



"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 shall answer when I am reproved." Hab. 2:1

August 26, 2011

Table of Contents -

[A Hebrews 11 Eulogy - Brendan Davies](#)
[Feature Article – The Doctrines of Balaam](#)
[From the Synagogue to the Saviour -](#)
[These Are Not Our Friends and This Is Not Our Cause -](#)
[Cartoons for the Wise -](#)
[They Now Own Their Church Building! -](#)
[Deacon True Sez -](#)
[David's Dancing -](#)
[Links to Make You Think -](#)
[Poems That Preach -](#)
[The Brilliant Minds of Our Political Leaders -](#)
[Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -](#)
[Therapy For The Funny Bone –](#)
[Eddy-Torial -](#)

[A Hebrews 11 Eulogy - Brendan Davies](#)
[By Kevin Wyatt -](#)

In remembering Brendan Davies there is much to say but I'll leave it to others to tell of his devotion to his family, missionary work in PNG, service in his local church and his many other accomplishments. I would like to praise God for the gift of a 'bestest bestest' friend, the kind of friend everyone wants but rarely finds.

My first communication with Brendan was an email from him in June 2004 when he had just returned from a trip to PNG and sent out a report on the Crowe missionary family and how the work was going. I replied to an offer he made to supply further information and so began a delightful friendship.

Over the next seven years he became my most trusted of friends. What made our friendship unusual was that we very rarely saw each other face to face. In a little over 7 years we were only in close proximity to

each other on four occasions and spent no more than 45 hours (yes, I worked it out) in each other's company. We spoke on the phone a handful of times and exchanged a few text messages but we did exchange plenty of emails. In counting them I found there are over 800 and both our wives can attest that these emails were not short, snappy communications but more often lengthy epistles. As we got to know each other we discovered we had a lot in common and that we had in many respects a 'mirrored life'. Time and again what one of us experienced first would quickly befall the other and although unusual it gave us a deep empathy for each other and the ability to share the most private thoughts without fear. We shared so much over the years that now he is gone I have realised what a large hole he left in my life. Several times a day I come across something and I instinctively think to share it with him and then remember that my friend is no longer at his desk. I praise God for Brendan and for how He ministered to me through him. The laughs, the tears, the loving rebukes and in his darker days the opportunity to pray for him and know how he was drawing ever closer to the Lord are things I will be eternally thankful for. God did a special work in knitting our hearts together so closely that I do acutely feel his loss and yet I am overjoyed with tears that he is now free of suffering and in the presence of our precious God and Saviour. Brendan's illness was a terrible ordeal and not long ago, after yet another miraculous deliverance from his afflictions, I wrote and told him I had written his name in the margin of my Bible next to Hebrews 11. He replied and asked me to erase it and instead write it next to 1Timothy 1:15 and Hebrews 5:8. I have left his name next to Hebrews 11 (sorry Brendan) and have added it next to those verses and I trust that no-one will misunderstand his usage of Hebrews 5:8. As his health declined he had time to ponder how he wanted people to remember him and was very specific in not wanting anyone to rob glory from God for anything he had done. I will finish by quoting the very last thing he said to me. "To God be the glory. Love in Christ, Bro. Kev

Feature Article - The Doctrine of Balaam Examined In The Light of Today's Fundamentalism by *Pastor B. Kirkland*

Balaam

Israel's Fundamental Promoter of Apostasy!

The Doctrine of Balaam

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT THE VERSE BELOW WAS ADDRESSED TO THE PASTOR

"But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication." (Revelation 2:14)

In our last article, (The Common Salvation,) we referred to the fact that some promoters of apostasy are unsaved and some are Believers, such as the apostasy promoting pastor mentioned in the verse above. We will see in this article that although Balaam sounded like a solid fundamentalist, he was unsaved. He was one of the greatest hypocrites on the face of the earth at that time.

He Talked Like A Fundamentalist - Chapter 22:13

* **Balaam refused to go with the enemies of Israel.**

“And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.” Chapter 22:18

* **Balaam sounded like a fundamental leader.**

“And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.” Chapter 22:38

Today, most fundamental leaders would welcome this man to preach in their local church.

“And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.” Chapter 23:8-10

* **He sounded fundamental here.**

“How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?...Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!”
Chapter 23:12

Would Balaam be welcome to preach at our national meetings?

“And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?” Chapter 23:18-20

* **Balaam’s bold statement to the king of Moab.**

“Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.” Chapter 23:18-20

Are there any fundamental leaders preaching stronger than this?

“If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?” Chapter 24:213

How Did Jude See Balaam?

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Jude said, Balaam was one of those men who, “...crept in unawares.”

Jude said, that Balaam had “...turned the grace of God into lasciviousness.”

Jude said Balaam went to Hell when he died. (v.13)

To read the entire article, go to: www.fairhavensbaptist.net! and look in End Time Issues under Balaam).

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

From the Synagogue to the Saviour -

The following is abbreviated from "Charlie Coulson: The Drummer Boy" by *Doctor Max L. Rossvally* (1828-1892).

During the American Civil War, I was a surgeon in the Army. Following the battle at Gettysburg, there were hundreds of wounded soldiers needing immediate medical attention. Many were wounded so severely that a leg or an arm, or sometimes both, needed to be amputated.

One of the wounded was a boy, who had only been in the service for three months. Being too young to be a soldier, he enlisted as a drummer. My steward tried to give him chloroform before the amputation, but he turned his head away and refused it. He was told it was my order. He said, "Let me talk with the doctor."

"Young man, why do you refuse the chloroform? When I found you on the battlefield, you were so far gone that I almost didn't bother to pick you up. But when you opened those large blue eyes, it occurred to me that you had a mother somewhere who might be thinking of you at that very moment. I didn't want you to die, so I had you brought here. You have lost so much blood that in your weak condition you might not live through this operation. You'd better let me give you the chloroform."

He laid his hand on mine, looked me in the face and said, "Doctor, one Sunday afternoon in Sunday School, when I was nine and a half years old, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I learned to trust Him then, I know I can trust Him now. He is my strength. He will support me while you cut away my arm and leg."

"Won't you at least take some brandy?" I begged.

Again, he looked at me and said, "Doctor, when I was about five years old, my mother knelt by my side with her arms around my neck and said: 'Charlie, I am now praying to the Lord Jesus that you will never know the taste of strong drink. Your father died a drunkard, and I've asked God to use you to warn young people against the dangers of drinking.' I am now seventeen years old and I have never had anything stronger than tea or coffee. I am in all probability going to die and go into the presence of my God. Would you send me there, smelling of brandy?"

I will never forget the look he gave me. At that time I hated Jesus, but I respected that boy's loyalty to his Saviour. When I saw how he loved and trusted Him to the very end, something deeply touched my heart. Despite the urgency of the moment and all the misery around, I did for that boy what I had never done for any other soldier. I asked him if he wanted to see a chaplain.

"Oh, yes, sir!" was his answer.

When the chaplain came, he recognized the young drummer from his tent prayer meetings. Taking his hand, he said, "Charlie, I'm so sorry to see you in this sad condition."

"Oh, I'm all right, sir," he answered. "The doctor offered me chloroform, but I declined it. Then he wanted to give me brandy, which I didn't want either. So now, when my Saviour calls me, I can go to Him in my right mind."

"You might not die, Charlie," said the chaplain, "but if the Lord should call you home, is there anything I can do for you after you're gone?"

"Chaplain, here's my little Bible. My mother's address is inside. Send it to her and write a letter for me. Tell her that since I left home, I have never let a single day pass--no matter if we were on the march or on the battlefield,--without reading a portion of God's Word, and daily praying that He would bless her."

"Is there anything else I can do for you, my lad?" asked the chaplain.

"Yes, please write a letter to the Sunday School Superintendent of the Sands Street Church in Brooklyn, New York. Tell him that his many prayers and moral counsel I have never forgotten. His lessons have helped and comforted me through all the dangers. And now, in my dying hour, I ask my Saviour to bless and strengthen my dear old teacher. That is all."

Turning towards me, he said, "Now, doctor, I'm ready, and I promise I will not scream while you take off my arm and leg."

I didn't have the courage to take the knife in my hand, without first taking a quick gulp of brandy to nerve myself to perform my sad duty.

While cutting through the flesh, Charlie Colson didn't even groan. But when I took the saw to separate the bone the lad, through clenched teeth, uttered, "O Jesus, blessed Jesus, stand by me now!"

He kept his promise. He never screamed.

I couldn't sleep that night. Despite the constant moans and weeping of the wounded, all I could see was Charlie's soft blue eyes. Even his words, "Blessed Jesus, stand by me now," kept ringing in my ears. Between twelve and one o'clock, a strong urge came over me to see that boy again. When I got there, I was told that sixteen of the badly wounded had died. "Was Charlie Colson one of them?" I asked. "No, sir," answered the steward, "he's sleeping as sweetly as a babe."

When I came to his side, one of the civilian nurses informed me that at about nine o'clock, two members of the U.S. Christian Commission, accompanied by the chaplain, came to read Scripture and sing hymns. She said that the chaplain knelt by Charlie and offered up a passionate prayer. Then they and Charlie sang the sweetest of all hymns, "Jesus, Lover Of My Soul." I couldn't understand how this young lad, who suffered such horrible pain, could sing.

Five days after his amputation, Charlie sent for me. "Doctor," he said, "my time has come. I don't expect to see another sunrise. But thank God, I have no fear and I'm ready to go. I

want to thank you with all my heart for your kindness to me. I know you are Jewish, and that you don't believe in Jesus, but I want you to stay with me, and see me die trusting my Saviour to the last moment of my life."

I tried to stay, but I could not. I didn't have the courage to stand by and watch a true Christian die, rejoicing in the love of Jesus whom I had been taught to deny. So, I hurriedly left.

About twenty minutes later an anxious steward found me and said, "Doctor, Drummer Colson wants to see you again." "I've just seen him," I answered, "I can't see him again." "But, Doctor, he says he must see you before he dies."

So, I made up my mind to see him, say a few kind words, and let die. However, I was determined that no talk about his Jesus was going to influence me.

His condition had worsened. Asking me to take his hand, he said, "Doctor, I love you because you are Jewish; the best friend I have found in this world was also Jewish."

I asked him who that was, and he answered, "Jesus the Christ, and I want to introduce you to Him before I die. Will you promise me, Doctor, that what I am about to say to you, you will never forget?"

I promised, and he said, "Five days ago, while you operated on me, I prayed to the Lord to save you."

His words pierced deep into my heart. I couldn't understand how, when I was causing him the most intense pain, he could forget all about himself and think only of his Saviour and my spiritual need. All I could say at the moment was, "Well, my dear boy, you will soon be all right."

I started to leave, hearing him sing softly, "I'm going home to die no more."

Twelve minutes later he fell asleep, "safe in the arms of Jesus."

During the war thousands of soldiers died in our hospitals, but I only attended one burial, that was for Charlie Colson the Union drummer boy. I ordered that he'd be dressed in a new uniform and like the burial for an officer, arranged that his coffin be covered with the flag he nobly served.

His dying words made a deep impression upon me. I remembered thinking how gladly I would have given all I possessed, if I could have felt towards Jesus as he did. But with the continuation of the cruel war and my company with worldly officers, I gradually forgot his prayer and my promise.

After the war and for nearly ten years, I fought against believing in Christ. But God continued to bring faithful and godly people into my life that spoke of Jesus' love. Finally, the drummer boy's prayer was answered and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Messiah. It did come at a high cost. My family, in-laws and dear mother rejected me. Psalm 27:10, was a great comfort, "When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."

It was eighteen months after my salvation that the Lord had a special blessing for me. One evening while traveling through Brooklyn, I felt led to attend a prayer meeting in a small local church. It was a meeting when believers testify to the loving-kindness of the Lord. After several had spoken, an elderly lady stood up and said,

"Dear friends, this may be the last time I have a chance to publicly share how good the Lord has been to me. My doctor told me yesterday that my right lung is nearly gone, and my left lung is failing fast, so at best, I only have a short time to be with you. But what is left of me belongs to Jesus. It's a great joy to know that I shall soon meet my boy with Jesus in heaven. My son was not only a soldier for his country, but also a soldier for Christ. He was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, and was cared for by a Jewish doctor, who amputated his arm and leg. He died five days after the operation. The chaplain of the regiment wrote me a letter, and sent me my boy's Bible. I was told that in his dying hour, my Charlie sent for that Jewish doctor, and said to him, 'Doctor, before I die I wish to tell you that five days ago, while you operated on me, I prayed to the Lord to save you.'" As I heard this lady speak, I just couldn't sit still! I left my seat, ran across the room, took her hand and said, "God bless you, my dear sister. Your son's prayer has been heard and answered! I am the Jewish doctor that your Charlie prayed for, and his Saviour is now my Saviour!

"Having been frequently asked whether all the details of this story are strictly true, I take this opportunity of stating that every incident occurred exactly as related." [Max L. Rossvally](#)

Known facts

- * Rossvally became a worldwide Evangelist.
- * His wife, daughter and son eventually became believers.
- * He started a Hebrew Christian Association in NYC.
- * He is buried in Lawnswood Cemetery in Leeds, England.
- * His story has been translated into many languages.

Shortly after his conversion to God, Dr. Rossvally resigned his commission in the United States Army and opened a Mission for the conversion of his Jewish brethren. He met with much opposition at first, but persevered, and finally had the joy of seeing quite a number --rich and poor, old and young Jews and Jewesses--exclaim, with one of old: "We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, THE CHRIST" (John 1:41).

He afterwards made a prolonged evangelistic tour, and visited many cities in Europe, America, Canada, Germany, and many other lands, preaching the glad tidings of a free and full salvation in his forceful way to large audiences, his ministry being owned of God in leading not a few--Gentiles as well as Jews--out of darkness into light and from the power of Satan unto God.

A few years of happy service, a few months of severe suffering, and M. L. Rossvally was called to the higher service of heaven in October, 1892.

"He being dead yet speaketh," for several millions of "Charlie Coulson, the Drummer Boy," and some of his other tracts, have been scattered over America, Britain, India, Australia and New Zealand, France, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, and other lands, leading many to "know Him whom to know is life everlasting."

Surely this true and touching narrative of real life in our own day re-affirms the words of the most noted Jewish convert--Saul of Tarsus--who said: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

Notice it is not the Gospel of Christianity or Judaism, the gospel of any church, creed, or party, but the Gospel of Christ, the Gospel concerning the peerless Person of THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who died for our sins according to the Scriptures ... was buried, and ... rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: that at the Name of JESUS every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

The great question for each of us to consider is, Have I, like the drummer boy and the doctor, as an individual, realized my lost condition as "dead in trespasses and in sins" (Eph. 2:1) and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my own personal Saviour? And do I know that "God for Christ's sake has pardoned my sins?" If not, why not, like Jew and Gentile recorded herein, put the matter to the test? "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and you will be able to say, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

from www.wayoflife.org

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

These are not our friends and this is not our cause -
by *Kevin Wyatt*

Like many people I have been very interested in the issues surrounding Global Warming for some time. At first I was concerned that Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) was a genuine problem and then after looking into the available information I became concerned that it was not. At first AGW was like a tsunami of public opinion. No-one spoke against it and it seemed that we were all heading for a low carbon future. Over the last few years though, there has been a growing movement that has dared rock the boat of Al Gore and the IPCC. The fringe-dwelling lunatics with tin foil hats have been replaced by credentialed scientists, politicians and an ever increasing number of the general population.

Recently I attended a meeting and listened to Professor Ian Plimer and Christopher Lord Monckton speak to a large crowd of very enthusiastic AGW sceptics. I was curious to hear what Lord Monckton had to say and to see the kind of people that would turn up to listen. Professor Plimer was only there to introduce Lord Monckton, who spoke very eloquently and with a good deal of humour at the expense of both himself and Al Gore. He pulled no punches in accusing IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri of being a crook and lamented the fact that very few children receive a classical education anymore, which he attributes as a major reason for the apparent lack of reasoning skills in the average Western citizen. As I listened I noted the interesting points he made. I laughed at some of the jokes, cringed at some of the others and saw first-hand the adulation he received from the crowd of academics, scientists and concerned citizens such as myself.

I was seated in the front row of the overflow room. I watched Lord Monckton on a projector screen and when he had finished speaking and taken some questions he moved into my room and stood just feet from me. As I watched him engage the crowd and answer the many questions the feeling of uneasiness that had been growing inside me reached a peak and I realised something.

These people are not our friends and this is not our cause.

That statement may take some explaining so I will try. I think it was the close observation of Ian Plimer that made the penny drop. He worked the room with a ruthlessness that I found very disturbing. As I watched him wrangle the questioners in the crowd I glimpsed just a shade of the brutal conviction he has towards 'climate alarmists' and which is directed even more so against the Bible and against God. Ian Plimer hates the Bible and hates God. He has made that fact plainly clear many times and has been just as passionate about trying to discredit the Bible as he has ever been about discrediting Al Gore. In his book 'Telling Lies for God' he attempted to ridicule and tear apart the Biblical account of Creation and even enlisted the apostate Archbishop Peter Hollingworth to write the foreword for the book. What an unholy alliance!

Professor Plimer did not express any religious views that I heard that evening but his latest book 'Heaven and Earth', in which he repeats his criticism of Creationists was for sale in the foyer and seemed to be doing reasonable business. Lord Monckton did make regular references to God, although not in a way that leads me to believe he is a born-again believer. He referred to 'Our blessed Lord' when speaking of Jesus Christ and quoted Pilate's infamous question 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) in Latin. This was mixed in with at least one outright profanity and an embarrassingly frequent repetition of 'God bless Australia' towards the end of his speech. Lord Monckton is a nice enough chap. I

met him briefly before the meeting, shook his hand and shared a joke with him but I have no reason to believe that he is anything other than an enemy of God (Romans 8:7).

My opinion, albeit quite unscientific, was that the vast majority of the crowd as well as the two speakers were hostile to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and this is really the point that I'm concerned with. The people I was rubbing shoulders with and listening to are not our friends and their cause is not ours, just as our cause is not theirs. As born-again, blood-bought, redeemed disciples of Jesus Christ our cause - our only cause - is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are plenty of good things that we can do and be involved in but everything, absolutely everything, must be subservient to the cause of Christ. The Gospel is the '*power of God unto salvation*' (Romans 1:16) and in our capacity as ambassadors for Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:20, 2Corinthians 5:20) we have no right to pursue our own agendas or mix the messages of the Kingdom that we represent. We have no authority to make alliances either and when Christians begin to support causes championed by the enemies of God we do so at our peril.

Please don't misunderstand me. I am disgusted and horrified by the evil machinations of those who are trying to impose global governance upon us via '*science falsely so called*' (1Timothy 6:20) such as AGW. I don't like Al Gore and what he stands for any more than I like the concept of the New World Order (NWO) and all its terrifying consequences for mankind. Left-wing, anarchist, green activists (whether they wear black jackets or suits) make my blood boil and my stomach churn as they espouse carbon taxes and Gaia-friendly living but there are more important things at stake. The faithful remnant are not those who resist Al Gore and suffer the slings and arrows of the green crowd but rather those who huddle in prayer closets and stand on street corners with tracts. We must not lose sight of our one and only calling as servants of Jesus Christ.

For years there has been an increasing trend amongst the mainstream church to get involved in temporal issues in favour of spiritual ones. More and more we see apostate churches trumpeting carnal values over spiritual. We hear about churches full of people that are 'passionate about social justice'. Teenagers with tattoos and piercings who learnt their gospel from 'The Message' wander around the planet claiming that God wants the place cleaned up and that as good stewards we must preserve creation. Others join hands with Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Mormons and anyone else they can find in an incredibly perverse attempt to bring 'peace' to the world. Fundamental Christians have become more and more alienated as the self-professed 'church' reveals its rotten and blasphemous heart but none of this should surprise us. We were warned.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2Timothy 3:1-5)

We live in amazing, albeit scary times. The past few decades have seen the rise of globalisation and the demise of modern democracies as the whole planet rushes headlong into its prophesied future. With all this going on it's easy to get caught up in the moment but we must keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. We must remember that the NWO, the world government of the Antichrist, is definitely coming and cannot be avoided or averted. God has said so in His Word. It's a fearful thing to contemplate and we know the terror and

destruction that accompanies it and it seems right to oppose it but this is not our cause. People like Lord Monckton see the coming world government and believe it can be defeated permanently by an uprising of good, informed people but they are wrong. It's an irony that all Christians must grapple with that the rise of the NWO is a necessary evil precursor to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Can we really fight against the NWO while honestly saying *'even so, come, Lord Jesus'* (Revelation 22:20) ?

I'm not suggesting that we do nothing, or that we be complicit with evil. Rather, I am warning that our zeal for a cause must not lead us to join ranks with people that hate not only the things we hate but who also hate the One we love. The Bible is full of examples of what happens when the people of God make leagues with those who oppose Him. In 1Samuel 17 the young stripling David saw the army of Saul quaking before Goliath and said 'Is there not a cause?'. Indeed there was a cause, a fine one, and it's the same cause we should be fighting for today. That young man went out against the best the Philistines had to offer with nothing more than a few pebbles and absolute faith in God and won a great victory. A few years later the same man nearly went out as the best the Philistines had to offer and if not for the grumbling of the Philistine princes he may have found himself fighting against the people of God (1Samuel 29). Neither do we want to be like Balaam who cried *'Let me die the death of the righteous'* (Numbers 23:10) and yet was killed in the camp of the Midianites (Numbers 31:8).

We know that the One World Government is coming. You can take your pick of the suspects and the conspiracy theories and many folks do spend a lot of time trying to predict what seems to me to be quite unpredictable. Ever since I came into contact with Bible believing Christians twenty years ago I have seen the masses of newsletters and tracts and books that claim to have the latest scoop on how prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes. For the most part these publications are a litany of embarrassing predictions and baseless scaremongering that should warn us of the foolishness of trying to second-guess God. In the Seventies and Eighties we were told that barcodes were the mark of the beast and we'd all soon be wearing them. Since then we've had GPS, the Iridium satellite network, RFID, iris scanning and a whole heap of other technologies that 'Christian alarmists' have told us are the signs of the end of days. The fact is that they all are and none of them is any more significant than another. All of these inventions and developments are symptomatic of a planet full of people in total rebellion against their Creator and desperately trying to make their own way, even as the Devil waits in the wings for his moment of glory.

In times such as these should we really be wasting our time reading and debating and blogging and commenting about what we think the Illuminati are up to? Should we care about how many US presidents have been members of the Skull and Bones society or whether the EU is ever going to fill seat 666? It's irrelevant!

God is still on His Throne and we still have a job to do. That job is preaching, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It may seem useful to try and draw on things like AGW and other conspiracies to try and connect with unbelievers but it's something that I have tried and found wanting. In our zeal to open the eyes of unbelievers to what is really going on around them we are more likely to relegate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to being just another conspiracy theory that can seemingly be accepted or rejected without major consequence. Let us not confuse our message or be distracted by apparently important causes as the stakes are so high.

Perilous times are upon us and now is the time for us to *"be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."* (Ephesians 6:10) . We must separate from apostasy and from any other causes that seek to demote the Gospel. Let us pray for ourselves and for each other that *"utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."* (Ephesians 6:19,20)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Cartoons for the Wise -

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

They Now Own Their Church Building! -

Dear Friends of Hope Baptist Church (North Little Rock-Sherwood, Arkansas),

We now own our church building! Imagine in just 11/2 years what God has done with a new church! We are rejoicing that the mortgage closure went off today very well. We got a little bit lower payment and the closing costs were a little smaller than quoted. We are thankful for Bank of the Ozarks helping us in this way! In normal life no one takes a 1 1/2 year old church. We are thankful for God working in their heart.

We rejoice in the fact that God has provided for us in such a miraculous way. **Submitted people to God can expect God to do great things, James 4:7.**

The lady who did the closing commented that our Church Constitution was so "God Oriented" and most of them are so business like and leave God out. She said it spoke to her heart. She wanted to show it to her church! Also, the Real Estate Agent handed me a card before going into the closing. I did not read it until we got home. It had a check in it with a good size donation to the church. We were praying that we could go over by about \$3000.00 to keep funds in an emergency account. With her donation we are there! So, in a little over 60 days we needed \$14,500.00 and we got \$17,500.00! Another answer to prayer on the \$3000.00.

We will have a prayer, praise, and testimony time on Sunday evening. We rejoice that we can honor our Lord for all He has done.

Thank you for praying for us!

"Praise Ye the Lord!"

With a heart to glorify God and serving the God of answers,

Dr. Terry L. Coomer

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Deacon True Sez -

* "Always drink upstream from the herd."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

David's Dancing -

David's dancing in 2 Samuel 6:15 and 1 Chronicles 15:29 is often used to justify contemporary worship. There is even a CCM song entitled "Undignified" purporting that since David (allegedly) was undignified that day and perhaps even dancing in his "underwear," it is fine to do the herky-jerky to Christian rock.

There are three Scripture reasons to reject this idea.

First, David was not dancing a pagan style dance (Lev. 20:23; Jer. 10:2; Rom. 12:2).

As former CCM worship leader Dan Lucarini says: "David's dancing was in the Jewish male tradition of leaping and whirling, springing about joyfully and skipping along with glee. ... He was most certainly not trying to shock the crowd with Philistine dance moves or edgy Hittite music" (It's Not about the Music, pp. 161, 162).

Second, David was not in his underwear.

Though David's wife Michal said that he was "uncovered" (2 Sam. 6:20), this referred to the fact that he was wearing the linen ephod robe typically worn by priests rather than his royal apparel (1 Chron. 15:27). Michal was not saying that David was half naked; she was complaining about his "unkingly" action in not wearing his royal robes and walking in stately decorum. She was a carnal woman who was concerned about her position in society.

Third, David was not being carried along by sensual music.

Contemporary worship is all about being carried along by powerful music; the worshipers are moving to the music; but this is not what was happening with David. Trumpets and cymbals and harps were playing (1 Chron 15:9), but there is no indication that David's dancing had anything to do with the music. He was dancing because he was rejoicing in the Lord's mercy and truth. He wasn't trying to "experience God's presence in a tangible way," which is the objective of the contemporary worship experience.

Michael W. Smith says that "music helps you enter into the presence of God." Contemporary worshipers are seeking a mystical experience, and this is why they use rock & roll. With its sensual dance syncopation, its unresolving chords, its sensual vocal techniques, and its repetition, rock has the power to create the mystical experience sought by the contemporary worshiper, but this has nothing to do with what David was doing 3,000 years ago.

(Friday Church News Notes, April 29, 2011, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Links To Make You Think -

* Mossbourne Academy has 10 pupils on course for Cambridge University – despite being in troubled Hackney. Its head, Sir Michael Wilshaw, tells how respect for authority is the key to achievement. <http://steveblizard.wordpress.com/2011/08/19/the-uk-school-that-beat-the-rioters/>

* Anybody want to build a Radio controlled model plane that flies at 366 MPH?
<http://www.flixxy.com/366mph-turbine-powered-rc-jet.htm>

* Or how about starting a fire with a magnifying glass made out of ice?
<http://wimp.com/fireice/>

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Poems That Preach -

The Cold Within

*Six humans trapped by happenstance
In dark and bitter cold,
Each one possessed a stick of wood,
Or so the story's told.*

*Their dying fire in need of logs,
The first woman held hers back,*

*For of the faces around the fire
She noticed one was black.*

*The next man looking 'cross the way
Saw one not of his church,
And couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch*

*The third one sat in tattered clothes;
He gave his coat a hitch,
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich?
The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store
And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy shiftless poor.*

*The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from their sight,
For all he saw in his stick
Was a chance to spite the white.*

*The last man of this forlorn group
Did nought except for gain,
Giving only to those who gave
Was how he played the game*

*The logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin;
They didn't die of cold without,
They died of cold within.*

(Paul Mazlin was a prison guard at Lotus Glen Prison in north Queensland when I first began to visit there in 1993)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

The Brilliant Minds of Our Political Leaders -

(We are told frequently how intelligent our political leaders are. A friend sent me the following quotes from a contemporary world leader. Can you guess who he is? - Ed)

1. "Let me be absolutely clear. Israel is a strong friend of Israel's."
2. "I've now been in 57 states I think I have one left to go."

3. "On this Memorial Day, as our nation honors its unbroken line of fallen heroes, and I see many of them in the audience here today."
4. "What they'll say is 'Well it costs too much money,' but you know what? It would cost, about. It it it would cost about the same as what we would spend. It. Over the course of 10 years it would cost what it would costs us. (nervous laugh) All right. Okay. We're going to. It. It would cost us about the same as it would cost for about hold on one second. I can't hear myself. But I'm glad you're fired up, though. I'm glad."
5. "The reforms we seek would bring greater competition, choice, savings and inefficiencies to our health care system."
6. "I bowled a 129. It's like – it was like the Special Olympics, or something."
7. "Of the many responsibilities granted to a president by our Constitution, few are more serious or more consequential than selecting a Supreme Court justice. The members of our highest court are granted life tenure, often serving long after the presidents who appointed them. And they are charged with the vital task of applying principles put to paper more than 20 centuries ago to some of the most difficult questions of our time."
8. "Everybody knows that it makes no sense that you send a kid to the emergency room for a treatable illness like asthma, they end up taking up a hospital bed, it costs, when, if you, they just gave, you gave them treatment early and they got some treatment, and a, a breathalyzer, or inhalator, not a breathalyzer. I haven't had much sleep in the last 48 hours."
9. "It was interesting to see that political interaction in Europe is not that different from the United States Senate. There's a lot of I don't know what the term is in Austrian, wheeling and dealing."
10. "I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

* "If the US Government was a family—they would be making \$58,000. a year, spending \$75,000. a year, and are \$327,000. in credit card debt. They are currently proposing "BIG" spending cuts to reduce their spending to \$72,000 a year. These are the actual proportions of the federal budget & debt, reduced to a level that we can understand." *Dave Ramsey*

* *William Happer*, the Cyrus Fogg Brackett Professor of Physics at Princeton University, says global warming alarmism is the latest "moral epidemic". As the great Russian poet Pushkin said in his novella *Dubrovsky*, "If there happens to be a trough, there will be pigs."

* I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother

pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me. *Sir Isaac Newton*, shortly before he died.

* I found many volumes of business management and pop-psychology on [Hybels' Willow Creek] staff members' bookshelves, but I never found a volume of classical theology....More than five hundred individuals met at the church each week in various [12-step] self-help groups (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous, Emotions Anonymous, Sexual Anonymous)....The steps suggest a belief in a Power greater than ourselves, "God as we understand Him" ...whatever we choose...human love, a force for good, the group itself, nature, the universe, or the traditional God...individuals could not evangelize or otherwise teach other participants about God. [Hybels'] weekend messages drew heavily on psychological principles.... by *G.A. Pritchard*, Willow Creek SeekerServices [a thorough 1-year study],pp. 273-74.

(If you have any doubts as to the fruits of modern evangelicalism, usually called new evangelicalism, you only need to look closely at the churches that are at the forefront of the movement, like Willow Creek or Saddleback. What is incredibly saddening (and maddening!) is that churches like Lancaster Baptist Church in California send staff members to Saddleback to learn how to build a bigger church. - Ed)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Therapy For the Funny Bone -

I bought a new Ford truck last month. It's pretty flash! It runs on either hydrogen, gasoline, or E85.

I returned it to the dealer yesterday because I couldn't get the radio to work. The service technician explained that it is voice activated.

On,' the technician said to the radio.

The radio replied, 'Music, news, or sports?'

'Sports' he continued, and 'Radio ESPN" came from the speakers.

Then he said, 'baseball', and in an instant I was listening to the Texas Rangers'.

I drove away happy, and for the next few days, every time I'd say, 'Beethoven,' I'd get beautiful classical music, and if I said, 'News' I'd get Hannity.

Yesterday, some guy ran a red light and nearly wrecked my new truck. I swerved in time to avoid him, and yelled, 'Idiot!!!!!!'

Immediately the radio responded with, "Richard Dawkins, Nancy Pelosi, or Pope Benedict?"

Boy, I love this truck.

Police officer overheard giving a ticket to a blonde - "You didn't think we give Pretty Women tickets? You're right, we DON'T. Sign here."

The Church in Hogwaller, Arkansas just got a new preacher last year from the seminary in Little Rock.

He was a real fire breathin', preachin' machine. He quit smoking when he got saved, and went on a crusade to stamp out the tobacco industry singlehanded. Every sermon had at least ten minutes on smokin'. Everytime he saw somebody smokin' in public he'd snatch the filthy weed out of their lips and stomp it out on the ground and then give 'em forty seven reasons why smokin' will kill you.

We had his funeral last week. No, he wasn't killed off by a smoker, and Marlboro didn't hire a hit man to snuff him out.

He died of cancer of the foot.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Eddy-Torial -

"God Centered or Man Centered"

For nearly fourteen centuries men thought that the earth was the center of the solar system. In fact, there was never any documented debate in the matter until a book entitled "On the Revolution of Celestial Spheres" was written in 1450 AD. The author, Nicolas Copernicus, concluded that there had to be a simpler explanation for the heavenly bodies, their placement, their movement, and their effect on the earth's seasons. His presentation of the heliocentric model shattered the geocentric theory which had for so long captivated men's minds. Though it sparked a very volatile argument, it changed the face and the perspective of astronomy for good and forever.

In every generation of preachers, there have been several somewhat differing philosophies offered as the central focus for serving the Lord. Various Christian leaders, churches, authors, and institutions have all had their own take on what a basic "operating system" of ministry should be. Among these ministry mind-sets are two very contrary philosophies: a man-centered focus vs. a Christ-centered focus. The one places man at the middle of a ministries "solar system." The other fixes the Son in His proper place, front and center. While the former is fraught with theological problems, the latter is in fact the only alternative for a genuine servant of God.

This truth was especially driven home to my heart some time ago while holding meetings in the Mid-west. When I arrived, the pastor began to share some of the burdens on his own heart concerning the subject at hand. He was actually cleaning up some of the carnage that the former pastor had left behind. Much of the mess was due to a faulty ministry philosophy. According to the present pastor, his predecessor had displayed much arrogance while leading the flock. He had readily barked orders to all of his “subjects” but was unwilling to dirty his hands with menial tasks, (not something he learned from the One who stooped to wash His disciple’s feet.) He viewed very capable people as a threat instead of wisely utilizing their gifts in the service of the King. He maintained one image in the pulpit and another image outside of the pulpit. Perhaps most damaging of all, he encouraged people to serve so that they might please the pastor instead of serving so that they might please Christ. In case you haven’t guessed, his ministry philosophy was man-centered.

Several problems lie ahead for anyone in God’s service that adopts the above mentioned ministry guide. First, it will Affect One’s Practice in Leadership. Those who tolerate and promote a man-centered approach will create a lord and vassal mentality. Many in God’s flock languish under the bondage of this type of “leadership.” As preachers, we must recognize that we are stewards not masters! That is why God inspired Peter to write, “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock” (I Peter 5:3).

The cowards who choose this base method of ministry will often show great insecurity towards and mistrust of very reliable and godly people. When the daughters of Israel sang, “Saul hath slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands,” Saul asked, “What can he have more but the kingdom?” (I Samuel 18:7-8). If Saul had shown a God-centered focus he would have admired the chorus, and would have noted that his choice to set David “over the men of war” was a mark of good leadership. However, he suffered, and many others with him, from his wretched insecurity.

When leaders refuse to set Christ at the center of their philosophical solar system, they tend to lose the essential quality of serving others. Their motto becomes “Others, Lord, yes others! Let others serve only me!” Was this not the sin of Diotrophes who loved “to have the preeminence” (III John 9)?

Perhaps most dangerous of all, man-centered leadership leads to no accountability. Subtly the leader obtains a Messiah-like status that can never be questioned. He reigns with great arrogance, intimidates any that refuse to be his yes-men, and discourages his followers from thinking biblically. In doing so he joins the ranks of Lenin, Hitler, Stalin, and Hussein and fails to submit to a system of checks and balances. This man-centered approach to ministry was certainly not in the manual of the apostle Paul who said, “Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe” (I Thessalonians 2:10).

A second very clear pitfall on the road to a man-focused ministry is that it will Affect One’s Perspective towards People. The individuals who promote this errant philosophy will lead their flock to be man followers instead of Christ followers. While the Scriptures on occasion reference the need to follow an apostle (I Corinthians 11:1; II Thessalonians 3:7-9) or a pastor (Hebrews 13:7), the emphasis is always upon their godly example, their faith, or their own dedication to Christ. The Bible does not encourage the sheep to blindly follow the under shepherd anywhere his fleshly whims may lead. It is astounding that any

preacher who claims to adhere to the Bible would steer his flock in this downward direction. His man-centered approach is most definitely an offense to the One who said "follow me" (Luke 5:27). The goal of God's man should be to challenge his people to be "followers of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:4).

Another subtle and damaging result, when man replaces Christ as the hub, is that the flock seeks to please man instead of God. The service in the church, i.e. teaching a Sunday school class, working on a bus route, serving as a deacon, tending to the junior church, cleaning the auditorium, soulwinning, etc., is deemed successful if the pastor alone is pleased. Where is the pleasure of Christ? Is His smile sought? Not within this framework. Plainly the Savior taught otherwise. He declared, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth His trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25). Paul stated, "If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). The admonishment to believers in Colosse was simple. "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23). The words of Scripture soundly divert attention away from man and onto the Savior.

Within this facade of service, otherwise known as man worship, lies the grave danger that it will Affect One's Position of Theology. First is the issue of authority. When a man is the focus in a ministry, the tendency is to make his word the final authority instead of God's Word. The church at Pergamos was guilty of this very error because of their toleration of those who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. These heretics ultimately taught that their word was to be accepted above God's. God said concerning this teaching that it was the very "thing which I hate" (Rev. 2:15). When a preacher begins to demand an unquestioning following of his own words, how different is he from the Pope? He, in fact, is shamefully similar.

Among other tragic effects upon one's theology, this evil focus away from Christ and onto man causes an adverse reaction. A man who has been exposed to this type of philosophy has the potential of swinging the theological pendulum away from that which is orthodox and true. It is human nature, albeit wrong, to do so. Here is a man training for the ministry within the boundary of an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church. The doctrinal position is, or at least ought to be, correct and Biblical. However, the leader or leaders within his church promote man worship, demand blind loyalty, have no accountability, live according to the dictates of the flesh, and boast in their arrogant ways. He sees the fallacy of this practice and longs to be involved in a ministry where none of the above is existent amongst the leadership. So he takes a long look at the New Evangelical movement and at famous radio preachers and authors within this vein. On the surface it glitters and seems so appealing. He thinks, "That must be the place where I should stand. There doesn't seem to be any fighting in that crowd. Perhaps from that ministerial vantage point, none of the leaders seek vainglory. I think that I'll become like them." Then either with great gusto or little by little, he begins to shed the orthodox positions of Scripture and the Bible moorings of Fundamental Baptists. Whether he ever finds perfect leadership or not is irrelevant, because he has forsaken basic Scriptural truth and compromised. Where did this saga begin? It all started when he was exposed to a power hungry, egotistical leader who stood in the pulpit as an independent Baptist.

The last and most sobering impact that a man-centered ministry will have is that it Affects One's Place in the Judgment. The believer's focus ought to be upon the Bema Seat so as to motivate him presently to live for eternity. When anyone in the ministry diverts this attention away from that day of great accounting, the quality of the building material

digresses from gold, silver, and precious stones to wood, hay, and stubble. What an awesome responsibility to realize that the preacher's philosophy not only will affect his standing but those whom he has influenced as well. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (II Corinthians 5:10). Paul cited this as a great motivator for his own life when he said, "knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (II Corinthians 5:11). Any preacher that adopts a man-centered mindset will suffer loss at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Likewise, any preacher that exalts the Savior in every aspect of ministry will receive a reward.

Also revealed at the Judgment Seat will be the impact our philosophy of ministry had upon the over all advancement or hindrance of the cause of Christ. The context of I Corinthians 3 is that we are laborers together with God. Paul declared, "I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon" (I Corinthians 3:10). The Lord is highlighting our individual responsibilities in the entire building of God. He may say to one preacher, "Your ministry involved building the walls," and to another, "Yours was to erect the roof." To someone else he may say, "I expected you to lay the carpet" or "You were to install the electrical wiring in the building of God." Then, on that day, each of us will see how our ministry either hindered or advanced the Savior's cause. Certainly if one's ministry has been centered on Christ, there will be reason for great rejoicing. However, should a lifetime or even a moment of ministry be fixed upon the fleeting glory of man, great sorrow will ensue. This is motivation enough to keep one's focus within the framework of a Christ-centered ideal.

It would be foolish and ignorant for any scientist or astronomer to slip back into the geocentric theory of space, and it is ignorant and rebellious for any servant of God to place someone other than the Son at the center of His ministerial "solar system." John the Baptist made clear his servants mind-set when he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Paul set the sails for the direction of his ministry when he said, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). Indeed, to have the proper practice in leadership, the right perspective towards people, the correct position of theology and a solid place in the judgment, God's servants must diligently maintain a Christ-centered philosophy of ministry. My prayer is that every alumnus of Ambassador Baptist College who labors in the Lord's vineyard will always manifest this focus in service.

Evangelist Dwight Smith

http://www.dwightsmith.org/articles/God_centered_or_man_centered.html

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)