

THE FLAMING SWORD

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – JUDE 3

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All scripture references are
taken from the King James
Bible.

CONTACT US

We would like to hear from you.
Please contact us by any of the
following means:

ADDRESS:

European-American
Evangelistic Crusades (EAEC)
P.O. Box 166
Sheridan, CA 95681

TELEPHONE:

(888) 708-3232
(916) 944-3724

WEB SITE:

www.eaec.org

EMAIL:

info@eaec.org

RESURRECTION LIFE OF JESUS CHURCH

8341 Fair Oaks Blvd,
Suite B
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 944-3724

Service: Sunday 10:30 AM

John S. Torell, Sr. Pastor
Charles Thorell, Pastor

We are a Bible centered group
of believers desiring to grow in
the full knowledge of Jesus
Christ without compromise to
His Word.

"Some want to live within the
sound of church or chapel bell; I
want to run a rescue shop within
a yard of hell. God has called
me to go, and I will go. I will
blaze the trail though my grave
may only become a stepping
stone that younger men may
follow."

~ C.T. Studd

THE CORNER

Dear Friends,

I want to share with you an illustration that God recently showed me. It deals with how people claim to be servants of the Lord, how they supposedly are walking with Him, and yet, when the time comes to testify, pray or operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they are found wanting. They are like Belshazzar when God told him he had been weighed and found wanting. (Daniel 5:27) It stands to reason that if you call yourself a Christian, shouldn't you be striving to be like Christ all the time? So when God calls you to do something, you don't panic and say "Oh Lord, let me pray and get myself ready." It's too late at that point; God will simply pass you by. God wants us to be ready at all times, just waiting for His command.

I was thinking about the sponge that sits in my kitchen sink. It's a little rectangular thing that is yellow on one side and green on the other. The yellow side is used on things that come off easily, and when it is not able to handle the job, I use the rougher green side. This sponge works very well and cleans my dishes without difficulty. The last time I went on vacation, I was gone for a week. When I came back home, I found my sponge sitting exactly where I left it. It was the same sponge but its properties had changed. It was now stiff and useless to me in its current state because it had no moisture and would not bend itself to the contours of my hand like it used to. My remedy was to hold it under the water until it was saturated with water; only then did it return to its former state.

This sponge of mine is very much like what Christians need to be, for if we separate ourselves from God, we slowly dry up until we are powerless. Jesus said that He is the vine and we are the branches, but if the branches are cut off from the vine, how do they receive that life-giving moisture? I have found there are many Christians out there, myself included, who go through seasons of dryness. The all important moisture of walking with the Lord that makes us pliable and useful is our choice to reject. God has opened up the faucet and poured out His Holy Spirit but it's up to us whether we want to be immersed in the water. This is how some people are in their relationship with the Lord. God wants us to be a sponge that is saturated with Him. He is the life giving water, for without Him nothing is accomplished. There are many dry sponge Christians who act like they're wet. The truth is that we need constant fellowship with the Lord in order for Him to minister to us and for us in turn to minister to others. How can we ignore the Lord and think that we will have something to offer of spiritual value?

Our walk with the Lord and witness for Him really should be fresh like today's newspaper. After all, who would subscribe to a daily paper that never changed its articles? Likewise, nobody likes to hang around someone who is always focused on their past born again experience with nothing new to add. They are a hard, dry and dusty sponge, the complete opposite of how God wants us to live.

If you haven't done so lately, I would recommend that you read the fifteenth chapter in the Gospel of John and let it minister to your soul.

May God richly bless you today,

Charles Thorell

Charles Thorell

How God Chooses to Communicate With Us

By Charles Thorell

Since I have been given the task of putting the newsletter together each month, I realize what a "potential" burden it can be. It is a serious responsibility to create and put a monthly newsletter together on time each month. Coming up with material we're going to publish each month can be daunting but I have given it to the Lord. It's His publication, so nothing will happen if He doesn't provide me with the material. I have faith that God will provide!

In reading the Bible, it is evident that God cares enough about His creation to interact with us on a daily basis. Many times we will see Him do something big in our life and praise Him for it. But He is also involved in the small details and too often we are so busy that we don't see or acknowledge the little things. As I am writing this, I can't help but smile and praise God for His goodness to me. God chooses to operate in my life because He loves me. I know this of God's character, He never changes and His love is unending. (Hebrew 13:8) I am secure in the fact that God loves me and chooses to work in my life!

I want to share how God works behind the scenes of my life and with all those who love and serve Him. The other day a woman came to me at church and handed me a cassette with the intent that I should listen to it. I looked at and saw that it was a sermon recording from our church in 1994 titled, "And Grieve Not The Holy Spirit." She said it was an excellent message. Pastor John was in the Spirit and I needed to hear it. Now I don't know about you but my life can be very busy with all the conversations and phone calls, book and articles to read, what I write and the various computer work. I can honestly say I am not bored. When someone comes along with a request like this, I never promise anything so I won't be a liar if I don't follow through. As a result, I thanked this dear lady for giving it to me and put it in my briefcase and didn't think about it until a few days later when I was driving and the Holy Spirit prompted me to play it. I was awestruck by how great our God is in the way He moves upon people and how He knows exactly what we need to hear. The following is a partial transcript of this particular sermon.



[Pastor John S. Torell speaking]

Today, I am going to be sharing with you a message that woke me up. I had two consecutive dreams. Take your Bibles and turn to the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24.

"All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity [lawlessness] shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." (Matthew 24:8-12)

Let me share the dreams that I had and I will lay out the scenario. It kind of shocked me; I got up in the morning and wrote them down to make sure that I would remember. In the first dream, I was in a little house, my wife was there. I didn't recognize the house, it was just a house. Suddenly, we had water that was leaking from a lamp fixture in the ceiling onto the floor. My wife and I talked about it and found it strange because there is no water in the attic. So we decided to go and take a look in the attic. There was a stairway leading up, and when I got up there, I recognized that there were rooms that we did not know existed. I was surprised and began to look and realized there was old furniture, toys and other things from my childhood were there. They had cobwebs on them and it was dusty in the attic. I saw that some of the toys were moving; there were demons moving them. Then the Holy Spirit gave me the interpretation. These are rooms in your past that you have never cleaned out. I remember feeling good about the old junk. I was attracted to the old junk. And the other feeling I had was that I was not so much concerned about the hidden things in the room as I was concerned over the water leaking on the rug.



Then the Holy Spirit showed me that I have grown cold over my sins. I want to read again to you Matthew chapter 24 and verse 12: And because lawlessness shall increase, the love of many shall wax cold. I began to realize as the Holy Spirit showed me, that things I used to weep over as sins, I'm not that bothered with today. My heart has gotten callous and then God showed me that this is the condition of His church. Then He began to deal with me.

This past week we saw some news clippings from Haiti. They showed an attaché that had tormented the people being grabbed by the mob. The camera man was right there, and as this attaché was actually being beaten to a pulp, the camera recorded it blow for blow. We watch our news around six o'clock and have our dinner, and I thought about the fact that I was sitting and eating my meal, enjoying it, and seeing this man being killed without disturbing my digestion. I want you to think about that. We have become desensitized. Something is happening to us where the love and the compassion and the tenderness that we had early as we were converted is not there. God showed me that it is something we have to guard.

Let me share my second dream which followed immediately after the first one, I was the pastor of a small church. It was not this building and there was on the other side of our little building,

we were actually in a big square with a huge parking lot in the middle. On the other side was a huge house, a tremendously large building. As I was standing there and gazing with a very small congregation, we were trying to witness, all the doors and windows opened up and hundreds of people came out. They had a powerful sound system with speakers and microphones and began to sing beautiful Christian songs. As I listened to the melody, I suddenly realized that the words were blasphemy. They were the same melodies like you and I sing here, our regular hymns, but the words had been changed. They were singing blasphemy, they were blaspheming Jesus' name and were mocking His resurrection and death on the cross. Then a very flashy preacher came out in a spotless white suit. He began to speak about a sorry rag-tag bunch across there (pointing at us), I used to be a Christian at one time, but now I serve the Devil, I used to believe that junk about Jesus. He said that he knew better now and began to blaspheme. Then his women would come out and pull their skirts up and dance and wiggle and show everything they had, mocking everything that is dear to us as Christians.

I didn't have a microphone, but I remember that I cupped my hands around my mouth and shouted, "Well you might mock God but He loves you anyway; Jesus is still Lord of Lords and King of Kings!"

Then I woke up. It was one of those dreams where you don't wake up groggy, I was really awake. Then the Holy Spirit said to think about these dreams, I'm going to give you the interpretation. There are people mocking the name of Jesus today. There are many people walking around that used to serve God but today they are the enemy of the cross. And God showed me through these two dreams, that if we have lost our first love, if we have lost that deep love for Him and the sense of what sin is and be convicted over our sins, we will have no power. We can be comfortable and sin. I want you to think about that.

I believe that Satan is pouring out an unholy spirit and I believe that if we are going to keep our love for God, we cannot be sloppy, but we need to hug Jesus and hang on to His love because there is a coldness right now sweeping the world that can take us away. How many of us really are convicted over our sins? I thought about many of you. The Lord showed me that we are tender when we have crashed and have hurts and pain. We seek God with all our hearts. And I went back and remembered the way you prayed, and I remember many times when I prayed with you, that you would weep at prayer meetings. We would be prostrate on the floor and we would simply be weeping over our sins and over the lost ones. We haven't done that for two years. I haven't really seen brokenness like we had two or three years ago. You know what is happening? God has blessed us. He's healed us. He's financially increased us. We are doing better in our personal

lives and the blessings have actually cooled us down. What a tragedy!

I want to tell you that I am the chief sinner in this area because I've been neglecting it. You can never grow past the leadership. So I talked to the Lord and asked Him to restore my tender heart. We lose that tenderness when people hurt us. We decide to not get hurt again, not to love anyone, not get close to anyone because it is too painful when they break away. It's just easier to keep people at a distance. You can't love Jesus and do that. We have to be vulnerable. Jesus warned us that there would be persecution. I've been moping around and asking God why is it that some people love me but the majority of the world doesn't love me? The world didn't love Jesus; if you tell people the truth, they don't love you. If you tell people a lie they say, "That great, tell me more." You tell them the truth and they hush you up because they don't want to hear it. That's painful. There will be persecution. There will be suffering for Christ and we are going to suffer more as we stand up for what is right.

[Pastor John ends speaking]

This was just a portion of the sermon that dealt with Pastor John's two dreams. I was deeply impacted by them and felt you would also be blessed by it too.

RLJ-428 AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT

To order a copy of this entire message, please specify your format (CD or cassette) and send \$4.00 plus \$2.50 S&H to:

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Many thanks for continuing to send me your wonderful publication, The Flaming Sword, so aptly named. It is giving us information not found elsewhere. Enclosed find my check to help pay the cost of printing it. I can trust you to continue to contend for the faith once delivered. – In Him, Dolores

I enjoy and am very much blessed by your newsletter. You give me information that is unobtainable from other ministries. I have learned a lot in these few years that I have received them. I thank you brother for your faithfulness in ministry and generosity to your brothers in bonds. May God richly bless and prosper you! – Your fellow laborer in Jesus Christ, Kenneth

Thank you for your faithfulness to keep sending your information thru thick and thin. I share it with my prayer group and my church. I appreciate your continuing desire to be good stewards of the resources God provides. – We stand together in His service, Wanda

WHO IS THE CORPORATION?

By John S. Torell

I wrote an article in the last newsletter about the U.S. election in which I referred to an entity called "The Corporation," which I claimed is controlling the political election process in the United States. A number of people contacted us and asked about this corporation and for proof of its existence. I will give a short answer here but refer you to the *Spring 1997* issue of *The Dove* magazine for an in-depth study. In the article "Showdown In Jerusalem – Conclusion," I discuss the issue of a current World Government, what it is doing, who the people are that run it and its future plans. If you do not have a copy of this issue, please contact us and ask for a back issue. We don't charge for it, but if it blesses you, please send a love offering.

I will now try to shed some light on this mysterious Corporation by asking you a question: What is the religion of the people who are in charge of banking and investment houses, television networks, newspapers, magazines, publishing houses, movie studios, syndicated radio networks, Federal Reserve system, pornography, gambling, etc.? The answer is they all subscribe to Judaism.



Have you ever wondered how a minority that only makes up three percent of the American population can possess and wield so much power?

How does a minority have or control so many positions of power (i.e. senators, congressmen, federal judges, and White House staffers) regardless of political party in power?

Why is it that we can discuss a religion or political system in this country, but as soon as questions or criticism are raised concerning Judaism or the political State of Israel, the club of anti-Semitism comes out and the person is labeled as hateful?

Why is it that the motion picture industry over the years has made fun of Catholic priests, protestant pastors and evangelists but we have never seen a movie or a television sitcom showing a drunken rabbi, or a rabbi being a fornicator, adulterer, or sex pervert? Why do American movies desecrate and mock Christianity but never Judaism?

The answer is simple. Jewish people are in charge of all the aforementioned institutions and they do not tolerate any slander or questioning of their religion and political agenda. It is a one-way tolerance street with no forbearance shown toward other people groups.

JERUSALEM CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JCPA)

As I have written in many of my publications, intelligence services are not only involved in "cloak and dagger" operations, but a majority of their work is in shaping the opinion of people through the media. There is no doubt in my mind that the JCPA

is an organization directed by the Mossad, which in turn is directed by the Israeli government. The JCPA is located in Israel, where it coordinates the gathering and distribution of information which is vital to the policies of Israel and the World Government. Here is a short description taken from their website:

The Jerusalem Center was founded by the late Prof. Daniel J. Elazar. It is currently headed by Israel's former UN ambassador Dr. Dore Gold. Established in 1976, the Jerusalem Center focuses on the main issues affecting Israel's security and international standing in order to wage the war of ideas in global opinion. www.jcpa.org

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

The *Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations* is used by the JCPA to make sure that American Jews and Christian Zionists are being fed the correct political information. With the exception of Saturday, the JCPA publishes a daily email briefing that keeps hundreds of thousands of American Jews informed on matters concerning Jewish interests. The briefing is posted on the *Daily Alert* website.

If we would call it for what it really is, it should be called "Department of Information of the World Government." The *Conference of Presidents* is an extension of the Israeli government, which in turn answers to the World Government. Currently, the *World Jewish Congress* and the *World Confederation of United Zionists* are the most visible arms of the World Government. In the daily alert issued by the JCPA on February 13, 2008, it is clear that these people are well organized, have established goals and are determined to make sure that they are implemented. The following is a portion of the email prepared for the *Conference of Presidents* by the JCPA.

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS TO FOCUS ON IRAN

One of the weathervanes of consensus among American Jews is its senior political umbrella, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Composed of 51 organizations, the Conference represents the broadest consensus among organized American Jewry. Each year, the Conference visits a country in order to meet its leaders and lobby them on issues relevant to American Jewry. The list of recent visits includes Qatar, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and, this year, Georgia. "Georgia is a pro-U.S. and pro-Israel country that has resisted anti-Semitism for 2,600 years," explains Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

More than anything else this visit will be about Iran. "Iran is on the agenda everywhere we go. These

countries, which are closer to Iran, feel it more, the possibility that Iran will go nuclear," said Hoenlein. "We'll say that Iran is a leading state sponsor of terrorism, that it's a barbaric regime that executes people in barbaric ways." (Jerusalem Post)

www.dailyalert.org/archive/2008-02/2008-02-13.html

In order for you to understand the power and influence the Conference of Presidents wields, I will quote directly from their website about who they are, what they believe and what they want to accomplish:

For half a century, the Conference of Presidents has played a key role in American and world Jewish history. From mass public events to private diplomacy, the Conference has been in the forefront of mobilizing support for Israel and educating the public in times of war and conflict, and in the pursuit of peace.

Today, the Conference of Presidents remains American Jewry's recognized address for consensus policy, collective action, and maximizing the resources of the American Jewish community. When events in the U.S., Israel and elsewhere affect the American Jewish community, the Conference of Presidents take the lead to explain and analyze issues, provide a link between American Jewry and the U.S. government, and marshal a coordinated community response.

Who We Are

- *the central coordinating body for American Jewry, representing 50 national Jewish agencies from across the political and religious spectrums.*
- *the voice of organized American Jewry, speaking and acting on the basis of consensus on issues of vital international and national concern.*
- *the proven and effective advocate of affiliated American Jews,*
- *forging diverse groups into a unified force for Israel's well-being.*
- *the central forum for key American, Israeli and other world leaders to address critical issues of concern to the American Jewish community.*

What We Do

- *strengthen and foster the special U.S.-Israel relationship.*
- *ensure that Israel's interests are heard and understood by policy makers, opinion molders and the American public.*
- *address critical foreign policy issues that impact the American Jewish community.*
- *represent the interests of organized American Jewry.*
- *protect and enhance the security and dignity of Jews around the world.*

www.conferenceofpresidents.org/content.asp?id=52

THE GOAL OF THE ZIONIST FEDERATION

The Zionist Federation was founded by Theodore Herzl in the late 19th century with the goal to gain control over the land of Palestine, remove the Arab population and settle it with Jews from around the world. We saw this come into being with the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. That was step number one.

The future steps involve building up this nation to a superpower status and through a political/military procedure merge all nations into regional provinces, which in turn would make up a one world federation. The capitol will be Jerusalem and the leadership in this world federation would be Jewish. All Gentile nations will be forced into this federation and also have to adopt a one world religion.

The Bible predicts that this will happen sometime in the future, and in the Book of Revelation, chapter 13, the ruler of this World Federation is known as "The Beast" (Antichrist) with his high priest as "The False Prophet."

Reading from the Cabala and looking at the set up of the Jewish Rabbi Sabbatai Sevi in 1666, we know that Sevi's government consisted of twelve men, with Sabbatai as the 13th man and "the Messiah." Thus, there really is a council of 13 Jewish men sitting somewhere on this earth, issuing executive orders to its branches, which in turn make sure that these instructions are carried out. **I have named this council "the Corporation," since most people would not know what I am talking about if I mentioned the "Council of 13."**

In 1995 Winter issue of *The Dove*, I wrote a main article covering the subject of the Cabala and the self-proclaimed Jewish Messiah Sabbatai Sevi. Again, if you do not have a copy of this issue, please contact us and ask for a back issue. We don't charge for it, but if it blesses you, please send a love offering.

I look forward to each week's message, and am happy that it is posting early in the week online. As a 73 year old I have seen the Christian Church evolve into its present condition. My husband and I now have Church at home, as we do not enjoy going to Church any more. I have come out of services with such heaviness and grieving in my spirit, finding little comfort that the Word is being preached in its entirety! Messages with little depth, which tickle ears, or manipulate, which I feel is not Spirit led. I thank the Lord, for Preachers who are not afraid to preach TRUTH, filled with WISDOM, only the Holy Spirit can provide. As John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness, to a wicked and evil generation, preparing the way of the Lord, I believe you have been called to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ. Thank God, there is someone who is not afraid to preach TRUTH today! At 73 years of age, I see the signs of the times which Jesus spoke of becoming more and more a reality. I feel in my spirit time is indeed short whereby the TRUTH of God's Word can be preached. I will continue to pray for you, your family, your church and ministry! May the Blood of Jesus continue to cover you and protect you. – Blessings in the Name of Jesus, Rose

Heretics and Hypocrites

By Paul Proctor, May 8, 2005

Every now and then I get a terse email from someone who has taken exception to my candid comments on Rick Warren, asking questions like: "Have you ever spoken with him personally about your objections and concerns and tried to work through your differences privately as scripture teaches, rather than attack him publicly as you do?" The scripture they usually cite is, of course, Matthew 18:15-17

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

This is probably one of the more misunderstood and misapplied scriptures quoted today, especially among those who ingest Church Growth Carcinogens and Purpose Driven Lies. Because we have been inappropriately taught that unity and relationships are the most important things for Christians to pursue and protect in the church, these verses are often touted as the principal directive we should follow when addressing false teachers, which frankly, couldn't be any further from the truth and only ends up protecting, sustaining and empowering them, which is probably why they teach it.

There is absolutely no biblical record of Jesus or any of His disciples ever taking a heretic off to the side for coffee and donuts after they led someone astray distorting the Word of God. They didn't shake hands, exchange hugs, kisses and phone numbers or set up appointments on their PDAs to dialog their doctrinal differences over lunch in the quiet corner of a favorite restaurant at a more convenient time.

No, Jesus dealt with heretics harshly, publicly and immediately, as did Paul and the other disciples. And, keep in mind; we're talking New Testament here friends. In the Old Testament, false prophets were simply taken out and stoned to death for their lies. That's how serious God is about His Word being rightly divided and properly proclaimed.

So, what was Jesus referring to in Matthew 18? Look again carefully at how he begins:

"...If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone..."

You see, the Lord is referring here to a personal offense, grievance and/or misunderstanding between two people - something that has broken their fellowship and has little or nothing to do with anyone else. Personal and private matters of wrongdoing should always be dealt with personally and privately first, so as not to unduly disrupt the unity of the body. That is indeed, biblical.

Now, as for wolves in sheep's clothing that stand in pulpits and on stages before vast audiences with microphones and television cameras proclaiming demonic doctrines as the Word of God, the scriptural directive is altogether different:

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." - Galatians 1:8

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." - Ephesians 5:11

("Reprove" is another word for rebuke)

"A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject" - Titus 3:10

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (2nd John 1:10)

Jesus didn't request a closed-door session with the Scribes and Pharisees in order to find common ground, build relationships and promote unity in Jerusalem. He condemned their blasphemy before one and all and repeatedly warned His disciples about their leaven. And when His number-one disciple challenged Him about His own up and coming crucifixion, Jesus didn't put His hand gently on Peter's shoulder and effeminately whisper: "My friend, you just don't understand." No, He lashed back at him with power and authority in front of ALL the disciples saying:

"...Get thee behind me Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." - Matthew 16:23

Why? Because, Peter was publicly contradicting God's Word and Divine plan, which is the equivalent of proclaiming Jesus to be a lunatic or a liar.

Did the religious leaders stone Stephen to death because of all the cute and cuddly things he had to say about them? I don't THINK so. Stephen spoke the cold hard truth that day and they hated him for it because God's Truth is always "evil" and intolerable in the ears of the unrepentant. He told them:

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears...who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it."

You see, defenders of today's religious leaders almost always resort to calling their critics, among other things, "legalists," for incessantly using scripture to rebuke unbiblical teachings and practices; comparing them to the Pharisees of Stephen's day, when, in reality, Stephen might just as easily say to Rick Warren and others like him:

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears...who have received the Gospel, but have not proclaimed it."

Of course, when someone reprimands today's religious leaders for their unbiblical teachings, they are silenced, shamed, slandered, marginalized, isolated and/or asked to leave. But, isn't that exactly what the religious leaders did to Jesus and His disciples?

The Pharisees were a lot of things but they were not "legalists." They've merely been labeled as such by the religious liberals of OUR day in order to try and discount the importance of studying and obeying scripture. In fact the word "legalist" does not even appear in any version of the Bible I searched. It is just another contemporary twisting of the truth to forward a corrupt agenda and steer people away from God's Word to something more flexible, entertaining and endearing.

"Legalism" is defined in my dictionary as the "strict adherence to a literal interpretation of a law, rule, or religious moral code." Under this definition, is not Jesus Himself a legalist? You see, without the law, there is no need for a cross; which probably explains why both are being expelled from the church and society today as outdated and offensive relics from the past.

So, according to Stephen's own testimony, if the religious leaders indeed "received the law but have not kept it," they don't even QUALIFY as true "legalists" but only as lawbreakers; or, as Jesus repeatedly called them; "Hypocrites," which is another word for "actor," meaning, they only pretended to keep the law.

And THAT, my friends, is what today's Purpose Driven Pastor is – an actor – a hypocrite and a pretender, because he CLAIMS the Word of God but does not actually believe it nor proclaim it. If he did, he would preach the Bible and nothing else; verse by verse, for the rest of his ministry; not The Purpose Driven Life, chapter by chapter for 40 days. He would quote The Almighty with power and conviction before a trembling and uneasy congregation, instead of quoting Rick Warren with purpose and ambition before a casual and comfortable constituency.

When church attendance and revenues are down, closet liberals, be they Purpose Driven or otherwise, often minimize, in varying degrees, the importance of the Bible in a Christian's life, calling it "legalism" whenever one encourages the brethren to obey God's Word or dares to chastise those who refuse. Well, THEY might call keeping God's commandments "legalism," but Jesus Christ calls it "love." Don't believe me? Read it for yourself:

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." – John 14:15

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." – John 14:21

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear

is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." – John 14:23-24

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." – John 15:10

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." - 1st John 2:4

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." – 1st John 5:3

Keeping God's commandments will not gain you entry into the Kingdom of Heaven anymore than attending church will make you a member. That only comes by faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross for our sins. (Ephesians 2:8-10) But for those of us who claim Him, there is no other way to exercise that faith and prove our discipleship.

Loving God is not having a hand-raising, hip-hopping, wave-making, emotional experience in a Hawaiian shirt and sandals before a rock band in some downtown arena full of shrieking Seekers, Creekers, Promise Keepers and Passionate Purposeites. The only true act of love, worship and service to God is obedience to His Word. Everything else is distortion, distraction, deception, delusion and destruction.

And, when you set your Bible aside for some other book or teacher or preacher, you are neither loving, nor following, nor obeying the One you claim as your Lord and Savior. Oh, you might be Purpose Driven or Seeker Sensitive; but more than anything else, you're a hypocrite.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 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." – Matthew 7:21-23

Paul Proctor is a veteran of the country music industry. He retired in the late 1990's to dedicate himself to addressing important social issues from a distinctly biblical perspective. As a freelance writer, he extols the wisdom and truths of scripture through commentary and insight on cultural trends and current events.

When we are in hand-to-hand conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil himself, neat little Biblical confectionery is like shooting lions with a pea-shooter; God needs a man who will let go and deliver blows right and left as hard as he can hit, in the power of the Holy Ghost. Nothing but forked-lightning Christians will count.

~ C.T. Studd

A 'SON SHINE' STORY

By John S. Torell

As a minister of the Gospel, I never know how God is going to move and use me on a daily basis and we just recently had a very touching event that I want to share with you. To protect their privacy, I am going to call the couple involved Jim and Annie.

Toward the end of January, a letter came in from this couple who have been supporting our ministry financially for a number of years. Jim is 92 years old and Annie is a little younger. Both are very sharp in their minds and very active on a daily basis. Jim expressed a desire for some fellowship, so I called him up and after having talked for a while I said, "why not come to church this coming Sunday and after church, we can go out for lunch." Jim told me that this was a great idea and he said, "See you Sunday."

They live about one hour away from our church location and it happened to be raining on this particular Sunday so we thought that most likely this elderly couple would not go out in such nasty weather. However, when we came out from the prayer meeting to start the morning worship service, we were pleasantly surprised to see them sitting in the sanctuary.



After church was over, we suggested a restaurant close by that we knew was not too noisy and told them to meet us there. When we arrived at the restaurant, they were sitting in the lobby waiting for us. Jim wanted to sit in a booth and we asked for the quietest place; we ended up being seated in the back corner of the restaurant. We had not met this couple for about 38 years so it was time to get acquainted again. As we were eating and fellowshiping, the Lord moved upon me to ask Jim if he had ever been born again. To my astonishment he told me that he did not quite understand the term, so I explained it to him. At this time I took a look at his wife's face and saw that she was listening intently to the conversation. Both had come out of old mainline denominations, then got trapped for many years in a false religion, before they found out the truth and got out. They had attended church here and there, went to all kinds of Christian meetings, but no one had ever asked them the question, "Have you been born again?"

Here we were, sitting in a restaurant without our Bibles, and people all around. At this time, since I had done a lot of talking, I was the only one still eating. The Holy Spirit told me to ask Aina to go to our car, pick up our two Bibles.

Using the only paper available, which happened to be the back of the sermon outline I preached that morning, I laid out the plan of salvation step-by-step, holding my Bible in front of Jim, while Aina held her Bible in front of Annie. I had Jim read from John, chapter three, the book of Acts, chapter two, Romans, chapter 10 and Ephesians, chapter two. When we were all done, Jim said, "I don't have much time since I am over 90 years old; I want to be born again right now and here."

We are used to praying for salvation in a private place, but there was no place to go. Not wanting to be disturbed by the waitress, I asked for the bill to get that over. Then I told the couple to hold hands, and repeat after me, as I led them in the sinner's prayer. With great seriousness Annie spoke out loud, when she finished Jim repeated his words. It might have taken us some five minutes to go through this prayer, and when I looked up I noticed that we were almost alone in the restaurant, no one had disturbed us.

This was a divine appointment for an outgoing elderly couple who had lived a good life, raised their children, been known as "real nice people" and always ready to help people in need. However, no one had asked them the question, "Have you been born again?" If God had not brought the four of us together that Sunday afternoon in a restaurant in Sacramento, they would have gone to hell when they died, and later to the Lake of Fire.

When I gave the invitation in the church that morning no one responded in the church, but little did we know that we were going to point two precious elderly people to Christ that afternoon and be able to be with them as they were born again and written in the Book of Life.

As we left we could see that something had happened to them; they were happy, almost dazed at times and hugging us warmly and thanking us for caring enough about them, that we risked making them angry, by asking, "Have you been born again?" Many people get angry when asked this question, but this couple was prepared by the Holy Spirit and received the truth about Jesus with gladness in their hearts. This was a personal highlight for us during the month of January.



Christ's call is to save the lost, not the stiff-necked; He came not to call scoffers but sinners to repentance; not to build and furnish comfortable chapels, churches, and cathedrals at home in which to rock Christian professors to sleep by means of clever essays, stereotyped prayers, and artistic musical performances, but to capture men from the devil's clutches and the very jaws of Hell. This can be accomplished only by a red-hot, unconventional, unfettered devotion, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the Lord Jesus Christ.

~ C.T. Studd

Daily Devotional – LivePrayer.com

FEBRUARY 22, 2008 (Luke 12:4, 5; 1 Timothy 1:7, 4:2, 6:3; 2 Peter 2:1)

PBS superstar Dr. Wayne Dyer is reaching the lost, hurting, and SEARCHING masses! I have told you for over 8 years now that there are tens of millions of lost, hurting, and SEARCHING people throughout this nation. People who are struggling to get through life. People who have been paralyzed by their weaknesses. People who are lost, hurting, and searching for hope and answers. These people are NOT going to church on Sunday, they aren't coming to the big "crusades" and "festivals" that are little more than people bussed in from the local churches, they aren't watching Christian TV, they aren't listening to Christian radio or music, they aren't reading Christian books and magazines.

These people are simply living their lives the best they know how, totally void of God and the Truth of His Word. They are out shopping in the malls and stores. They go to sporting events. They go to plays and concerts. They go to fairs and carnivals. They watch secular TV. They listen to secular radio and music. They read secular books and magazines. They live, work, go to school, and recreate in the "marketplace" and never darken the door of the church. **IF YOU WANT TO REACH THESE LOST, HURTING, AND SEARCHING SOULS YOU HAVE TO GO TO THEM AND INVADE THE WORLD THEY LIVE IN!**



Wayne Dyer

That is exactly what cults like Scientology, Kaballah, the Mormons, the Jehovahs Witnesses and false religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam do. They are all growing exponentially because they understand that the better percentage of two full generations don't go to church and have no foundation of faith in their life. These people do not live by moral absolutes. They have pieced together from numerous sources over the years what they believe in. The cults and false religions understand these people are searching, yearning for someone to come along and guide them to "truth," tell them how to live, and give them a reason and purpose for their life.

This vacuum of faith in people's lives has also given rise to the New Age gurus of our day. The success and motivational people like Tony Robbins, those in "The Secret" movement, false hope merchants like Oprah, and the "spirituality" of Dr. Wayne Dyer. These people have developed great followings, generate millions of dollars a year in product sales and appearance fees since they are tapping into the spiritual void in people's lives, having the audacity to tell them they have the truth and secrets to life that they are looking for. These people are dangerous since the philosophies they espouse are not from the Truth of God's Word, but the lies of the world that leave out God and the Absolute Truth of the Bible.

Dyer is especially dangerous since he has become a big hit on PBS for his ability to help them raise money. In return, he is on the PBS airwaves constantly, sharing his New Age

philosophies of life with PBS viewers. Men like Dyer tap into the basic needs and desires all people have. The need to be happy in life. The desire to be successful and have wealth. He hits all of the areas of life, not leading people through the Truths found in our final authority in all matters, God's Word, but through the worldly philosophies in rebellion to God's Truth that men have been following throughout the course of human history.

Men like Dyer are the false prophets the Bible warns us against. A false prophet is one who leads men AWAY from God and His Truth. These men are NOT harmless. They are lethal since by leading men away from the Truth of God's Word they are also leading them away from Christ, which means they will die in their sins and perish for all eternity. Anyone who is leading men away from the only Truth there is, God's Word, are most dangerous of all men. Jesus said, "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

I love you and care about you so much. Sadly, I am dealing every day with many Christians who listen to Dyer's New Age ramblings. Because they are for the most part Biblically illiterate, they think this man is bringing truth into their lives, when all he is doing is regurgitating the same old New Age philosophies that have been around for thousands of years. This is why I encourage you all the time to read and study God's Word. When you do, you will find that the things a false prophet like Dyer are saying are NOT in line with God's Word, but in opposition to it! There is only one truth and God gave it to us!

In addition to being discerning about what and who you listen to, the Body of Christ has got to get out into the marketplace and start competing with the cults, the false religions, the New Age gurus like Dyer who are leading people to hell! I have told you over and over, this is literally a battle for the souls of men. Too many Christians are selfish. They are saved, assured of a Heavenly home, see people every day who are going to die and go to hell....and do NOTHING!

That is like holding a life preserver in your hand, seeing a drowning man, not throwing that man the life preserver and walking away while he drowns. NO DIFFERENCE! Listen, if you throw the man the life preserver and he refuses to use it, now it is his problem. You did all you could do. It is like in Ezekiel 33 when God told the watchman that if he sees the sword coming and warns the people and they refuse to listen and perish, his hands are clean. However, if he sees the sword coming and refuses to warn the people and they perish, their blood will be on his hands!

"Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the

people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand." Ezekiel 33:2-6

I will be praying for you today. Praying that you will warn people of men like Dyer who are leading the masses down a path of destruction, and other false prophets like him. I will also be praying that God really speaks to your heart about not just sitting by while family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, those you go to school with, people you recreate with, die and go to hell without you ever taking the time to tell them how they can escape that eternal punishment. God will give you the words and the courage to simply share His love and Truth with those people He put in your life.

The masses are lost, hurting, and searching or people like Dyer wouldn't exist. He proves that people want truth in their life. Sadly, when they listen to him, they are being fed lies from the lips of satan himself. In these last days, those who know Christ as their Savior, who possess the Truth of His Word, have got to become bold and aggressive in taking the hope and love of Jesus Christ to these lost souls. Dyer has cast his lot with satan and is being used as a tool to lead people's souls into everlasting damnation. It is time for those who have given their lives to the Lord to allow God to use them to lead people's souls to everlasting life through faith in Jesus Christ!

In His love and service,

Your friend and brother in Christ,

Bill Keller

Bill Keller was convicted of insider trading in 1989, a crime for which he served more than two years. It was in federal prison that he rededicated his life to the Lord. He has been in full-time ministry since he was released.

I have been preaching most of what you write about for over 31 years. A lot of the things I know but never had much background on and you give a lot of that. I believe that most of the preaching and teaching today is another gospel. (Gal. 1:8-9) Almost everything is about me and what I want or need – all worldly. The only thing we need is the Father through Jesus Christ. But thank God there is still a small pure remnant that still sees and hears the true voice of God. – thank you, Bruce

A Call to Holiness

By Aileen Serbeniuk

God gives us specific, high standards to uphold, but when they are not upheld according to instructions, God gets our attention any way possible. The leaders in the Bible were told to build Noah's Ark, the Ark of the Covenant and Solomon's Temple to *God's exact specifications*. Mishandling was not tolerated and could lead to death. When King David sinned, he was punished along with a multitude of citizens, and only when David repented and followed God's instructions did he set the example as a national leader for all others to follow. When it came to cleansing the nation for the coming of Christ, it was Ezra and Nehemiah who set God's standards.

What would happen if the LORD was about to return, and He saw that His land had been taken over by Christ-hating blasphemers who removed the Ten Commandments and replaced them with temple prostitutes, gambling palaces and the tables of the moneychangers? I think He has seen it by the speed with which judgment has arrived. Since sin is described in the Bible as the transgression of the Law, and few know or care, that explains why we are under judgment and our enemies rule over us as described in Deut. 28 among other places. *Divided loyalties are unacceptable.*

A televangelist's newsman in the Israeli nation once taped the visiting Chinese leader who was complimenting the Israelis on their Communist conspiracy, but the Virginia evangelist declared that if we don't help the Israelis, God will be angry at us. However, if we help the ungodly and those who hate the LORD, God says He will bring His wrath down upon us as He is doing. The story of the Gibeonites is a warning about *enemies in disguise*. We are making the same mistake that Joshua made to his sorrow.

A man on Glenn Beck's television news said that it is the international corporations that are bringing this nation down, and that the Israeli Lobby and the oil companies are wrecking our foreign policy. However, the sheep are the ones who line up for the anti-Christian schools, junk food, dangerous medicine, shots and dentistry, raunchy entertainment and faulty merchandise. They are ones who celebrate all of the heathen holidays. It is also the sheep who have allowed God's house to become a den of thieves and a second Tower of Babel. *Jesus said that no one can have two masters.*

We are told to distinguish between the holy and profane. The many nations of Jacob are called holy, but the small nation of his twin brother, Esau, is called profane. Like the rest of the heathen, the Red Edomites always followed the Jacobites around to benefit from their bounty. One group of Reds returned to the Middle East, but the other stayed in the West to fulfill Deuteronomy 28.

God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him.

~ Hudson Taylor

RETRACTION CONCERNING RON PAUL

BY JOHN S. TORELL

I wrote an article in the last newsletter about the rigging of the American election process. My focus was to point out how far the World Government has come in controlling our nation. All the major candidates who started out in the primary elections were approved by the World Government (Corporation) with the exception of Ron Paul. My intent was to mention this but not necessarily go into detail where Ron Paul stood on the issues. Here is what I wrote about Paul:

"All the major candidates this year have the approval of the Corporation except Congressman Ron Paul. With his grass root successes, the Corporation is using the media to slander and ignore Paul so that the masses of Americans will reject him. As a Christian, I cannot support Paul because of his Libertarian views on abortion and homosexuality which he thinks should be left up to each person, doing whatever they think is best."

A number of readers responded to this article and pointed out that I had attributed the wrong views on abortion and homosexuality to Ron Paul. I have to confess that when I wrote this, my research and knowledge of Ron Paul was minimal, with the result that my conclusions were far from the truth. The only thing that I can do is to ask Ron Paul and all our readers to forgive me for this great blunder. I have no excuse, even if I was in a hurry to write this article. In order for my articles to be credible, research must be done and verified. I can assure you, that to the best of my ability it shall never happen again in the future.



Ron Paul

Mary, one of our readers kindly pointed out my terrible error and I want to share her letter with you because she accurately lays out Ron Paul's stand on these vital issues:

Dear Pastor Torell,

I have been receiving *The Flaming Sword* newsletter for several years now and have enjoyed it immensely. I believe you have an awesome grasp of the gospel and teach the truth of it exceedingly well. The few times I might have disagreed with you on teachings of scripture I could count on one hand. I thank you for your extensive research on the so-called evangelical preachers of the past and present.

However, with your research of truth in both scripture and evangelical preachers, comes nearly to a screeching halt in your last newsletter when you examined the present American Elections for the Presidency. You were right on spot up until you explained why you could not support Ron Paul.

It confused me, that a man of your caliber and desire to seek the truth of things would be tricked into spewing a false understanding of Ron Paul regarding his stand on abortion and homosexuality. This false misunderstanding can only leave me to believe you have not followed through with complete research of these issues.

You have come as close to a lie as the Corporations have in slandering him. First, you have ignored his personal beliefs regarding these issues. He is totally against abortion. Ron Paul writes the following on his website:

The right of an innocent, unborn child to life is at the heart of the American ideals of liberty. My professional and legislative record demonstrates my strong commitment to this pro-life principle.

In 40 years of medical practice, I never once considered performing an abortion, nor did I ever find abortion necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman.

In Congress, I have authored legislation that seeks to define life as beginning at conception, HR 1094.

I am also the prime sponsor of HR 300, which would negate the effect of *Roe v Wade* by removing the ability of federal courts to interfere with state legislation to protect life. This is a practical, direct approach to ending federal court tyranny which threatens our constitutional republic and has caused the deaths of 45 million of the unborn.

I have also authored HR 1095, which prevents federal funds to be used for so-called "population control."

Many talk about being pro-life. I have taken direct action to restore protection for the unborn.

As an OB/GYN doctor, I've delivered over 4,000 babies. That experience has made me an unshakable foe of abortion. Many of you may have read my book, *Challenge To Liberty*, which champions the idea that there cannot be liberty in a society unless the rights of all innocents are protected. Much can be understood about the civility of a society in observing its regard for the dignity of human life.

www.ronpaul2008.com/issues/life-and-liberty

Though "personally" against homosexuality, he cannot, as a president, take individual rights away from anyone, including homosexuals. That is for the states, people and churches to deal with the issue. It is not the job of the Federal government to rule against a

homosexual life style and try to take away an individuals freedoms or liberties.

On a local level, we the people have the responsibility to deal with the moral issues we abhor... the Federal government has no right to legislate morals. This is what Ron Paul is trying to explain to people regarding freedom.

As President, he doesn't want to run our lives, doesn't know how to, and doesn't have the Constitutional authority to do it.

As President, he has to protect our lives, freedoms, contracts, and liberties. He has command over our military and to protect our boarders from invaders, so that we can live free as we choose not how the government chooses.

Ron Paul is a humble man of principled integrity. Just look at his congressional voting record. The stupid corporations can't even find any dirt on the man! They tried but failed.

As with all men, no one is perfect. Ron Paul knows this and that is why he says "It's not about me, but about my message." As President, he said it will be his responsibility to resist the temptations to ignore the laws of the Constitution.

I ask that you do further research regarding Ron Paul's stance on the Constitution. I believe you have "missed the boat" regarding Ron Paul.

Thank you.

Mary

I want to thank Mary and all others who wrote and told me of my error. I have asked God to forgive me for slandering a good man and stealing his reputation. I firmly believe the Bible when it tells us that if we confess our sins and repent, God will forgive us. I would ask you to forgive me for this terrible mistake. I want to close my retraction by quoting the Bible:

"He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."
(Proverbs 9:7-9)

MINISTRY UPDATE

We wanted to give you an update on the vision which Pastor John shared with the church in October of last year. If this is new to you, you can read the vision by looking at the sermon outlines for October 2007.

www.eaec.org/sermons/sermons_2007.htm

If you don't have internet access, please contact us and we will send the outlines to you.

WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS

We have compiled a list of the necessary equipment and are in the process of receiving a bid as to how much the equipment will cost along with the installation. Once this is completed, we will begin the live web cast of our Sunday service. This is an especially exciting because many of you have expressed frustration over not being able to find a Bible based church. Many of you receive recordings on CD and cassette of the service but it is not the same as actually being there in person. With this web cast, you'll be able to watch us live from anywhere in the world with your computer. Just imagine being able to share the music, testimonies and the sermon live with



us as it is happening! All you need is a computer with an internet connection. We are very much looking forward to sharing our service with like-minded Christians who are hungry for more of the Lord. Just as the Lord predicted to Daniel (Dan. 12:4), knowledge has increased and with it the technological ability for us to have a greater impact globally.

Dear Pastor Torell and Aina

I've listened to all of your sermons for 2007 and all of the ones for 2008, I'm now going back and listening to 2007 again. I feel led of the Lord to tell you not to get discouraged, although your congregation may not be very big, your congregation out here is large and so blessed by your faithfulness to the Lord. I listen to you each morning when I first get up and it starts my day off, I've grown so much in the Lord by your preaching and I just want you to know how thankful I am that God lead us to your ministry. I too am Scandinavian and I appreciate your humbleness, as we seem to be a proud people and usually very stoic. I enjoy your personal life stories and relate to them quite often. Again God Bless you and keep doing what God lays on your heart. – In Christ, Jeannie