

The DEFENDER - September 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: Christian Beware!

What does four—or eight—more years of Donald Trump as president mean for Christians? Some obvious things include his support of religious liberty, his stand for the sanctity of life, and his support for the nation of Israel. And of course Christians, like everyone else, are reaping the benefits of a strong economy, as well as a stronger presence—militarily and economically—throughout the world. Quite a change from the previous eight years when Barack Hussein Obama did his best to transform America into a socialist, amoral nation at home, while weakening our stature abroad. For the time being, at least, President Trump has interrupted that agenda. But the Devil's minions are hopping mad.

The Bible tells us to not be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good (**Romans 12:21**). Unfortunately, the socialist manifesto, which is driving many of the Democrat presidential hopefuls in our country, says power lost must be regained at all costs. In fact, many of the swamp creatures are bloodthirsty for power. They want to defeat President Trump so badly that they are rooting for a recession. Which means that they're rooting against America. They want you to vote for them all the while they hope you lose your job. They tell you now they want a \$15/hour minimum wage, but will tell you then that you may have to take a cut in pay in order to keep your job. They say they stand behind you but they want you to suffer so they can reclaim their crown. They want to end any chance that you may have for financial prosperity just so they can return to running the swamp.

Talk about killing the Golden Goose! We currently have the lowest unemployment and inflation rates in 50 years. We're experiencing the lowest interest rates in decades. And for the first time in history, total American wealth has reached \$100 trillion. But something more sinister is afoot. Social media is running amok with plans to not only do away with the president, but also with those who voted for him. Social progressives have no tolerance for conservatives or Christians. Many of the things being posted online, while too vulgar to repeat, are being embraced by young people who have been indoctrinated into believing that Judeo-Christian values are bigoted and intolerant and need to be eradicated. And what is at the heart of this mass assault on decency which is being foisted on the generation that includes many of our own children and grandchildren? The apostle Paul gives us the answer in **Ephesians 6:12**. Demonic forces in high places are behind this. It's nothing new, as the apostle John warned us of the spirit of antichrist 2000 years ago (**1 John 2:18**). Things are moving with greater speed now, as the devil knows his time is drawing short. Christian soldier, put on the full armor of God (**Ephesians 6:13**), that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.

Rev. David Lewis

Counterfeit Gospels and Easy Believism Part II – Following Holy Men

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

We have heard of a faithful Elder serving in a fundamentally sound Christian congregation who willingly risked his fellowship with his entire extended family when he took Christ's truth to his grandson, who was openly living in a God-dishonoring relationship. That Elder reminded that grandson that they could no longer have fellowship since he had abandoned the faith he had formerly professed. Today, by the grace of God that same grandson is a faithful missionary for Christ's gospel on the foreign field. God and one old Elder is a mighty army. We, like that old Elder, give all glory to God for His victories – Amen!

True repentance is not a few uttered obligatory words of rote prayer after every occasion of favorite sins, but a real demonstrable turning away from ALL sin, whatever the cost. Many testify to the loss of friends and broken family relationships once they truly and determinately follow Christ by taking up their own cross (Matt. 16:24; Mark 10:21) as He commanded. They, unlike Lot's wife, will not turn or look back (Gen. 19:17, 26; 1 Kings 17:32).

Jesus commanded, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). Those with spiritually deafness and blinded eyes (Matt. 13:10-17) who are nevertheless told to "ask Jesus into your heart" will only have a false assurance of salvation. They will still lack Holy Spirit guidance and sanctification and a genuine striving for holiness. Most will be gone before long, continuing on the broad way to destruction (Matt. 7:13-14).

The Apostle Paul wrote, "... let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh AND spirit, PERFECTING HOLINESS in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1) and "... follow peace with all men, and HOLINESS, without which NO man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). These are NOT just helpful hints. While full and complete holiness will only be realized when God's adopted children reach heaven's shores, we are told that every moment we are to "resist the Devil" (James 4:7) and to hate sin in ourselves and in others (although we are to love our enemies and sinners by praying that God saves them as He did us).

When the call to come to Christ for forgiveness and salvation is properly preceded by the call to true repentance and turning away from the sin that brings eternal death (James 1:15; Rev. 21:8), the God-opened heart will be sorrowfully broken and contrite (Ps. 51:10, 17). There is no need (and no ability) for an unregenerate sinner to "make Jesus their personal savior," when He has already foreordained that He will dwell in them making them joint heirs in God's House (family) and thereby both Father and Son are glorified (John 17:1-3, 9, 21-23; Rom. 8:17).

While it is not easy, Bible believers must accept with newly found humility that no one can come to Christ until the Father gives that one to His Son (John 6:65; Rom. 8:29). Pride-filled men stumble at God's providential plan as upon a "rock of offense" (1 Pet. 2:7-10). Many loudly profess to honor the Sovereignty of God over all things including resurrection of the spiritually dead, but in practice exalt man's will to be greater than God's. Sinners are saved by God's calling and His will alone (John 1:13; 2 Tim. 1:9). One raised from death spiritually is much like a newborn that quite eagerly and happily accepts mother's nourishment.

Once the gift of grace is granted, a sinner can now look to “Christ's finished work on Calvary's Cross.” Jesus told the ruler Nicodemus: “As Moses lifted up the [BRASS] serpent ...” (which God provided to save the dying – Numb. 21:8-9), “so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3:14-15).

The Easy Believism counterfeit gospel of the Devil ignores most of God's words and commands and therefore lacks a Holy Spirit guided sanctification and righteous living. The Old Adamic Nature necessarily requires cleansing of sinful thoughts, words and deeds. Only an “unfeigned faith” (God's gift) will yield ongoing fruits of holy living (1 Tim. 1:5; John 15:16). While we are not to judge anyone but ourselves, we can obviously observe the deeds and pronouncements of false prophets and ungodly workers of iniquity. Jesus warned, “False prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing ... are ravening wolves. Ye SHALL KNOW them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:15-24). Once exposed, we mark them, “who cause divisions ... and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17).

We are to maintain doctrinal soundness and faithfully follow God's Holy Word and support the preaching of it; we are also called to be vigilant “FRUIT INSPECTORS.” God, being “no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34), His warning fits all, “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Luke 12:2-3) and straying believers God chastens by His providential working in their daily lives (Heb. 12:6-8). “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the LIVING GOD” (Heb. 10:31).

Those granted eternal life by God are miraculously indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11) and Christ makes His abode with them (John 14:20). Now we dwell in Him and He in us (1 John 4:13-16) and have peace beyond understanding (John 14:27; Phil. 4:7). Believers willingly serve therefore as a “LIVING SACRIFICE.” Paul wrote, “I beseech you therefore brethren ... that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service ... that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect WILL OF GOD ... according as GOD HAS DEALT to every [believer] the measure of faith” (Rom. 12:1-3).

From one of the most learned religious leaders (Nicodemus) to the newest, least knowledgeable adopted child of God, all should seek to be at peace with God's absolute sovereignty in salvation for Jesus alone is the WAY (John 14:6). Only Christ's sacrifice and His one offering in His own blood can save us (Heb. 10:14). The peace He grants us and His assurance of a home in heaven will last us until our time on earth is done (John 14:1-3). The Apostle John assured us that, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may KNOW that ye HAVE ETERNAL LIFE” (1 John 5:13), “and we know that the SON OF GOD ... hath GIVEN us an understanding,” and that “... we are in Him that is true” (vs. 20).

Jesus, in His instructions to Nicodemus, pointed to the fact that for any to be in right standing with God, they must be born again by God's Spirit (John 3:1-8, 14-16). Easy Believism has led many to assume that they are born again because they have “joined a church” or by performing “certain rituals” and “praying prescribed rote prayers.” Yet they lack the true marks and signs seen in adopted believers and followers of Christ's gospel and commands. In his exposition of the Apostle John's First Epistle, the old Bible teacher, Anglican Bishop J.C. Ryle, illustrated the signs and marks that characterize a Holy Spirit regenerated child of God (Ep. 1:4-12).

First, the Apostle John reports, “Whosoever is born of God doth NOT commit sin” (1 John 3:9, 5:18). A person born again and led by Christ's Spirit (Rom. 8:9) no longer lives wallowing in

sin. In their old unregenerate nature, there was no real quarrel with sin. Now they hate sin, flee from it and fight against it and mourn when they fall into it. Sin no longer pleases them. Now they follow the grace of God in them. Do you have this mark?

Secondly, John noted, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is THE CHRIST is born of God and they openly testify that their Savior was miraculously conceived, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for their sins, rose again from the dead and bodily ascended to His throne in heaven. Is this your testimony? (1 John 5:1).

Thirdly, those born again “Do righteousness,” to honor the name of the Son of God. They are known as holy men and women of God (1 John 2:29). Is this what your Christian brethren say of you?

Fourthly, John stated, “We know we have passed from death into life eternal because we truly love being with the brethren (1 John 3:14). Like the God they serve, they love ALL with a general love, but under the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, they especially love their co-laborers. Those they see truly serving Christ, they love most for God’s grace is particularly valuable. If you belong to Christ, you will have this mark.

Fifthly, John says, “Whosoever is born of God overcometh the world” (1 John 5:4). Regenerate sons and daughters no longer value the world’s opinion for right and wrong or its ways and customs. Believers shun the vain, unprofitable enjoyments of the worldly and rather strive to please God. Is this your conversation (lifestyle) before the world?

Sixthly, John writes, “Those truly begotten of God KEEPETH themselves” (1 John 5:18). Those delivered from death to life are very careful for their souls. They keep clear of temptation and sin. Is this the state of your heart?

In sum, those born of God’s mercy no longer wallow in sin but hate it. They acknowledge Christ as their Savior and honor Him by their deeds. They love being with the brethren and keep to holy living. They live for their Lord.

The old Elder and his grandson have these signs and are living sacrifices for Christ whom they love. So should we all.

Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

Chief Source:

Author:

Publisher:

The Authentic Gospel

Jeffrey E. Wilson

The Banner of Truth Trust

P.O. Box 621

Carlisle, PA 17013

Unending Love --- Amazing Grace

By Nancy Long

John 9:25b - *".....One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."*

Eph. 1:7 – *"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."*

Eph. 2:8-9 – *"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."*

Amazing Grace

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found Was blind, but now I see.

"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good things to me His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we've first begun."

Text – John Newton and John P. Rees (verse 5)

Music – Traditional American Melody

John Newton was a slave trader. He was in the business of procuring, transporting, and selling slaves, primarily black Africans to the New World, prior to the mid-19th century. He was not what one would consider to be a good man at all. He was hardhearted, ruthless, and evil. He was the captain of a slave ship, and was in charge of trafficking thousands of men, women, and even children from Africa for the sole purpose of being sold on the auction blocks. The conditions in which these captives traveled were not comfortable ones either. In fact, they were deplorable. These people were literally loaded in packed in chained below deck, row after row, side by side, in order to save space. If/when sickness occurred, many were thrown overboard. There was no mercy absolutely none!! John Newton was indeed wretched, despicable, and vile!!

John Newton was born July 24, 1725, in London, and was nurtured, and steeped in Biblical training by a Christian mother, who died though, before her child was not quite 7 years old. He was then left to be raised by an extremely strict father, the commander of a merchant ship, who took his young son on his first of six sea voyages, at age 11. Newton's reckless behavior began early. He hated discipline!! This became a pattern that would follow him for years, to the point of, in his later teens, attempting to desert the Royal Navy. He was caught though, beaten, and put into chains. He eventually was released, but his rebellious nature continued. He hated being told what to do, and fiercely fought against it. *"I sinned with a high hand,"* he wrote, *and I made it my study to tempt and seduce others."*

Through many other circumstances, Newton eventually became the captain of a ship that was used primarily for slave trading. In 1747, just beginning his homeward journey, off the coast of Ireland, a violent storm threatened to, and almost did, sink his ship. For 11 days, the sailors, as well as Captain Newton, attempted to hold this ship on course. All were exhausted! There was little hope for survival! In his tremendous fear, John Newton fell to his knees and prayed to God for mercy. Through God's Providence, the Lord saw to it that the cargo shifted somehow, and the ship drifted to safety. Every single one was saved!! It was that particular night that John Newton sensed that there *is* indeed a God, and that God does hear and answer prayers, even for the worst of men. John Newton repented!! He later wrote, *"I cannot consider myself to have been a believer in the full sense of the word, until a considerable time afterwards."* He did though, begin to read his Bible, and treated his captives with much more compassion.

Over time, Newton became a preacher, and a writer of approximately 300 hymns, often at the rate of one a week. In 1772 he wrote a hymn called *"Faith Review and Expectation"*, a song that is better known today as ***"Amazing Grace."*** It has become, perhaps, the most beloved and popular hymn that's ever been written a song that has inspired hope in the midst of tragedy, and has been used to soften the hardened hearts of many. Amazing Grace was sung by both sides of the Civil War and has been used in funerals and memorial services the world over.

Civil rights protestors sung it with fervor during freedom marches, and on that extremely hot day in August of 1963 when Martin Luther King, Jr. shared his famous, *"I Have a Dream"* speech. Amazing Grace was sung after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, reviving the spirit of a fallen city. On that fateful day of September 11, 2011, a day that will forever linger in the minds of all who were alive at the time, Amazing Grace was sung to help comfort a grieving world!!

A quote from John Newton's diary, three months before he died, at 82 years, *"My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."*

God's amazing grace has the power to transform a life, to right wrongs, to deliver a soul from despair, and to turn a man who once traded slaves into one who fought for their freedom.

God's amazing grace, however, is not just meant for John Newton, but for sure it's the story of every Christian. It is only God's grace so amazing that saves us nothing else no gifts, no amount of money, no works!! Every single day that we are blessed to wake up to another day of life, is evidence as well, of God's amazing grace!!

It is truly amazing that God would choose to save a wretch like John Newton but it is more than amazing too, that God, through the precious, perfect blood of Jesus Christ, would love and save any of us but He did, and I, for one will be ever grateful!!



9/11 God & Country Service

7:00-9:00 PM

@ Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Featuring:

Guest Speakers: Mr. Michael Anthony Peroutka, Esq., Founder of the Institute on the Constitution—and—Mr. James Simpson, investigative reporter and author of “The Red-Green Axis” ... *and special music!*

Join us for this special anniversary event of 9/11/01.

FREE for all ages!

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.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

FIND US ON THE WEB AT
www.indefenseoftruth.org
& www.facebook.com/cubhillchurch

FREE APPS NOW AVAILABLE
for **Android Smartphone & iPhone** users.
Go to your App or Play Store, and type in
"**Cub Hill Church**" and/or "**Evangelism Radio**"
and download!

In Defense of Truth can be heard online
at www.evangelismradio.com:
Sunday-Friday from 6:30-7:00 PM
and on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore every Sunday from 6:30-7:00 AM

Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"
airing Monday through Friday
on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

DEFENDER CONTRIBUTORS

Rev. David R. Lewis, MDiv., Director, IDOT
Robert Luthardt, Sr., Elder, CHBPC
Nancy Long, Member, CHBPC

WRITE TO US!

Rev. David Lewis &
In Defense of Truth
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

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
9/11 Service	7:00 PM