



"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 reprov'd." Hab. 2:1

January 27, 2012

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Feature Article - The Secret Handshake - Part 2

The Breadth of New Evangelical Fellowship -

The amazing breadth of fellowship among new evangelicals is displayed in who they are comfortable with. Last week's article (The Secret Handshake, Part 1) listed examples of their effusive acceptance of those who are guilty of the grossest heresies. From New Age fantasies to Buddhism to Islam to Roman Catholic mysticism to Darwinian evolution to Freudian psychology to Planetshakers' Satanic Heavy Metal concerts, the list goes on and on. There is almost no limit to the number of anti-Christian errors that new evangelicalism is willing to associate with.

The Believer's Pole Star -

The text from Proverbs 3, *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."*



Proverbs 3:5-8 is our pole star. God gives us in these verses our basic compass heading for life. It is to trust in the LORD. New Evangelicals will smilingly agree with that part of the verse. What causes them to fidget

and infuriates them is when we read to them the rest of the text. It is God's definition of trust, of true faith, that upsets the applecart. Trusting in the LORD is not easy believism, not dreamy, soft background music, not warm fuzzy teddy bear, or sentimental drifting off to sleep type of faith. It is a sharp, hard edged, clear cut choice to repent of self reliance, a definite turning away from all dependence on one's own understanding. True faith in God involves a suspicion of self, a refusal to have confidence in men. It includes the fear of God which prohibits anyone thinking that he is wise. It demands that he depart from evil. And it brings true long term blessing, not the sham, shallow, and short term prosperity of religious carnality.



The Secret Handshake -

The present day dependence of new evangelicals on their own wisdom is behind their Secret Handshake with all and sundry. It is the common mindset of modern man. With furtive eyes and smirking lips they whisper to each other, *"No doubt but we are the people, and wisdom shall die with us."* (Job 12:2) How delighted new evangelicals must be to find that "everyone who is anyone" has the same motto, *"Sapientia Vadum Intereo Nobis!"* (Wisdom shall die with us!) This is the basis for the Broad Church they are building. I believe wholeheartedly that new evangelicals are wittingly and unwittingly digging the footings for the One World Religion of the Antichrist and the False Prophet in Revelation 13, 17, and 18. Though they hold this mindset, yet there is a remnant, a small scattering of salty disciples of Christ who solemnly protest that God will destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nought the understanding of the prudent.

The Testimony of Scripture -

- Cain's "wisdom" led him to offer to God an unacceptable sacrifice, while Abel brought to God a blood sacrifice, as God Himself had offered in order to clothe Adam and Eve when they sinned.
- Aaron "leaned to his own understanding" when he followed the pleas of his people for an idol to worship, but Moses feared God and obeyed God's commandment when he burned it and ground it to powder.
- Saul was "wise in his own eyes" when he spared Agag and took spoil from the slaughter of the Amalekites, but Samuel confronted him with the word of God, and showed Saul his rebellion, and hewed Agag in pieces.
- The people and priests of Hezekiah were "culturally relevant" when they burned incense to the brazen serpent, but Hezekiah became an iconoclast (an idol breaker) when he broke it in pieces and called it Nehushtan.
- Eliashib, the high priest, "demonstrated his new evangelicalism" when he prepared a chamber in the temple for Tobiah, but Nehemiah evicted Tobiah and cleansed the chamber according to the word of God.
- Judas brought "worldly wisdom" into the fledgling church with his thievery and the traitor's kiss, but God exposed his treachery in prophecy and in his death.
- Ananias and Saphira attempted to introduce a "subtle financial practice" into the church, but Peter exposed their lies and pronounced the death sentence upon them.
- Simon Magos hoped to "build a bridge" between magic and miracles when he offered to pay for apostolic gifts, but Peter rebuked him and exposed his devious wisdom.
- Even Peter, chief among the apostles, thought it "expedient" to fear man and show respect of persons in Galatians 2, but Paul rebuked him publicly and Peter loved him for it.

The Scriptures are clear. The wisdom of man is ALWAYS in conflict with the Word of God, and ultimately comes to nought.

The Great Conflict Between Revelation and Reason -

The Lord Jesus Christ confronted the reasonings of the worldly wise again and again, and He always did it with the Word of God. Occasionally I hear someone mention Jesuit casuistry. Well, I know where the Jesuits got their devious ways of deceiving men. They learned them from the Devil himself. Satan was surely behind the subtlety of the serpent in the garden. Neither the Devil, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians, the scribes, nor the high priest could ensnare our Lord and Saviour with the theological traps they laid for Him. He always outwitted them with truth. The simple truth is stronger than a subtle lie. Revelation is superior to Reason. God's Word always prevails over Man's Wisdom. But those things are no longer believed among evangelicals, or even among many who used to call themselves fundamentalists.

Ever so stealthily there has crept into our churches that subtle lie of the Devil, that man is smarter than God, that our wisdom is greater than His. That lie was exposed in the Garden, but just keeps on being told again and again. It is the central tenet of Humanism, that "MAN (all in capitals) IS THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" How foolish! God is the measure of all things, not man.

Most philosophy professors in universities tell us that Humanism started with the Greeks, but we know better. It started with the Serpent in the garden of Eden. The Serpent lied to Eve when he told her that by her own act of disobedience she could attain "godhood." The Devil had already tried it and failed, but he wanted ever so badly to infect Mankind with the leprosy of his own heart. And he did.

Humanism has been renewing and re-imaging itself for 6000 years. Cain's religion and culture, Nimrod's tower, Pharaoh's and Nebuchadnezzar's and Genghis Khan's kingdoms, Rome's adulterous relationship with the kings of the earth, Communism, Capitalism, Darwinianism, Modernism and Postmodernism have all been the offspring of the Serpent's proto-humanism. In our day, it seems that all the strands of humanistic philosophy that ever existed have been resurrected, dusted off and plaited together into a sinuous, serpentine cable and looped around our churches to draw us into rebellions against God.

One of the greatest battles for churches has been fought against the differing forms of humanism over the past two thousand years. Most denominations long ago waved the white flag of surrender and threw the gates open to rationalism, in one form or another. In our day, fundamental churches boast that they are the citadels of faithfulness against humanism, but are quietly practicing incremental surrender. It is made a nanometer at a time. Men who once scorned humanism now sit down with postmodernists and nod ever so approvingly as Emerging Church leaders sell pastors the same old lie the Devil sold Eve in the Garden.

I hear pastors complaining about the warnings we preach and write, and saying that we who sound a call to arms are just foolish alarmists who play the wrong notes on the wrong instrument. We blow a bugle and play the call to arms, but their ears are attuned to lullabies played softly on a lyre (by liars!).

In closing, I want to list the present day forms of humanism that are creeping into our churches.



- *Pragmatism* - the belief that the worth of a ministry is seen in its size and profitability
- *Elitism* - the belief that God is a respecter of persons, and that some saints are superior to others
- *Materialism* - the belief that a church's standing with God is seen in the size and monetary value of the church property
- *Hedonism* - the belief that pleasure derived from entertainment produces a church's spirituality
- *Superficiality* - the belief that the visible and audible image of a church is more important than their hearts
- *Inclusivism* - the belief that there is an inherent goodness in religion, so all religions are good
- *Sensualism* - the belief that, since our sins are forgiven it is perfectly acceptable to move our bodies as we like in church
- *Intellectualism* - the belief that higher education produces superior spirituality
- *Mysticism* - the belief that religious experiences are superior to the Word of God

Some, if not all of these have influenced the methodologies of Independent Baptist churches all over the world. Take this little list to church with you this Sunday, and listen to the music that is played and sung. Listen to what the preacher preaches, and who he invites in to preach. And then go read your Bible. You will be surprised.

What does God say to these things?

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:19-20

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" Colossians 2:8-10

Heads Up!

Bro. Buddy Smith

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An Encouraging Report from Israel -

Shalom and warm greetings in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people...(Titus 2:14)

We desire prayer and fasting over the gospel ministry here. This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith... (1 John 5:4)

Last week we posted a distribution of 35,200 of our end-time Matthew and Revelation booklets, most of which will be distributed over this coming week. We designated 6,400 of the booklets to be distributed in Safed, an Orthodox Jewish stronghold, about 45 minutes from our house. We have passed out some literature in Safed in the past and have witnessed to a few people, but it usually doesn't take long before they try to stop us due to the strong Orthodox community. I'm

anticipating an outcry and possibly some harsh reactions over the gospel distribution. Please pray that all the postal workers will be careful to distribute each booklet. Many in this town know nothing of the truth concerning our LORD JESUS CHRIST. We follow up on each distribution and recently found four postal workers refusing to distribute. They were then ordered to distribute the literature by the Postal Authority. The last 85,000 copies of this 320,000 piece distribution are being collated now and are scheduled for distribution before the end of January. Please pray that the Israeli people will read the Word of GOD and the gospel message, repent, and respond positively in faith toward our LORD JESUS. They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Isaiah 9:2b)

Please pray that the LORD will use the newspaper articles that have been and are being published. Many local newspapers have been carrying the articles (see attached), but now Yedioth Ahronoth "Latest News" a national newspaper with a regional insert that is distributed with its weekend edition, is publishing the articles region by region as we distribute in that area. This is a culmination of marvellous answers to your prayers. All glory and praise to GOD that many in Israel who have not known "The Truth" are getting a clear gospel message. Our Hebrew website is now peaking up over 500 requests a day for the electronic download of the end-time booklet. We are now working on pages in Russian, English, and Arabic. Please pray that our website would become excellent as we seek to redesign it into something attractive and include video testimonies.

While out soul-winning in a local village, a lady we witnessed to asked for prayer. _____ was also open and said he would read the literature I gave him. Our babysitter, inquired of us many questions relating to life and eternity. She is a secular Jew and had never heard the gospel before and thought that Jesus and Joshua were synonymous. Downtown I met a man who was initially very hard against the idea of Jews becoming Christians but after explaining some Scripture he softened and was very grateful for some literature. _____ continues to have contact with some of the local homeschooling ladies and requests prayer for their salvation. Please pray that these and the many others we witness to will come to the Saviour.

Thank you for your prayers concerning our safety and protection as we do face a lot of opposition. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. (Psalms 126:3) The LORD has given us the tremendous privilege and joy of serving Him in this time and place. Without your prayers and support, it would not be possible. Thank you so very, very much.

Your joyful servants in CHRIST JESUS THE LORD,

Missionaries to Israel (names withheld and some information edited for safety reasons).

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ...He will swallow up death in victory... Alleluia!

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Deacon True Sez-

"Our Pastor preached on the Lord's sheep last Sunday. He said the Lord finds us, folds us, feeds us, and fleeces us. I told him afterwards that I notice the sheep don't mind being fleeced. It's the goats that kick up a fuss."

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

- "No one ever became a Calvinist by reading their Bible. They became a Calvinist by reading another Calvinist." - *Dr. Mike Allison*, Sermon, Don't Be Blown About By Every Wind of Doctrine <http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=12411226563>
- "Nobody ever got anything from God on the grounds that he deserved it. Having fallen, man deserves only punishment and death. So if God answers prayer it's because God is good. From His goodness, His lovingkindness, His good-natured benevolence, God does it! That's the source of everything." - *A.W. Tozer*
- "The Romans used to say that courage is not the only virtue, but it's the only one that makes the other virtues possible." - *Benjamin Netanyahu*
- "Tyranny is always better organized than freedom." - *Charles Peguy*

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10,000 Words –

Last Saturday was opening day of bow and arrow season for deer...



As I approached my deer stand, I decided to go home and mow grass instead.

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My Father's Fingerprints -

Seeing Eye Fish

The following is from *Creation Moments*, June 23 and June 24, 2011:

“The snapping shrimp has very poor eyesight, while the goby has excellent eyesight. Both share the same burrow, which is dug by the shrimp and guarded by the goby. The shrimp uses the goby as a blind person uses a Seeing Eye dog. Whenever the shrimp is outside its burrow, it always

keeps one antenna on the goby. The shrimp stays hidden inside the burrow if the goby should temporarily swim away. When danger approaches, the goby signals and disappears inside the burrow. The shrimp is right behind him.

Neither the goby nor the shrimp can survive without each other, so pairs are established for life when both goby and shrimp are very young. In order for this system to work, both goby and shrimp reproductive systems, which differ greatly, are synchronized so that shrimp and goby youngsters are ready to pair at the same time.

The goby relies on the safety of the complex tunnel system the shrimp digs. The shrimp is well designed for digging. Once a tunnel is started, the shrimp can dig a burrow large enough for both itself and the goby within a few hours.

Each of its five pairs of legs is specialized. The first pair of claws is designed for carrying sediment out of the burrow. The second pair of legs is designed to probe for and clean objects as well as scratching sediment from walls. Pairs three, four and five are walking legs that also work well for scratching material from tunnel walls.

On its abdomen, the shrimp has several appendages that allow it to move rapidly to protection. Other appendages can create water currents that shift sand back from the digging site.

The snapping shrimp, which is less than two inches long, can dig a system of tunnels covering several square feet within a few days. The burrow will have several entrances, as much as four feet apart. All lead to a chamber at the deepest point of the system.

The Creator has given both the goby and the shrimp different gifts that they both need to live. If they did not share their gifts with each other, neither could survive. What gifts has the Creator given you to share?”

(“Seeing Eye Fish” and “Digging Is A Snap,” *Creation Moments*, June 23 and June 24, 2011; from Y. Yanagisawa, “Strange Seabed Fellows,” *Natural History*, August 1990, p. 46).

Friday Church News Notes, July 29, 2011, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org,

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Psalm 14-1 & 53:1

“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”

A Warning About Teens and Prescription Drugs

A Dangerous New High

When Amanda was 14 years of age, she had the last of four sinus surgeries. The best part of the whole process, according to Amanda, was that she received hydrocodone or a common pain pill called Vicodin, Lortab, Norco, etc, every time. She took some of the pills for her pain and brought the rest, along with some medications she'd stolen from her mom, to parties at her friends' houses. There, she and her friends would get high on those and other prescription drugs. Forget BYOB. For some teenagers, parties today are of the bring-your-own-pills variety.

Teenagers today will bring whatever they can get their hands on: Vicodin, Percocet, Percodan, Oxycontin and other pain killers; anti-anxiety medications like Xanax, Valium, Klonopin, Ativan; stimulants like Adderall and Ritalin; and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. Then they begin the dangerous game of prescription drug and OTC roulette.



These gatherings are called "pharming parties", and they can be destructive and deadly. These parties are taking place in living rooms and basements across the country. At some parties, the teenagers toss their pharmaceutical offerings into a communal bowl, called the "salad bowl", grab an assortment as if the pills were M&M's and knock them back, usually with alcohol. At others parties it can be more organized, with bartering and negotiations. Someone will say, "I have an X, which is harder to get. You will have to give me three of what you have to get one of what I have."

Alarming New Trend

The abuse of prescription drugs, a practice known as "pharming", is rampant among middle and high school students. According to a 2005 report from Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), 2.3 million kids ages 12-17 abused prescription drugs in 2003. More recent studies indicate that the trend is escalating.

What's frightening is that so many kids are doing it and parents are completely unaware. This problem is not on the parent's radar. But it should be: A National Institute on Drug Abuse survey estimates there's been a 25% increase each year since 2001 in the use of sedatives and barbiturates among high school seniors.

These "pharming parties" are the cool thing to do according to many teenagers. Technology, in part, is to blame. Technology is allowing kids to communicate more often and quicker making the passing on of information easier.

Kids aren't looking for any specific medication. Conventional wisdom used to be that it was an Oxycontin problem. Most authorities know now that it has nothing to do with the brand of medication. Teenagers admit that the newer the product, the more interesting. Kids will take it and figure out how to mix it with other things to get a different kind of high. Kids want to know how to get high quicker, faster and they want to find the best buzz. That's why they combine the drugs with one another and with the alcohol and illegal drugs such as marijuana - sometimes with fatal results.

Deadly Doses

Approximately five years ago, when I was practicing medicine in the state of Michigan, I lost an 18 year old male patient to the lethal combination of beer and methadone, a potent prescription narcotic.

The patient was staying with friends for the night. He talked with his parents over the phone around 10:30PM. This was the last time his parents would ever talk to him. His friends found him unconscious the next morning. They rushed him to the Emergency Room where I got involved in his care. We worked on him for over 90 minutes but he finally went into cardiac arrest and died.

Prescription drugs are pretty safe when used correctly. But kids take risks without fully comprehending the consequences. An example: Oxycontin. As prescribed, it's a perfectly legitimate pain medication. As the pill dissolves, it gradually releases its payload, for long lasting pain relief. But teens will often crush the pill before ingesting it or even snorting it, releasing all the medication at once. One pill could lead to overdose.



Even worse, kids rarely take just one pill. Many of the drugs at a "pharming party" are depressants, which slow down brain activity. Now add alcohol, another depressant, to the mix. All decrease brain activity, and they enhance one another. So a Vicodin-Ambien-Xanax-booze combination can be extremely dangerous. It can do more than put you to sleep - you can be put to sleep permanently.

If you combine depressants with stimulants, on the other hand, heartbeat, blood pressure and other systems in the body will start careening up and down. The heart doesn't like this. When you start pushing the heart around, there could be the danger of arrhythmia. It could progress to a point where the heart is working inefficiently, and then you may have trouble. Things may start collapsing or stopping.

As a physician I am concerned that these young people are taking these drugs while their brains are still forming. These kids are in a fairly critical stage of brain development. Their decision-making skills are being honed. When you disturb that physiology with pharmacology over and over again, the brain may not reach its capacity and may not mature fully. Their ability to make decisions and process information will be compromised, maybe for the rest of their lives.

Why Prescription Drugs?

About 5 million school-age children take a prescription drug every day for some sort of behavior disorder. As a result, kids learn at an early age that if you take a pill, you get a mood change. And many teens view "pharming" as safe, since the drugs are of pharmaceutical quality. This is a frightening myth that can have fatal consequences.

Of course, OTC drugs are also welcome at "pharming parties." Kids abuse cold medications made with dextromethorphan, or DXM. Instead of 1-2 pills recommended, they'll take 2-3 boxes' worth at a time, to create a drug-induced psychosis.

What About the Parents?

Most parents have no idea that their child is addicted. When some parents find out that their kids are abusing prescription drugs, breathe a sigh of relief. They think, Oh, at least my child isn't smoking pot or doing heroin.

But prescription drugs can be more potent than street drugs. One in ten 12th graders admits to using Vicodin at least once in the last year. If I said one in ten kids is using heroin, people would go through the roof. But while heroin sold on the street might be 10-40% opiate, pharmaceutical-grade Vicodin could be 10x more powerful an opiate than heroin.

Spiraling out of Control

Many kids are taking these drugs because they find life hard to take. Many are also proud of their drinking and drugging activities. They also think that young people can't get addicted and that young people will not go through withdrawals - obviously these statements are false.

I want people who are getting into drugs to know how bad it can get and to let them know that there is a way out!

by Dr, George T. Crabb

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Therapy For The Funny Bone -

Two bowling teams, one of all Blondes and one of all Brunettes, charter a double-Decker bus for a weekend trip to Louisiana. The Brunette team rode on the bottom of the bus, and the Blonde team rode on the top level.

The Brunette team down below really whooped it up, having a great time, when one of them realized she hadn't heard anything from the Blondes upstairs. She decided to go up and investigate.

When the Brunette reached the top, she found all the Blondes in fear, staring straight ahead at the road, clutching the seats in front of them with white knuckles.

The brunette asked, "What's the matter up here? We're having a great time downstairs!"

One of the Blondes looked up at her, swallowed hard and yelled..."YEAH SURE, YOU'VE GOT A DRIVER!!!"

The Israelis are developing an airport security device that eliminates the privacy concerns that come with full-body scanners. It's an armored booth you step into that will not X-ray you, but will detonate any explosive device you may have on your person.

Israel sees this as a win-win situation for everyone, with none of this foolishness about racial profiling. It will also eliminate the costs of long and expensive trials.

You're in the airport terminal and you hear a muffled explosion. Shortly thereafter, an announcement: "Attention to all standby passengers, we now have a seat available on El Al flight 670 to London. Shalom!"

Reply to Nigerian money scammer -

Dear Watusi Murumpabai,

I am writing to say thank you for your kind offer to transfer \$475 billion dollars to my account. I am afraid I must decline to assist you in this humanitarian effort. You see, my bank manager told me last week that the funds from all my kind benefactors in Africa, received just in the last three weeks, have altered the trade balance between Australia and Africa so severely that the Trade Commission is making inquiries and the bank manager is afraid he will lose his job. I rang the other large banks in the area and they refused to return my calls. It seems they are facing the same problems.

In addition to these difficulties, we have simply run out of space to store any more money. All the rental storage sheds in Tasmania are full, and there are no more containers south of the equator for us to store money in. I am getting threatening phone calls from the owners of half a dozen oil tankers that are full of Zimbabwean 150 trillion dollar notes and we have no place to store them if we could offload them. I guess you have heard that the Airbus A380's are having problems with cracks developing in the wings. It hasn't come out in the press yet, but it is because of our agent in Africa overloading them with funds from your friends. We lost one A380 last week when it went down on Mt. Kilimanjaro, and that little fiasco is likely to cost us a few billion in lawsuits. Good thing we had three planeloads stored in the Great Pyramid and two in the Suez Canal. Sydney Cricket Ground is full now, and we are looking into putting a few road trains full of money into Parliament House. Of course, if we do that, we'll never see it again. The Sydney Opera House is full and overflowing, so much so that traffic had to be diverted when the Harbour Bridge was covered with blowing greenbacks fresh out of the printing presses in Washington.

So I think we will have to pass on this one. You might try President Obama as I hear he is running short of money to pay ACORN, and has been scratching to pay his lawyer bills on that birth certificate thing. He needs a few trillion to tide him over this week in case Congress doesn't cough up like he's asked. Joel Osteen has been thinking of buying the new Dallas Cowboys stadium for a place to live and could be a bit short. Benny Hinn's ex-wife is asking for more alimony, and Kenneth Copeland wants to upgrade the 747 he bought last year. Nancy Pelosi wants to retire and can't afford to take all her staff back to California. And over here in Australia, our Prime Minister Julia Gillard needs some hair dye as things have been a bit grey for her lately. Sea Shepherd is going to need some money for legal fees shortly.

I'm sure you'll be able to find somebody that can help you out.

Sincerely,

Bob Brown

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2 Timothy 2:11-13

"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

Blinded Minds -

Time Magazine Editor:

Koran Is "Directly the Word of God, Bible Just a Book Written by Man"

[Excerpts]



In another example of a sort-of cultural suicide where western media types assume that all Muslims are blameless - while all Americans are at fault in this clash of civilizations between Islamism and the West - we have a recent episode of MSNBC's Hardball with one-time Democratic operative Chuck Todd standing-in for host Chris Matthews.

Todd was discussing the riots in Afghanistan sparked by Islamist ire over the burning of a Koran

by a Florida pastor. During the interview Todd and a guest stated that the Christian Bible was just a book written by men while the Koran was the "direct word of God." The two implied that this excuses Muslims from murdering people over the book burning.

In the segment Time Magazine's World Editor Bobby Ghosh told Chuck Todd that the riots and murders perpetrated by Muslims in Afghanistan were obviously understandable because the Koran is apparently more holy than the Christian Bible. Ghosh averred that it's important to "keep in mind" that the Koran is "not the same as the Bible to Christians." Why, you might ask? Why it's because the Koran is "directly the word of God." On the other hand, the Bible is just a book "written by men."

In fact, it is easier to make the historical case that the Bible was written by people who knew Jesus while the claim that the Koran was written by anyone that knew the Prophet Mohammad is nearly impossible to substantiate. Parts of the Bible have been determined as having been written within the life times of people that would have known Jesus personally. On the other hand, there is no proof that the Koran was written any time closer than 100 years after Mohammad's death, long after anyone that might have known him would have been dead.

Regardless of the suppositions of historians, though, there is no legitimate way to claim that the Christian Bible is any less sacred or awe inspiring for Christians than the Koran is for Muslims. The difference is not in the writers of the books or their provenance. The difference is in their cultures. Christian reforms have brought tolerance and peace between factions of Christianity as well as between Christians and people of other beliefs while there has been no such tolerance infused into Islam.

<http://bigjournalism.com/wthouston/2011/04/05/time-mag-editor-koran-is-directly-the-word-of-god-bible-just-a-book-written-by-man/>

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

from *The Berean Call*

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The Fruit of a Faithful Witness - *Dr. Terry L. Coomer*

In a recent conversation with some folks at our church we talked about the importance of being faithful to consistently go into our community and invite others to church and hear the gospel. Mark 16:15, *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* I Corinthians 4:2 *"Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."*

In the summer of 1993, my wife and youngest daughter were on our regularly scheduled church visitation on a Saturday morning. My daughter was 16 at the time. She had an afternoon paper route that she delivered for a few years and had saved enough money to pay her first year at Bible College. As my wife and daughter were going door to door, they stopped at the house of the Circulation Director of the local newspaper. They did not know this was his house. He had given my daughter her paper route.

They had about a ten minute pleasant conversation and gave Bob a tract and invited him to the services. He did not come the next Sunday. Fast forward to the year 2008, 15 years later! One Sunday evening Bob came to a service. He enjoyed the service and came to a few more. After one Sunday evening service he asked if we could talk. I had the opportunity to lead this man to the Lord. He was 76 years old.

In our conversation he told me how that down through the last 15 years that visit of my wife and daughter had stayed in his mind and he many times thought about coming to a church service. He wanted to thank me for them coming by and inviting him. He comes to the local church today.

Folks, we live in an impatient society of immediate results. The Holy Spirit worked on the man for 15 years because someone had faithfully went on visitation and invited him to church. Down through the years he had received other pieces of literature on his door from our church. A reminder of the faithfulness of our church. He also said, "It always impressed me that on a regular basis I received something faithfully from your church."

I am a firm believer and the Bible teaches that God blesses faithfulness not slothfulness. The Scripture is very plain, we have to go engage people with the gospel. We have the words of life and should be willing to give them. We do not have to be rude or high pressure but you never know how God is working in the life of a person.

In a busy society where people can always find a reason not to go, I want to encourage people to realize we must go. God will never bless a church or the life of an individual that the people are not willing to spend sometime engaging the lost about their condition. John 6:44, *"No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."* Salvation is a work of God. The Holy Spirit will works in hearts if we are faithful to go.

In the world of evangelism we have been taught about immediate results. God wants us to be faithful to go. We need to order our priorities correctly and be faithful to give out the gospel to the lost. Remember the friend, neighbor, relative etc. is lost and on his or her way to hell. God has put you in their path to be faithful to give them the words of life.

I pray every day that God will show me who he wants me to witness to today and to be alert to opportunities. I find that you get a lot farther with people if you will just be kind. It opens the door to share what God has done in your life. Faithfulness to go means a heart for the thing that God cares about. The lives of others. Jesus did not come to be served, He came to serve, Mark 10:45. We need that spiritual attitude as well. If your church has scheduled times to share the gospel with others, be faithful to go. Pray for the doors you are knocking on. Ask God to open the hearts of the people on the other side of the door. Remember, always leave the door open for the next person to witness to the individual.

Being faithful 15 years earlier and being faithful to go for 15 years led to the salvation of Bob. I am glad for my wife and daughter's faithfulness that allowed me to have the opportunity to lead Bob to the Lord.

As our girls were growing up they were taught how to lead another person to the Lord. They went faithfully to our churches regularly scheduled visitation program. Dad and mom have you ever thought about bringing your children with you and talking with them about the lost need of others around them? One of the sad facts today is most children in an Independent Baptist Church have never had their parents pray with them for the lost, go with them to talk to the lost, or given their children an opportunity to care about the lost. It is poor Biblical parenting and ends up with the parents and the child being more concerned and living for the "lusts" than having a heart for God, Romans 6:11-19.

Of course, we wonder why most children in an Independent Baptist Church the children do not go on to serve God? They do not have a heart for the work of God because their parents do not have a heart for it. It is a fundamental heart issue as all issues of life are. Ephesians 6:6, *"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."*

However, just taking you children on visitation will not be enough, it is only one factor but it is a heart issue. The child must learn to have a servant's heart and compassion for the lost. Psalm 127:3 Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: (means given to us by God for safe keeping for Him) and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Where is your heart today? If you have a real relationship with God you will understand the need to go faithfully. Let God worry about the results our job is to be faithful.

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Titus 3:8

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."



Make Bright the Arrows -

There are only two passages in the Bible that compare people to arrows.

"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." Psalm 127:4,5.

"And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;" Isaiah 49:2.

An Arrow for God is wisely crafted by the Master Fletcher.

The Shafts God Uses -

Ancient fletchers chose their shafts from a shrub called lantana; just so the Lord takes His arrows from the commonest of men and women. *"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."* 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. No one is straight enough to be God's arrow, so He straightens us. He saves sinners with twisted lives and regenerates and sanctifies us by His Spirit and His Word and makes us righteous and straight by His power to His own glory. God MUST make straight arrows for His quiver!

The Feathers We Need –

And then God fletches us with feathers of His choosing. Fletchers use a particular kind of goose feather. Nothing else will do. Just so, God provides the very best of guides for His arrows. The Holy Spirit guides us into truth, and calls to remembrance the things He has taught us. God gives us the Bible to guide us daily. He brings into our lives other feathers, our parents, pastors, godly friends, and finally our spouse and children. How urgently we need His chosen feathers so we can fly straight! How many times have I said in my zeal and impatience, "No worries, Lord. I'll be right without any guidance from You. I don't need to pray, read my Bible, wait on the Lord, or listen to my parents or my pastor. It won't hurt just this once for me to launch out into this new job, or friendship, or uni course, or 'service for you' without your guidance." Is this true? Look around you at the lives of the disaster prone teens you know, and ask yourself the question, "What would have happened if they had followed the guides of their youth?" Teen pregnancies, broken bodies, and damaged minds could all have been avoided if they'd used the feathers the Master Fletcher provided for them. So how about you? Are you cutting off the guides God has given you or are you asking Him to bind His feathers to your arrow? You will never regret using the guides God provides.

Why The Nock Is So Important –

What about that little notch at the tail of the arrow? That simple sawcut fits the arrow to the bowstring so the power of the bow can be applied to the arrow and send it afar to do its work. If you ever shot an arrow that had no notch for the bowstring you know how difficult it is to use a Christian who is not under

authority. Just so, God's power can only be applied to a Christian if he is in right relationship with his local church. He must be under authority to the archer to be of service.

What The Arrowhead Stands For -

So what does the arrowhead stand for? The arrowhead is the most important part of the arrow. It has the cutting edge, it is the business end of the arrow. It is what the archer, the bow, the shaft, the feathers, and the nock are all about. They all make it possible for the arrowhead to do its work.

The arrowhead describes the Christian's calling, his gifts, and his lifework. He is designed for battle with the Lord's enemies. You don't think so? Read Psa. 127:5 again, "...they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." The arrowheads are doing their work, unashamedly speaking with the enemies in the gate. This is no friendly or casual conversation, but a confrontational, head on clash. It is done by the arrows of the Lord. Albert Barnes said this, "(They) would 'speak' to their foes in the place of conflict - for a battle occurred often in the gate of a city, as the possession of a gate, or an entrance to a city was of so much importance to those who attacked, and those who defended it. The idea is, that they would speak with effect; they would distinguish themselves; they would let their presence be known.... The meaning is, that they would do honor to the family, and gratify the heart of the parent, by their valor in defending their city and home, or in attacking the cities of the enemies of their country." (Albert Barnes' commentary on Psa 127:5)

Make Bright The Arrows –

There is another text that refers to arrowheads. It is "*Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple.*" (Jeremiah 51:11). Arrows need to be made bright or sharpened. An archer prepares for battle. He inspects his bow to be sure it will not fail him in battle, He examines the bowstring for soundness, and then he closely inspects each arrow. Are the shafts perfectly straight, the feathers secure in their places, is the head tightly bound in place? Is each one sharp? He whets them on a stone till their edges are bright. He tests them with his thumb and whets them again. Make bright the arrows! (The word is also translated "pure" and "polished".) This is an exhortation for all who would be arrows for God. Sharpen your gifts! Study to shew yourself approved! Clarify your calling. Neglect not, but stir up your gift! Memorise more verses! Draw nearer to God! Rusty arrows are useless in battle. There is no time then to make them bright! One of the great generals of the past said that the battle is won the day before! Why? Because that is when the archer makes bright his arrows. Or doesn't!

Much more should be written about the quiver being the Christian family, and the Archer being the Lord who owns the quiver, the arrows, the bow, and who does battle with them. More ought to be said about the Christian teen being fitted to a good local church which is the bow that sends him forth. The Archer draws from the quiver of the Christian home a bright, pure, polished arrow, nocks him on to the local church bow, aims him carefully and looses him for great service in the battle for souls.

Every Christian should strive to be a sharp arrow in God's quiver, in His hand and loosed from His bow! If I would be an arrow that fulfills its purpose, then I must be prepared for battle, willing to defend truth and right, and not wait until I am far from home to do so. My desire must be, "Let Him send me where he will. Let Him use me in whichever battle He sees fit."

Remember, many great battles have been won by a well aimed arrow. A bright arrow. A pure arrow. A polished arrow. God's arrow.

By *Pastor Buddy Smith.*

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The Conversation of the Unborn Twins

A conversation in the womb of their mother...

"Say, do you actually believe in life after birth?" the one twin asks.

"Yes, definitely! Inside we grow and are prepared for what will come outside", answered the other twin.

"I believe that's nonsense!" says the first. "There can't be life after birth – what is that supposed to look like?"

"I don't exactly know either. But there will certainly be much more light than in here. And maybe we will be walking about and eat with our mouths?"

"I've never heard such nonsense! Eating with the mouth? What a crazy idea. There is the umbilical cord that nourishes us. And how do you want to walk about? The umbilical cord is much too short."

"I am sure it is possible. It's just that everything will be a little bit different."

"You are crazy! Nobody ever came back after birth. Life is over with birth. That's it."

"I admit that nobody knows what life after birth will look like. But I do know that we will see our mother then, and that she will take care of us."

"Mother?! But you don't believe in a mother, do you? Where is she?"

"She is here, all around us. We are and we live within her and through her. Without her we couldn't exist at all!"

"Nonsense! I've never sensed a mother; therefore, she doesn't exist."

"Yet, sometimes, when we are very quiet you can hear her sing, or feel how she caresses our world."

author unknown

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Eddy-Torial - The Elastic Bible

A new Bible version is taking the world by storm. It is called The Elastic Bible.

Many pastors already use it in the pulpit, in counselling, as well as in their private devotions. The Elastic Bible (TEB) has several interesting features that account for its increasing popularity.

First, it is only printed in one format. After a number of market surveys it was determined that the TEB should be small so that no one would be offended by the owner carrying a large Bible in public. It is slightly smaller than a pocket New Testament, making it easy to conceal.

It is available in one binding only, and has a muted pastel digitised camouflage pattern on the cover. As a result, it is virtually invisible, whether on a pulpit or a coffee table. The publishers said in an off the record interview that they plan to bring out a youth edition called The Stealth Bible soon. Advisers from youth oriented ministries indicated that most teens wouldn't be caught dead carrying a Bible, so they plan to print an edition so stealthy that no one will detect it.

What surprised me most about the TEB was how tiny the print is. Even considering the small size of the Bible, the print is miniscule, almost microscopic! I couldn't read it, even with bifocals. Their sales personnel told me that this is not a problem as most Christians want to own a Bible, but don't intend to read it.



When I asked how a pastor would ever be able to preach from this tiny Bible in the pulpit, they explained to me why they call it The Elastic Bible. It is because the paper it is printed on is actually elasticised and stretches so much that the tiny pages (approx. 2 inches wide and 3 inches long) can be stretched to cover the top of an average pulpit. After about five minutes, the paper begins to shrink back to its original size. When speaking to their publicity officer I discovered that the paper is made from a genetically modified plant residue and so it appeals to the Green Gospel movement.

I queried the reasons for the stretchy pages, the salesman told me I would need to view the DVDs that come with it, and I would understand, or I could go online and pay to log on to their website. So I bought a copy and took it home. To my surprise, the DVD set is much, much larger than the TEB.

Well, it took me several months to wade through all the DVDs, and make notes. Here is a summary of what I discovered in my research.

1. The publishers state plainly that TEB was designed to suit the preaching styles of 21st century pastors.

Almost without exception modern pastors want to stretch or shrink their Bibles to suit their theology. Many seminary graduates say that this gives them much more flexibility in the pulpit

The very small print helps pastors to ignore inconvenient and embarrassing verses. I contacted several liberal pastors in our area to ask if they found that they stretched certain pages more than others, they admitted that there are whole chapters and even some books of the Bible that have never been stretched even one time in their pulpits. The same was true of the neo-evangelical pastors, who told me that they are not sure if the book of Jude is even in the TEB, and they seemed quite happy about it. One Reformed pastor said the same thing about Hebrews 2:9 and I John 2:2. It did surprise me to find that most of the pastors in our town use TEB for the same reasons. The other day I watched a video clip of a pastor of a large IB church in _____ and suddenly realised he was stretching a text far beyond what it actually says. So I rang his secretary and inquired which Bible he uses. She told me he loves The Elastic Bible. Further phone calls revealed that every one of the cults is using it, and that even Pope Benedict has approved it for his priests to preach from.

2. One of the most enlightening comments in the DVDs was from Sigmund Dobson, the CEO of Soft Touch Christian Counselling, who said, "I love the amazing flexibility of TEB. If I am counselling someone who has problems with homosexuality, or drugs, or alcohol, I simply adjust the size of the text so that the counselee receives comfort without having to go through that outdated process of conviction and

repentance, and conversion and confession of faith in Christ, and baptism and church membership and being disciplined. Because we use the Elastic Bible we have streamlined our procedures so that we can now take people out of the gutter one day and have them in the pulpit the next day. Its wonderful!" I contacted the publishers to ask about this approach and they replied that this demonstrates the superiority of The Elastic Bible. (?)

3. At the end of the DVD set there is a disc containing interviews of world renowned pastors who encourage people to use The Elastic Bible. Robert Schuller, Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, and Joel Osteen are effusive in their praise. Sproul, Mohler, and MacArthur all have nice things to say about it. Billy Graham said he wished he'd had it fifty years ago. Many IB pastors recommend it. I found names of pastors I recognised as leaders in just about all the IB groups, and they loved it. Some pastors are clamoring for it to be sold at the big conference in Tennessee in April.
4. Oh, and one more thing, the publishers are offering a large discount to anyone who would like to trade in their old, inflexible King James Bible for a brand new copy of The Elastic Bible.

Let me know if you've seen The Elastic Bible in your area.

Its everywhere in Australia.

Bro. Buddy Smith

Welcome to the Website of Grace Baptist Church - Malanda, North Queensland, Australia



Grace
Baptist Church
MALANDA

On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia

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