



"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I will answer when I am reprovèd." Hab. 2:1

November 25, 2011

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Feature Article – The Wolf's Whiskers – Part 1

Acts 20:28-29. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Anything Can Happen In California

I remember how surprised I was in 2005 when Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback Community Church, sang a Jimi Hendrix song before the congregation at the 25th anniversary celebration. He did something he said he had wanted to do for a long time. He sang Jimi Hendrix's drug-drenched song "Purple Haze" to his congregation, accompanied by his "praise and worship" band! The song is from the "Are You Experienced?" album. Consider the lyrics:

"Purple haze all in my brain/ Lately things just don't seem the same/ Actin' funny, but I don't know/ why 'Scuse me while I kiss the sky./ Purple haze all around/ Don't know if I'm comin' up or down/ Am I happy or in misery?/ Whatever it is that girl put a spell on me./ Purple haze all in my eyes/ Don't know if it's day or night,/ You got me blowin', blowin' my mind/ Is it tomorrow, or just the end of time?"

(from <http://www.wayoflife.org/database/purplehaze.html>)



Here in Australia we have a saying, "Blind Freddy could see...". We use it when something is so obvious that a blind man could see it. Well, blind Freddy could see that Purple Haze is about a drug laced romance. I was shocked to think that a pastor would use a rock star's drugs-exalting song to open the 25th anniversary celebration for their church!!!! Gobsmacked! That's what I was!

Well, I should have known! Rick Warren, so well known for surfing the latest wave of California culture, was probably not the first, and certainly not the last CEO/pastor to use the worst of the worst rock music to push his wheelbarrow. Chris Dunn recently wrote an article titled, "Biblical Christianity Not Found in Megachurch." His theme came as no surprise, but what did surprise me was the music he heard when he visited a megachurch. He wrote, "As I entered the main service the lights were dim and a band was playing to a crowd of 3,000 or so. They were playing Michael Jackson. Because I want my column to go to print I will refrain from expressing my true thoughts on why this is wrong on so many levels. Needless to say it was absolutely disgusting to see parishioners "worship" God by rocking out to Michael Jackson."

Michael Jackson's music, in a church?

Bro. David Cloud performs a vital service to fundamental Baptist churches. He recently published the following:

Churches Boogying To Secular Rock

(Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2011, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

One of the many spiritual and moral dangers of contemporary Christian music is that it builds an appetite for secular rock and brings its adherents into close association with the filthy world of pop music. Some churches become so comfortable with secular rock that they play it in the services as an offering to God. This past Easter Sunday Northpoint Church of Springfield, Missouri, performed "Sympathy for the Devil" by the Rolling Stones. On Easter Sunday 2009 NewSpring Church in Anderson, South Carolina, performed "Highway to Hell" by AC/DC. At a "Heart of David Conference on Worship & Warfare," sponsored by Rick Joyner's Morning Star ministries, the praise team sang the Beatles song "I Want to Hold Your Hand" as if God were singing it to believers. The worship leaders for that fiasco were Leonard Jones, Kevin Prosch, and Suzy Wills. In 2002, at Rod Parsley's World Harvest Church in Columbus, Ohio, the call to worship was Van Halen's 'Jump!' At a concert in Detroit, Michigan, Van Halen lead singer David Lee Roth yelled out, "We are gathered in celebration of drugs, sex and rock and roll!!!!" (Shofar magazine, Fall 1983, p. 10). During the February 18, 2002, premier show for the Michael W. Smith/Third Day Come Together Tour, the band took the stage to the strains of the New Age globalist Beatles song "Come Together" (press release, Nashville, April 24, 2002).

So there we have it. Whether Rick Warren started it or someone else, the fact is, secular, worldly music has found a new home. It is being welcomed in the front doors of the churches!

How does this mad state of affairs develop? Let me suggest the steps pastors and churches take for the Beatles and Michael Jackson to be welcomed onto the church platform and lead the worship and praise music of a church.

1. The Pastor(s) of the church must have a personal affinity for rock music.
2. The pastor and church must find a songleader with the same values and tastes in music, that is, an affinity for rock music.
3. Under the pastor's guidance, the songleader must introduce the church to music that will bridge the gap between traditional hymns and rock music, such as the softer styles of CCM.
4. Through his sermons the pastor must lead the church away from doctrinal sermons into experience sermons. As he does so, the church will become acclimated to the experience based theme of post-modern CCM.
5. Soon the church members, or at least the majority, will begin to adjust to the changing music. After all, it sounds like what they see on television and hear their teens playing.
6. When the church members are comfortable with CCM, it will be time to introduce a secular song occasionally. Initially, these will be songs that seem to have a faintly Christian theme or words.
7. At the same time, the youth leaders begin to use CCM with the teens that is edgier and has a stronger, heavier beat. Video clips will be shown to the teens which depict sensual performers gyrating and throbbing to the beat, and wearing the wildest styles of clothing imaginable.
8. Soon, the songleader and youth leader enlist some of the teens to perform a special musical item in a worship service. Guitars are the preferred musical instrument since it can be used as a rhythm instrument as well as a melody instrument. Parents and grandparents in the church will permit their offspring to usher into the church music they would not tolerate from a stranger.
9. From this point, it is only a few short steps to Michael Jackson on the wide screen, or one of his worshippers performing his music as a blasphemous "act of worship."

Part 2 next week -

Pastor Buddy Smith

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1 John 2:15-16

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Deacon True Sez –

Old brother Charlie has a welding shop and makes a living at repairing stuff for farmers. He's got a sign in his shop that says, "We can fix anything but a broken heart, and we know Who can fix that." That'll do me.

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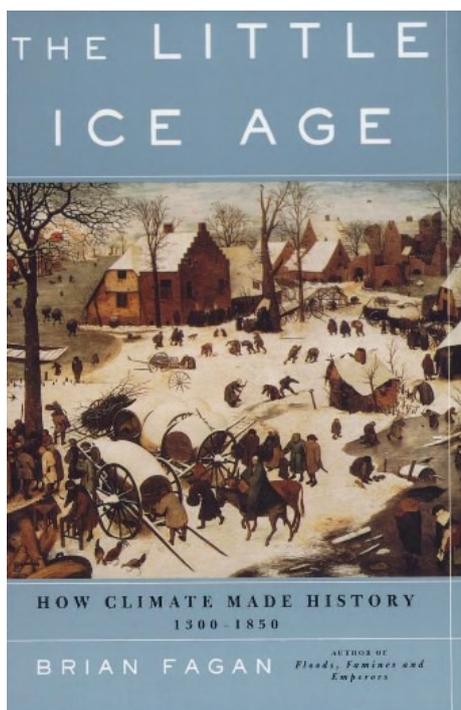
I Wish A Baptist Had Said It –

A.W. Tozer said, "I am a Bible Christian and if an archangel with a wingspread as broad as a constellation, shining like the sun, were to come and offer me some new truth, I'd ask him for a reference. If he could not show me where it is found in the Bible, I'd bow him out and say, 'I'm awfully sorry. You don't bring any references with you'".

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Climate Science Falsely So Called –

(Australia's Prime Minister and Parliament recently passed a law authorising them to collect a "carbon tax." We who oppose this law do so on the basis that climate scientists practice deception when they tell us that the world is warming due to carbon dioxide increasing. From time to time I want to publish factual articles that describe the changes in climate in the past. Here is a good description of a period of extreme cold weather. It is from a book by Brian Fagan, titled *The Little Ice Age*. We will shortly run an article on the Medieval Warming Period. – Ed)



"Storms and Floods

It was not only the cold that was a problem during the Little Ice Age. Throughout Europe, the years 1560–1600 were cooler and stormier, with late wine harvests and considerably stronger winds than those of the 20th Century. Storm activity increased by 85% in the second half of the 16th Century and the incidence of severe storms rose by 400%.

Perhaps the most infamous of these storms was the All Saints Flood in November 1570, which worked its way northeast up the North Sea. The storm brought enormous sea surges ashore in the Low Countries, flooding most of Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Dordrecht and other cities and drowning at least 100,000 people. In the River Ems further north in Germany, sea levels rose an incredible four and a half meters above normal.

In 1607 another storm caused even greater floods in the Bristol Channel with flood waters rising 8 meters above sea level miles inland.

Later in the 17th Century, great storms blew millions of tonnes of formerly stable dunes across the Brecklands of Norfolk and Suffolk, burying valuable farm land under meters of sand. This area has never recovered and is heathland. A similar event occurred in Scotland in 1694. The 1400 hectare Culbin Estate had been a prosperous farm complex next to the Moray Firth until it was hit by another huge storm which blew so much sand over it that the farm buildings themselves disappeared. A rich estate had become a desert overnight and the owner, the local Laird, died pauper three years later.

The Great Storm of 1703 is recognized as the most powerful storm ever recorded in England and caused immense damage there as well as across the North Sea in Holland and Denmark.

Cold, Snow and Ice

Between 1680 and 1730, the coldest cycle of the Little Ice Age, temperatures plummeted and the growing season in England was about five weeks shorter than now. The winter of 1683/4 was so cold that the ground froze to a depth of more than a meter in parts of south west England and belts of ice appeared off the Channel coast of England and northern France. The ice lay up to 30 miles offshore along the Dutch coast and many harbours were so choked with ice that shipping halted throughout the North Sea.

Another exceptional winter was that of 1708/9. Deep snow fell in England and lasted for weeks while further East people walked from Denmark to Sweden on the ice as shipping was again halted in the North Sea. Hard frosts killed thousands of trees in France, where Provence lost most of its orange trees and vineyards were abandoned in northern France, not to be recultivated until the 20th Century. In 1716 the Thames froze so deep that a spring tide raised the ice fair on the river by 4 meters! The summer of 1725 in London was the coldest in the known temperature record and described as "*more like winter than summer*".

After a warm interlude after 1730, when eight winters were as mild as the 20th Century, the cold returned. The temperature of the early 1740's was the lowest in the Central England Temperature record for the entire period from 1659. Even in France thousands died of the cold and when the thaw came "*great floods did prodigious mischief*".

Although temperatures started to gradually increase in the mid 19th Century, another cold snap in 1879 brought weather that rivalled the 1690's. After a below freezing winter, England experienced a cold spring and one of the wettest and coldest summers on record. In some parts of East Anglia, the harvest was still being brought in after Christmas. The late 1870's were equally cold in China and India, where up to 18 million died from famines caused by cold, drought and monsoon failure.

The cold snap persisted into the 1880's and 1890's when large ice floes formed on the Thames.

Fishing and Sea Conditions

During the 17th Century conditions around Iceland became exceptionally severe. Sea ice often blocked the Denmark Strait throughout the summer. In 1695, ice surrounded the entire coast of Iceland for much of the year, halting all ship traffic. The inshore cod fishery failed completely, partly because the fish may have moved offshore into slightly warmer water. On several occasions between 1695 and 1728, inhabitants of the Orkney Islands were startled to see an Inuit in his kayak paddling off their coasts. These solitary hunters must have spent weeks marooned on large ice floes. As late as 1756, sea ice surrounded much of Iceland for as many as thirty weeks a year.

The cod fishery off the Faeroe Islands failed completely as the sea surface temperature became 5C cooler than today, while enormous herring shoals deserted Norwegian waters for warmer seas further south.

Famine

As climatic conditions deteriorated, a lethal mix of misfortunes descended on a growing European population. Crops failed and cattle perished by diseases caused by abnormal weather. Famine followed famine bringing epidemics in their train, bread riots and general disorder. Witchcraft accusations soared, as people accused their neighbours of fabricating bad weather.

Farming was just as difficult in the fledgling European colonies of North America where there were several severe drought cycles between 1560 and 1612 along the Carolina and Virginia coasts.

From 1687 to 1692, cold winters and cool summers led to a series of bad harvests. Alpine villagers lived on bread made from ground nutshells, whilst in France, wine harvests were delayed till as late as November. Widespread blight damaged many crops, bringing one of the worst famines in Europe since 1315. Finland lost perhaps as much as a third of its population to famine and disease in 1696–7.

Things did not improve. 1739 brought more problems, ruining grain and wine harvests over much of western Europe, while winter grain yields were well down because the ground was too hard to plough for weeks.

By 1815, Europe was struggling with yet another cold spell, when the Tambora eruption made matters a whole lot worse. The following year was described as "*The year without a summer*". In France the grain harvest was half its normal level and southern Germany suffered a complete harvest failure. In Switzerland grain and potato prices tripled, and 30000 were breadless, without work and resorted to eating "*sorrel, moss and cats*".

Inevitably such suffering brought with it social unrest, pillaging, rioting and criminal violence. The famine encouraged many to emigrate to America, although in Saint John's, Newfoundland, 900 were sent back to Europe because there was so little food in town.

The crisis of 1816/7 was the last truly extensive food dearth in the Western world and its effects ranged from the Ottoman Empire, to parts of North Africa, large areas of Switzerland and Italy, western Europe and even New England and Canada. Other parts of the world were also badly affected such as China. Death tolls are hard to calculate but 65000 may have perished in Ireland, while in Switzerland the death rate could have doubled. The death toll would have been much worse in England and France but for the availability of and ability to efficiently distribute reserve stocks of food.

(read more at <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/11/without-energy-life-is-brutal-and-short/>)

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Psalm 2:1-4

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

Spurgeon On Compromise -

“Neither when we have chosen our way can we keep company with those who go the other way. There must come with decision for truth a corresponding protest against error.” [The Sword and the Trowel September 1887.](#)

“Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it...Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin...That I might not stultify my testimony I have cut myself clear of those who err from the faith, and even from those who associate with them.” [The Sword and the Trowel.](#)

“There are many that are deceived by this method of reasoning. They remain where their conscience tells them they ought not to be, because, they say, they are more useful than they would be if they went 'without the camp.' This doing evil that good may come, can never be tolerated by an enlightened conscience. If an act of sin would increase my usefulness tenfold, I have no right to do it; and if an act of righteousness would appear likely to destroy all my apparent usefulness, I am yet to do it. It is yours and mine to do the right though the heavens fall, and follow the command of Christ whatever the consequences may be.” [C.H.S., Sermons, 37, p. 426.](#)

[A.W. Tozer said](#), "I am a Bible Christian and if an archangel with a wingspread as broad as a constellation, shining like the sun, were to come and offer me some new truth, I'd ask him for a reference. If he could not show me where it is found in the Bible, I'd bow him out and say, 'I'm awfully sorry. You don't bring any references with you'".

[From Tozer:](#) "Satan knows that the downfall of a prophet of God is a strategic victory for him, so he rests not day or night devising hidden snares and deadfalls for the ministry. Perhaps a better figure would be the poison dart that only paralyzes its victim, for I think that Satan has little interest in killing the preacher outright. An ineffective, half-alive minister is a better advertisement for hell than a good man dead. So the preacher's dangers are likely to be spiritual rather than physical, though sometimes the enemy works through bodily weaknesses to get to the preacher's soul." [God Tells the Man Who Cares, 90-91.](#)

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Ironside And Holiness -

Is there any smell quite like that of an old bookshop? It is said that the sense of smell is the sense most closely connected to memory. A whiff of bread baking, or of a certain perfume, or of orange blossoms becomes a magic carpet that whisks us away on a journey into the past. I enjoy many aromas, but it is a fact that the smell of paper and ink appeals to me very strongly. (Is there a name for this perfume, the essence of the printshop, maybe "eau de Gutenberg"?) Ah, books! Old or new, there is no perfume quite like that of books! Now I wonder, is it the memory of the contents of the enjoyable books we have read, or is it the memory of the lap where we sat when we first learned the wonder of Books, or is it the memory of our first adventures in reading and the treasures we found in books? It has something to do with memory.



Let me take you on a journey into the past. (Hold on tight while I have a sniff of a book. It is a book by Harry Ironside, called Holiness – The False and The True.) Ahhhh, how it takes me back, back more than forty years. Back to a little bookshop on a dusty street in a tiny town. There was a white haired old man, the owner of the shop, and he was closing down the little bookstore after serving the citizens of the Rio Grande Valley for many years. He had new books and old for sale, and prices were marked down to help struggling young preachers. And one book was this title by Harry Ironside.

Harry Ironside was one of a kind. He had read the Bible through ten times before he was twelve years old. He started a Sunday School for the children of his neighbourhood and preached as well. But he was not converted. A visiting evangelist challenged him with the words, "Well, Harry, lad, I'm glad to see you. Are you born again, yet?" It took another two years before Harry was saved. He soon joined the Salvation Army and began to preach. And it was there he learned the doctrine of sinless perfection.

I have often wondered about the roots of this doctrine. We know John Wesley held to it, but I wonder just where he found it. It almost certainly did not originate with Wesley. The doctrine is with us to this day and appears in many forms. Its basic premises are that 1) Conversion to Christ only deals with the sins committed up to the moment of salvation. 2) The new Christian is placed by God on a lifelong probation. 3) If he falls into sin he loses his salvation and must repent and begin again. 4) In order to maintain himself in a state of salvation he needs a "second blessing", a further work of grace that will eradicate the old sin nature. 5) Then he will be sinlessly perfect and will never sin again. Basically, this is Wesleyan theology.

We have all met dear souls who claim to have received the "second blessing" and to have been delivered from sin. A man once came to Charles Spurgeon with the boast that he was now "perfect and had not sinned in years." Spurgeon replied, "But I know of two sins that you are guilty of, pride and lying!"

Ironside's book on Holiness is the medicine needed by the holiness crowd. His thesis in the book is very simple. First, he honestly tells of his own failure to live without sin. In spite of having what he considered to be repeated experiences of "complete sanctification" he simply could not "eradicate the sin nature". Second, he tells how he found that others who sought perfection ever so carefully did not find it either. The disastrous effects of this false doctrine on his fellow workers makes sad reading. For some it meant living in hypocrisy, for others it meant "utter shipwreck of the faith", and at least one was lost to the mazes of spiritualism. He said, "I began to see what a string of derelicts this holiness teaching left in its train."

Ironside himself was burnt out at the tender age of nineteen, after five years pursuing the will-of-the-wisp. He stepped down from active service and entered a rest home, hoping to find the clue to the maze. It was clear to him that the Bible taught holiness, but it was also clear that the sinless perfection doctrine "had a most baneful influence upon the (holiness) movement." How to reconcile these two things? He hoped he might find someone who could assist him. But what he found were spiritual cripples, unable to help him to obtain perfection. Very near he came to losing his faith.

To his surprise there came to him an older "lassie", broken in health, who hoped that *he* might help *her*, for she faced the same struggles. When Harry cast about to find something of a spiritual nature to read to her, he laid his hand on a pamphlet given him by his mother. It did not bear the stamp of the Salvation Army. In fact it taught the opposite to their holiness doctrine. And so he began to read it to her, not really paying any attention to what he read.

To his surprise, the "lassie" found what she needed. And so did he. Hear him as he describes their discovery, "Do you think," she asked, "that it is because we depend upon our own efforts too much? Can it be that we trust Christ to save us, but we think we have to keep saved by our own faithfulness--?"

Soon he himself could say with conviction, "The great truth was...that holiness, perfect love, sanctification, and every other blessing, were mine *in Christ* from the moment I had believed, and mine forevermore, because (it was) all of pure grace."

Harry Ironside closes the first division of the book with a chapter of observations on the holiness movement. Here is what he observed. He found a far lower standard of Christian living among the so-called holiness people. The spiritual pride that results from a claim of "perfection" leads to a blindness toward sin, so that the "perfected" saints begin to deny that their sins are sins. This hardens the conscience and results in the sinner lowering the standard of holiness to his own experience. He lists many of the sins found in the holiness camp. Not only did he see a harsh, critical spirit and divisiveness, but there was immorality which so frequently characterises the holiness movement. Superstition and fanaticism (he speaks of the "disgusting" Tongues Movement which had its roots in the holiness movement) are described, "In the last few years hundreds of holiness meetings all over the world have been literally turned into pandemoniums where exhibitions worthy of a madhouse or of a collection of howling dervishes are held night after night. No wonder a heavy toll of lunacy and infidelity is the frequent result."

Thus ends the autobiographical section of the book. I would encourage every pastor to read Ironside on holiness.

Buddy Smith

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Battle Hymn of the Internet -

by Kevin Wyatt

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of a Google search online;
I have pirated some music, and watched movies that weren't mine;
Google even found a place where I could place a winning bet;
I love the Internet.*

Chorus:

*Glory! Glory! I love Google! Glory! Glory! I love Google!
Glory! Glory! I love Google! I love the Internet.*

*I have seen things that amazed me in a thousand YouTube vids;
I have builded me a profile and ignored my crying kids;
I've been on there for a year and there's so much I've not seen yet;
I love the Internet.*

Chorus:

*Glory! Glory! I love YouTube! Glory! Glory! I love YouTube!
Glory! Glory! I love YouTube! I love the Internet.*

*I have read so many blogs now that I really am a pro;
When I comment I'm anonymous so no-one else will know;
I have flamed so many people that my mouse began to glow;
I love the Internet.*

Chorus:
*Glory! Glory! I love blogging! Glory! Glory! I love blogging!
Glory! Glory! I love blogging! I love the Internet.*

*I have sounded forth on Twitter I have sent so oft a tweet;
I have got so many followers my life's almost complete;
When I heard back from Obama I nearly fell off my seat;
I love the Internet.*

Chorus:
*Glory! Glory! I love Twitter! Glory! Glory! I love Twitter!
Glory! Glory! I love Twitter! I love the Internet.*

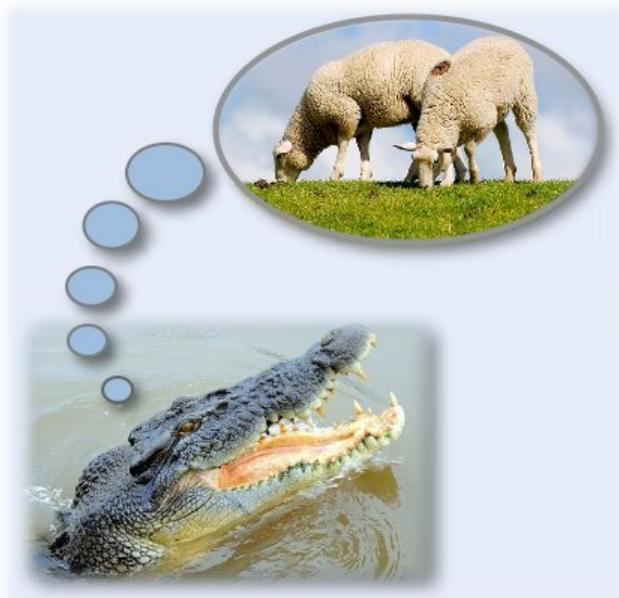
*I have lots of friends on Facebook that I barely even know;
And I tell them all my thoughts and all the places that I go;
I have found a few old flames and said some things that I regret;
I love the Internet.*

Chorus:
*Glory! Glory! I love Facebook! Glory! Glory! I love Facebook!
Glory! Glory! I love Facebook! I love the Internet.*

*A lawyer based in Lagos had a client gravely ill;
I just had to send some details for the proceeds of his will;
Now my bank account is empty and I cannot pay the bill;
I lost my Internet.*

Final chorus:
*Sorry, I've been disconnected! All my friends are disaffected!
Now that I've been disconnected! I'll get my life back yet!*

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1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Blinded Minds –

"Don't mention the Pope's Hitler Youth past," says the Vatican.

The Vatican blundered into a fresh public relations fiasco on Tuesday after seeking to rewrite the biography of Pope Benedict XVI by denying that he was ever a member of the Hitler Youth.

The muddle overshadowed the second day of the Pope's visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, when he visited sacred sites around Jerusalem and sought to bridge the historic divide between Catholicism and Judaism.



Pope Benedict XVI places his note to God in the Western Wall at Judaism's holiest site in Jerusalem's Old City, Israel.



Pope Benedict XVI (young Ratzinger) saluting Hitler as a youth.

Even though the 82-year-old German pontiff has admitted in numerous interviews that he was drafted unwillingly into the Nazi youth movement towards the end of the war, his spokesman came up with another version. "The Pope was never in the Hitler Youth, never, never, never," Father Federico Lombardi, chief spokesman for the Pope, told a press conference in Jerusalem.

The Vatican's Watchdog on Faith – The Office of the Inquisition

Cardinal Levada, head of the Office of the Inquisition; "whatever any Vatican office does or says having to do with faith and morals is a matter that falls under the congregation's gaze".

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith keeps an eye on almost everything coming out of the Vatican, reports the Catholic News Service, in an article republished in The Record. Although it has fewer than 50 employees, including ushers and receptionists, whatever any Vatican office does or says having to do with faith and morals is a matter that falls under the congregation's gaze.

As the heir of the Holy Office of the Inquisition – and housed in a building still known as the Palace of the Holy Office – the congregation often is portrayed as an agency almost exclusively dedicated to seeking out errant theologians and condemning their writings.

The congregation does review books that Bishops' conferences bring to its attention, especially if the book presents itself as explaining Catholic morals or doctrine and is widely used in schools of theology or seminaries.

But since Pope Benedict XVI was elected in 2005 and US Cardinal William J Levada was appointed to succeed him as the congregation's prefect, the office has issued only one formal public criticism of written works: a notification about two books by a liberation theologian, Jesuit Fr. Jon Sobrino.

More and more, the congregation's pronouncements involve the application of Catholic moral teaching to questions concerning the very beginning and very end of human life. [And they have 'ended' many over the centuries! -Ed] Biotechnology, the use of human embryos, politics and abortion, euthanasia and the care of the dying [Not too much care was taken over the dying Latimer? -Ed] all have been topics of recent documents.

In early May, the Vatican published two documents signed by Cardinal Levada that demonstrate just how widespread the congregation's reach is. An instruction released on 13 May called on Bishops and pastors to respond generously to Catholics who want to attend Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal, commonly known as the Tridentine rite.

And a circular letter released on 16 May ordered every Bishops' conference in the world to prepare guidelines for dealing with accusations of clerical sexual abuse and for ensuring the protection of children.

Roman Catholic Nun Heading US Presbyterian Seminary Fosters Better Church Relations

By Ecumenical News International - 29 Jun 2009

Elizabeth Liebert

The appointment of a Roman Catholic nun as dean of San Francisco Theological Seminary illustrates the truth of the saying "to be Reformed is to be ecumenical", says the General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Earlier in June 2009 Elizabeth Liebert became the first Roman Catholic sister to be named as dean of a Presbyterian seminary in the United States.

San Francisco Theological Seminary is a school of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Rev Setri Nyomi, the general secretary of the Geneva-based WARC, told Ecumenical News International, "In April this year, while on an official visit to San Francisco Theological Seminary, I was impressed by the way in which SFTS is committed to ecumenical engagement and justice."

The WARC general secretary said, "This appointment indicates how the SFTS understands the truth of the common saying 'To be Reformed is to be ecumenical'. It will continue to strengthen the formation of a new generation of church leaders and church agents to understand the need to appreciate the gifts of all women and men from the different Christian traditions."

Liebert has spent more than two decades teaching at the 138-year-old seminary in San Anselmo, California, and she will replace the Rev. Jana Childers, who will step down on 30 June after nearly eight years as dean. "We are particularly pleased to be attaining an historic ecumenical milestone," SFTS President Phil Butin said. "Dr Liebert's deanship is a sterling example of SFTS's thoroughgoing commitment to ecumenical theological education."

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Andrew Bolt

When Freedom of Speech Dies -

(A recent court case in Australia resulted in Andrew Bolt, a Herald Sun journalist, being convicted and fined for discrimination toward several fair skinned academics who claim to be aboriginal. He had simply asked in his column what constitutes "aboriginality?" and they took him to court. There is a larger issue at stake, and that is freedom of speech.

What is not commonly known is that political correctness is destroying many of our freedoms. Because someone says it is not politically correct to ask questions that embarrass the establishment, journalists (and pastors?) lose the liberties our forefathers fought and died for. Below is an excerpt

from Andrew Bolt's column in which he compares the loss of freedom of speech with what happened to Socrates long ago. Interesting reading. - Ed.)

"What I want the inquiry to consider is this: whose side would you have been on in the trial of Socrates? Would you be on the side of the philosopher, or of the leading citizens who put him to death for scandalising them with his mockery and impiety, and his unleashing of a cacophony of debate?

The way Socrates puts the case against himself, I suspect he'd be in trouble today, too, especially if he had a blog with a comments thread:

For of old I have had many accusers... I will sum up their words in an affidavit: 'Socrates is an evil-doer, and a curious person, who searches into things under the earth and in heaven, and he makes the worse appear the better cause; and he teaches the aforesaid doctrines to others.' ...

I am going to explain to you why I have such an evil name... I went to one who had the reputation of wisdom, and observed him — his name I need not mention; he was a politician whom I selected for examination — and the result was as follows: When I began to talk with him, I could not help thinking that he was not really wise, although he was thought wise by many, and still wiser by himself; and thereupon I tried to explain to him that he thought himself wise, but was not really wise; and the consequence was that he hated me, and his enmity was shared by several who were present and heard me...

Then I went to another who had still higher pretensions to wisdom, and my conclusion was exactly the same. Whereupon I made another enemy of him, and of many others besides him. And I swear to you, Athenians, by the dog I swear! — for I must tell you the truth — the result of my mission was just this: I found that the men most in repute were all but the most foolish; and that others less esteemed were really wiser and better.

After the politicians, I went to the poets... Then I knew that not by wisdom do poets write poetry, but by a sort of genius and inspiration; they are like diviners or soothsayers who also say many fine things, but do not understand the meaning of them...

I further observed that upon the strength of their poetry they believed themselves to be the wisest of men in other things in which they were not wise...

There is another thing:— young men of the richer classes, who have not much to do, come about me of their own accord; they like to hear the pretenders examined, and they often

imitate me, and proceed to examine others; there are plenty of persons, as they quickly discover, who think that they know something, but really know little or nothing; and then those who are examined by them instead of being angry with themselves are angry with me:

This confounded Socrates, they say; this villainous misleader of youth!— and then if somebody asks them, Why, what evil does he practise or teach? they do not know, and cannot tell; but in order that they may not appear to be at a loss, they repeat the ready-made charges which are used against all philosophers about teaching things up in the clouds and under the earth, and having no gods, and making the worse appear the better cause; for they do not like to confess that their pretence of knowledge has been detected — which is the truth... "

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Links In the Media Chain -

- Caution needed when buying honey made in China - <http://bayourenaissanceman.blogspot.com/2011/11/it-seems-much-of-our-honey-is.html>
- Driving at 462 mph? <http://www.dump.com/2011/11/13/replay-xd1080-driving-at-462-mpg-video/>
- If fallen men can think up technology like this, what will the technology be when redeemed men, at last freed from their old natures, use the resources of a millennial world under the rule of Christ, to turn swords and spears into plowshares and pruning hooks? <http://www.flixxy.com/the-future-of-energy-is-here.htm>
- For a Christian News Roundup, write to contact@bibletruthforyou.com

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Baptist Terror Cells in Australia -

Latest news reports are that terrorist cell groups are operating in many of our churches in Australia. Some of the terrorists have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Missin, Bin Fightin, and Bin Complainin! Their leader: Lucifer Bin Workin, trains these individuals to destroy local churches! Their plan is to come into the churches disguised as Christians and then to work within the church to discourage, disrupt and destroy.

Some pastors are awake to the threat of these terrorist cells in their churches and have set up anti-terror response groups to defeat their schemes. The leaders appointed for the anti-terror teams are Bin Prayin, Bin Preachin, Bin Waitin, Bin Watchin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin.

One new member of the team was announced yesterday, Bin Joinin Up!!!

(contributed by Bro. Warren Roy)

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Therapy For The Funny Bone –

Some years ago a small rural town in Spain twinned with a similar town in Greece. The Mayor of the Greek town visited the Spanish town. When he saw the palatial mansion belonging to the Spanish mayor he wondered how he could afford such a house.

The Spaniard said; "You see that bridge over there? The EU gave us a grant to build a two-lane bridge, but by building a single lane bridge with traffic lights at either end this house could be built".

The following year the Spaniard visited the Greek town. He was simply amazed at the Greek Mayor's house, gold taps, marble floors . . . it was marvellous.

When he asked how this could be afforded, the Greek said, "You see that bridge over there?"

The Spaniard replied; "No . . . "

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- **M**uslims have gone on the rampage in London, killing anyone who's English. Police fear the death toll could be as high as 5.
 - **T**hey've had to cancel the play, 'Jack & the Beanstalk', in Birmingham, Bristol, Oldham, Bradford, Burnley, Leicester, Luton & London: because the giant couldn't smell any Englishmen.
 - **Y**ears ago it was suggested that, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." But since all the doctors are now Muslims, I've found that a bacon sandwich works a treat!

A blonde & her husband are lying in bed listening to the next door neighbour's dog. It has been in the backyard barking for hours & hours.

The blonde jumps up out of bed and says, "I've had enough of this". She goes downstairs.

The blonde finally comes back up to bed and her husband says, "The dog is still barking, what have you been doing?"

The blonde says, "I put the dog in our backyard ... let's see how THEY like it!"

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Eddy-Torial – Anaesthesia For The Saints

Dr. James Young Simpson is credited by many as being the first to use anaesthetics in surgery, way back in the 19th century. He was severely criticised by doctors and theologians alike. His reply? He referred his critics to Gen. 2:21, "*And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*" It is not commonly known that he was a dear friend of Charles Spurgeon and had assisted Susannah Spurgeon in the birth of their child. Queen Victoria did much to reverse public opinion when she requested Simpson's help with the delivery of her fifth child.

We now take anaesthetics for granted. I remember having my tonsils removed when I was about nine years old, and the doctor's use of ether to put me to sleep. The dictionary tells us that the word anaesthesia simply means, "loss, or want of feeling, or lack of sensation." Its near kin (anaesthetic) conveys the thought of being "senseless, or stupid." Anaesthesia's ancient roots have ties to the word "audience," which means that the patient has lost his hearing.

Recently I watched a video on the failings of modern education by Sir Ken Robinson. In it he shocked his audience by telling them that modern education anaesthetises its students. It takes away their ability to feel, to hear, to see. It makes them insensible.

I believe it is high time we realised that Christians are being anaesthetised as well. There is anaesthesia for the saints. It's in the air all over the world. It is wafting into our churches.

How so?

The Lord Jesus Christ, in the Olivet discourse told His disciples these words, "*And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*" (Matt. 24:12). The love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit is waxing cold. Cheap imitations are marketed widely, but the genuine article is disappearing. And because the imitations are so pervasive and are so well advertised, most of us are unaware that God's love has been almost frozen out of our churches. We are not thinking of things that are confused with love, like nostalgia or patriotism or sentimentalism. What we now have in abundance is a mixture of soft religion and romance blended together. But real Christian love? How long is it since you looked around at your church to see if God's love was still in attendance? Is the Spirit's fruit of love anywhere to be seen? Does the "love" at your church come anywhere close to being I Cor. 13 love? Or is it in word only and not in deed?

If it has waxed cold, what was it that stole its fire? Jesus said that the fervency of love is stolen by an abundance of iniquity. So what did He mean? I know, I know, the 21st century method for studying the Bible is to catch a glimpse of truth at Mach 3 as we hastily rinse our hands in six chapters. But what would we learn from this verse if the Lord gave us a flat tyre just there and we spent an hour or two meditating on this verse? We would find that the word for iniquity is "anomia" and that it means "lawlessness." And we would find that the word for "abound" describes "and overflow, or excess." And that the word for love is "agape." Jesus plainly taught them that *lawlessness overflowing chills the love of many.*

Sin, lawlessness is the anaesthetic that chills the love of many. (When I hear so many of the Lord's people use the word, "COOOOOOOOOOL!" I wonder if they are saying more than they realise?)



Is our love waxing cold? When I see how few church members love the brethren, how few love the assembly of the saints, how few love good, hot, biblical preaching, how few love to give sacrificially, how few love the lost and give their lives to reach them for Christ, and how few love their pastor for his faithfulness to God and His word.....I believe our love has icicles hanging off it. In some cases it is in cold storage, and in a few it has become an iceberg. Agape in Antarctica! What a title for a sermon!

If it has waxed cold, why? Jesus said it happens when lawlessness becomes acceptable to the saints. Lawlessness in morality, in conduct, in attitude, in relationships, in finances, in evangelistic work, in interpretation of Scripture, in application of Scripture, in church, and out of church. Lawlessness is the spirit of the age, it is the inescapable essence of the world's pigpen, it is the perfume of Sodom. And the saints have grown to like it. It is the flavour of this century.

Do I hear an objection?

Maybe you should test the temperature of your love. You may find that it is suffering hypothermia. A dying love for God, for the brethren, and for the lost will be accompanied by frostbitten fingers and feet. Sin brings with it a creeping numbness, it anaesthetises our hearts and prevents loving service of God.

Bro. Buddy Smith

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