our humanness, the very essence of our beings as the prophet, Jeremiah has stated, is ***“deceitful above all things and desperately wicked”***.

Other words to describe **“deceitful”** – tricky, cunning, insincere, shiftless, unprincipled, dishonest, treacherous, sneaky, crooked, misleading, lying, villainous, underhanded, two faced, corrupt, on the shady side, counterfeit, lacking integrity, unprincipled, questionable, contemptible, self serving, immoral and there are even more descriptions, none of which though, are very pleasing!!

Digging in a bit deeper, let's look at **“desperately”** – dangerously, harmfully, perilously, frightfully, appallingly, shockingly, hopelessly, etc. Do any of these terms cause us to feel any better?

And lastly, synonyms for the word, **“wicked”** – (capable of doing great damage) vicious, fiendish, devilish, heinous, conspiratorial, tricky, crooked, and dangerous (morally evil) sinful, unethical, corrupt, heartless, evil minded, vile, bad, depraved, incorrigible, shameless, degraded, mean, remorseless, atrocious, contemptible, rotten, good for nothing Here too, just naming a few.

This describes our hearts, Defender friends, and we are so very prideful and full of ourselves, it's impossible to even fully know our own motives, or intentions!! We are

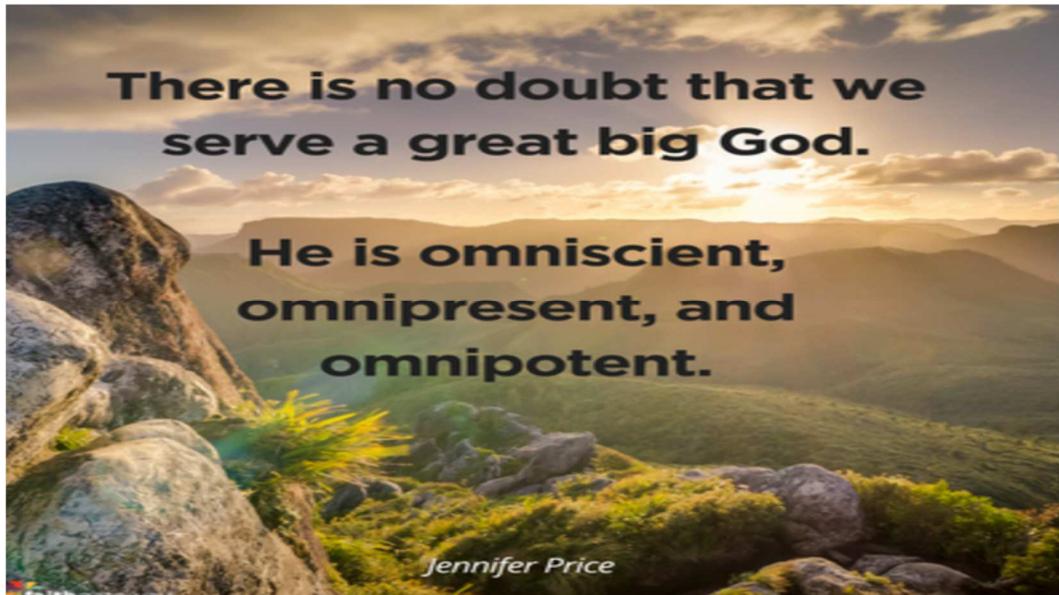
actually rotten to the core trash, and waste to be discarded. Think of it, our very **best** acts are not only **“not”** pure, but filthy, disgusting, and polluted (Isaiah 64:6a)!! But for the grace of God who removed our stony hearts, and replaced them with ones of flesh we are who we are!! May we be ever mindful of this sad truth! May we be forever grateful to God, who “looked beyond our faults and saw our need”!!!

I've been thinking a lot, lately, about abortion. I mean, who hasn't?! Ever since that landmark Supreme Court decision 46 years ago, which established a woman's legal right to an abortion, the lives of over sixty million babies have been snuffed out!!

“And gradually, though no one remembers exactly how it happened, the unthinkable becomes tolerable. And then acceptable. And then legal. And then applaudable.” (Joni Eareckson Tada)

I no longer question the depths of evil in which we so called, “civilized” humans can sink. It more than distresses me! I can only imagine just how much it must grieve the perfect heart of God the Creator of all life!!

I don't want to end my thoughts this month on a depressed note, but one that encourages one of “good news”! My God is awesome! My God is sovereign! My God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient!! My God is a God of hope and my God can be your God as well. ***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”*** (Acts 10:31a). Recognize that you are a sinner, in desperate need of a Savior. Trust in the precious, perfect, cleansing blood of Jesus, and be confident that you will one day, live eternally in a place called heaven, where there are no tears, where there is no pain, no conflict, no unrest **no sin!!**

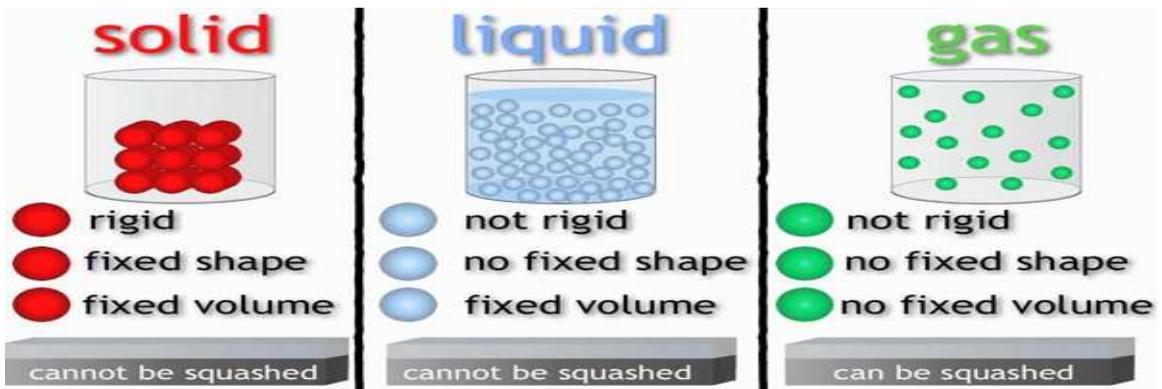


Three In One...Not the Oil

by Michael Anthony

God is everywhere. God is the Alpha and the Omega and all of the other letters in between simultaneously. O.K. I understand that, but what about this concept of being three persons in one? We call it the Trinity and then get criticized because the word "trinity" is not used in the Bible. Dilemma...

The challenge of understanding this may be as simple as understanding what scientists call the "triple point". (God bless those atheists for helping me understand God.) "In thermodynamics, the triple point of a substance is the temperature and pressure at which the three phases (gas, liquid, and solid) of that substance coexist in thermodynamic equilibrium." (See Compendium of Chemical Terminology if you have nothing better to do.) Or to put it another way, the universe has given us an example of the Trinity: Water.



I always knew that water remained water (H₂O) even when a gas, liquid, or solid. But the idea that it could be all three simultaneously was a challenge for my pea-brain. Wow, what a mystery until I saw it demonstrated on YouTube. So the God who created the universe and everything in it (out of nothing, no less) can be three distinct persons at the same time. Who would have thought that? That's a stretch.

Perhaps to placate the unbelieving scientists of this world we should simply refer to the Trinity as the Triple Point of God. This may make more sense to those who don't know what they don't know. It may also shed new light on the scriptures that continue to confuse the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses. (By the way, there is no letter "J" in the Hebrew language.) The fact that we can't fully understand the mysteries of God is not a rational reason to deny His existence as three in one. We were created to glorify God; not irritate Him with our arrogance.

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday Night Youth Group	7:00 PM