



"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

July 29, 2011

Table of Contents -

[Feature Article - The Menace of the Religious Movie, Part 2 -](#)

[Deacon True Sez -](#)

[Biographical Sketch of Hugh Latimer -](#)

[The Rise of the Violent Little Emperors -](#)

[How Moody Won the Children -](#)

[Cartoons For The Wise -](#)

[Are Jehovah And Allah One And The Same "God" -](#)

[Poems That Preach -](#)

[Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -](#)

[Sermon Fodder -](#)

[Be Careful When You Go Up To Jerusalem -](#)

[Stirring The Possum -](#)

[Therapy For The Funny Bone -](#)

[Eddy-Torial - The Bones of Elisha -](#)

Feature Article –

The Menace of the Religious Movie

by *A.W. Tozer (1879-1963)*

(This is the second excerpt from A.W.Tozer's booklet. The entire booklet can be read at: <http://www.biblebb.com/files/tozermovie.htm> - Ed.)

2. The religious movie embodies the mischievous notion that religion is, or can be made, a form of entertainment.

This notion has come upon us lately like a tidal wave and is either openly taught or tacitly assumed by increasing numbers of people. Since it is inextricably bound up with the subject under discussion I had better say more about it.

The idea that religion should be entertaining has made some radical changes in the evangelical picture within this generation. It has given us not only the "gospel" movie but a new type of religious journalism as well. It has created a new kind of magazine for church people, which can be read from cover to cover without effort, without thought---and without profit. It has also brought a veritable flood of religious fiction with plastic heroines and bloodless heroes like no one who has ever lived upon this well known terrestrial ball.

That religion and amusement are forever opposed to each other by their very essential natures is apparently not known to this new school of religious entertainers. Their effort to slip up on the reader and administer a quick shot of saving truth while his mind is on something else is not only futile, it is, in fact, not too far short of being plain dishonest. The hope that they can convert a man while he is occupied with the doings of some imaginary hero reminds one of the story of the Catholic missionary who used to sneak up on sick people and children and splash a little holy water on them to guarantee their passage to the city of gold.

I believe that most responsible religious teachers will agree that any effort to teach spiritual truth through entertainment is at best futile and at worst positively injurious to the soul. But entertainment pays off, and the economic consideration is always a powerful one in deciding what shall and what shall not be offered to the public--even in the churches.

Deep spiritual experiences come only from much study, earnest prayer and long meditation. It is true that men by thinking cannot find God; it is also true that men cannot know God very well without a lot of reverent thinking. Religious movies, by appealing directly to the shallowest stratum of our minds, cannot but create bad mental habits which unfit the soul for the reception of genuine spiritual impressions.

Religious movies are mistakenly thought by some people to be blessed of the Lord because many come away from them with moist eyes. If this is a proof of God's blessing, then we might as well go the whole way and assert that every show that brings tears is of God. Those who attend the theater know how often the audiences are moved to tears by the joys and sorrows of the highly paid entertainers who kiss and emote and murder and die for the purpose of exciting the spectators to a high pitch of emotional excitement. Men and women who are dedicated to sin and appointed to death may nevertheless weep in sympathy for the painted actors and be not one bit the better for it. The emotions have had a beautiful time, but the will is left untouched. The religious movie is sure to draw together a goodly number of persons who cannot distinguish the twinges of vicarious sympathy from the true operations of the Holy Ghost.

3. The religious movie is a menace to true religion because it embodies acting, a violation of sincerity.

Without doubt the most precious thing any man possesses is his individuated being; that by which he is himself and not someone else; that which cannot be finally voided by the man himself nor shared with another. Each one of us, however humble our place in the social scheme, is unique in creation. Each is a new whole man possessing his own separate "I-ness" which makes him forever something apart, an individual human being. It is this quality of uniqueness which permits a man to enjoy every reward of virtue and makes him responsible for every sin. It is his *selfness*, which will persist forever, and which distinguishes him from every creature which has been or ever will be created.

Because man is such a being as this all moral teachers, and especially Christ and His apostles, make sincerity to be basic in the good life. The word, as the New Testament uses it, refers to the practice of holding fine pottery up to the sun to test it for purity. In the white light of the sun all foreign substances were instantly exposed. So the test of sincerity is basic in human character. The sincere man is one in whom is found nothing foreign; he is all of one piece; he has preserved his individuality unviolated.

Sincerity for each man means *staying in character with himself*. Christ's controversy with the Pharisees centered around their incurable habit of moral play acting. The Pharisee constantly pretended to be what he was not. He attempted to vacate his own "I-ness" and appear in that of another and better man. He assumed a false character and played it for effect. Christ said he was a hypocrite.

It is more than an etymological accident that the word "hypocrite" comes from the stage. It means actor. With that instinct for fitness which usually marks word origins, it has been used to signify one who has violated his sincerity and is playing a false part. An actor is one who assumes a character other than his own and plays it for effect. The more fully he can become possessed by another personality the better he is as an actor.

Bacon has said something to the effect that there are some professions of such nature that the more skillfully a man can work at them the worse man he is. That perfectly describes the profession of acting. Stepping out of our own character for any reason is always dangerous, and may be fatal to the soul. However innocent his intentions, a man who assumes a false character has betrayed his own soul and has deeply injured something sacred within him.

No one who has been in the presence of the Most Holy One, who has felt how high is the solemn privilege of bearing His image, will ever again consent to play a part or to trifle with that most sacred thing, his own deep sincere heart. He will thereafter be constrained to be no one but himself, to preserve reverently the sincerity of his own soul.

In order to produce a religious movie someone must, for the time, disguise his individuality and simulate that of another. His actions must be judged fraudulent, and those who watch them with approval share in the fraud. To pretend to pray, to *simulate* godly sorrow, to *play at worship* before the camera for effect---how utterly shocking to the reverent heart! How can Christians who approve this gross pretense ever understand the value of sincerity as taught by our Lord? What will be the end of a generation of Christians fed on such a diet of deception disguised as the faith of our fathers?

The plea that all this must be good because it is done for the glory of God is a gossamer-thin bit of rationalizing which should not fool anyone above the mental age of six. Such an argument parallels the evil rule of expediency which holds the *end is everything*, and sanctifies the means, however

evil, if only the end be commendable. The wise student of history will recognize this immoral doctrine. The Spirit-led Church will have no part of it.

It is not uncommon to find around the theater human flotsam and jetsam washed up by the years, men and women who have played false parts so long that the power to be sincere has forever gone from them. They are doomed to everlasting duplicity. Every act of their lives is faked, every smile is false, every tone of their voice artificial. The curse does not come causeless. It is not by chance that the actor's profession has been notoriously dissolute. Hollywood and Broadway are two sources of corruption which may yet turn America into a Sodom and lay her glory in the dust.

The profession of acting did not originate with the Hebrews. It is not a part of the divine pattern. The Bible mentions it, but never approves it. Drama, as it has come down to us, had its rise in Greece. It was originally a part of the worship of the god Dionysus and was carried on with drunken revelry.

The Miracle Plays of medieval times have been brought forward to justify the modern religious movie. That is an unfortunate weapon to choose for the defense of the movie, for it will surely harm the man who uses it more than any argument I could think of just offhand.

The Miracle Plays had their big run in the Middle Ages. They were dramatic performances with religious themes staged for the entertainment of the populace. At their best they were misguided efforts to teach spiritual truths by dramatic representation; at their worst they were shockingly irreverent and thoroughly reprehensible. In some of them the Eternal God was portrayed as an old man dressed in white with a gilt wig! To furnish low comedy, the devil himself was introduced on the stage and allowed to cavort for the amusement of the spectators. Bible themes were used, as in the modern movie, but this did not save the whole thing from becoming so corrupt that the Roman Church had finally to prohibit its priests from having any further part in it.

Those who would appeal for precedent to the Miracle Plays have certainly overlooked some important facts. For instance, *the vogue of the Miracle Play coincided exactly with the most dismally corrupt period the Church has ever known*. When the Church emerged at last from its long moral night these plays lost popularity and finally passed away. And be it remembered, *the instrument God used to bring the Church out of the darkness was not drama; it was the biblical one of Spirit-baptized preaching*. Serious-minded men thundered the truth and the people turned to God.

Indeed, history will show that *no spiritual advance, no revival, no upsurge of spiritual life has ever been associated with acting in any form*. The Holy Spirit never honors pretense.

Can it be that the historic pattern is being repeated? That the appearance of the religious movie is symptomatic of the low state of spiritual health we are in today? I fear so. Only the absence of the Holy Spirit from the pulpit and lack of true discernment on the part of professing Christians can account for the spread of religious drama among so-called evangelical churches. A Spirit-filled church could not tolerate it.

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

Deacon True Sez -

* Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in."

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

Biographical Sketch of Hugh Latimer -

It is said that Hugh Latimer, with the courage of a lion, approached his immoral sovereign--Henry VIII-- with a New Year's Day gift, a Bible with the leaves turned down to the passages, "Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). "Then said [John the Baptist] to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Luke 3:7). At another time, Henry VIII called Latimer to preach before his court. With towering unction and the plainest language, Hugh Latimer faithfully denounced the king and his courtiers, like John the Baptist before King Herod. "For John said unto [Herod], It is not lawful for thee to have her" (Matthew 14:4). Enraged, the king demanded that Latimer retract his denunciations upon the next LORD's Day.

Entering the pulpit the next Sunday, Latimer announced the same text. Then he paused and said:

"Hugh Latimer, dost thou know before whom thou art this day to speak? To the high and mighty monarch, the King's most excellent majesty, who can take away thy life if thou offendest; therefore take heed that thou speakest not a word that may displease! And then consider well, Hugh, dost thou not know from whence comest thou; upon whose message thou art sent? Even by the great and mighty God! Who is all present! and Who beholdeth all thy ways! and Who is able to cast thy soul into hell! Therefore take care that thou deliverest thy message faithfully."

Speaking thus, to the amazement of all the court, Latimer renewed his preaching with even greater zeal and strength. "O Earth, Earth, Earth, hear the Word of the LORD" (Jeremiah 22:29). All present were certain that Henry would have Hugh Latimer beheaded; but, the king, subdued by Latimer's earnestness, exclaimed, "Blessed be God, I have so honest a servant!"

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

The Rise of the Violent Little Emperors -

The following is excerpted from **"Rise of the Violent," Daily Mail, July 11, 2011:**

"Children are becoming increasingly violent towards their parents when they do not get their own way, a leading psychologist has warned. The 'little emperors' of this 'spoilt generation' lash out both at home--particularly at mothers who stand in their way--and school or even nursery.

Experts have blamed the decline in respect for authority on a lack of clear parental boundaries and rules, as well as an emphasis on children's rights.

The problem is getting worse and spans the class divide, according to Dr Aric Sigman, a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. He said the age at which children were violent and disrespectful

towards their teachers 'is coming down to nursery level'. He added: 'They're swearing and throwing chairs at their teachers at younger and younger ages. It isn't surprising this is happening in a domestic setting. Parent abuse and parent battery appear to be on the rise and what seems to underlie this is to do with parenting, the lack of boundaries and the reversal of authority. It's the extreme end of the spoilt generation where they actually lash out at parents, almost exclusively their mothers. There's a lack of impulse control, demands for instant gratification and not accepting deferred gratification.'

Dr Sigman analysed academic studies, psychologists' observations and police reports in Britain, America and New Zealand to update his book on the subject, *The Spoilt Generation*. He said: 'There's been a change, it's getting worse and it's going further down the age scale. I'm talking about younger and younger children, including girls, beating up their mothers and kicking them down the stairs. Mothers are ashamed to ask for help.'

Proverbs 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

2 Timothy 3:1-2 "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." (Friday Church News Notes, July 22, 2011, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

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

How Moody Won the Children -

Dwight L. Moody was passing along the streets of Chicago when he spied two little girls playing out in front of an underground saloon. His heart was instantly moved with compassion for the children, and he walked straightway into the cellar.

The barkeeper, thinking that he wanted a drink, said, "What will you have?"

"Those children for my Sunday school," replied Moody.

"Children for your Sunday school! Do you know where you are? An infidel club meets here every Thursday night."

But the tactful soul winner knew it was not a time for retreat, so, resting his elbows on the bar, he looked into the face of this father and pleaded with him earnestly in behalf of the little girls.

Finally, the man's heart was touched and he said, "I will tell you what I will do, parson. If you will come down here next Thursday night and meet the boys in a joint discussion, and you win, you shall have the children; but if not, it is all off."

"Agreed," exclaimed Moody. "I will be here."

Taking his departure, he looked up a little crippled newsboy whom he knew, who could pray effectually and said to him, "Tommy, I want you next Thursday night."

When the hour arrived, Tommy and the evangelist entered the saloon. It was full. The men were sitting on whiskey barrels, on beer kegs and on the counter, while others were at the windows in expectation of a debate. Moody opened the meeting by saying: "Gentlemen, it is our custom to open our meetings with prayer. Tommy, jump on that barrel and pray," whereupon Tommy perched himself on the barrel, turned his little face up toward heaven, and how he did pray!

As the tears stole down his cheeks, the more tenderhearted beat a retreat; and finally those more rock-like, subdued by the pathos and spiritual power of the occasion, slowly retired, until there were none left except the barkeeper, Moody and the praying boy.

"That will do, Tommy," exclaimed the evangelist. "I claim the children," said he, turning to the father.

"They are yours according to contract," replied the father, "but it is a queer way to fight."

"It is the way I win my battles," said Moody.

He had instructed the little boy not to cease praying until he had prayed them all out. It was a piece of strategy full of tactfulness. The reality, the venturesomeness, and the tact of such a man is worth emulating.

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

Cartoons For the Wise -

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

Are Jehovah and Allah One and the Same "God?" -

Islam claims that Allah is the same God Who is revealed in the Bible

by *Jack Kinsella* [Excerpted]

Islam claims that Allah is *the same God* Who is revealed in the Bible. Mohammed was an itinerant trader who spent a great deal of time among Christians and Jews some six hundred years *AFTER* Christ. He was exposed to the teachings of both faiths, incorporating parts of each into his subsequent 'third testament', the Koran. Mohammed attests to the truth and validity of both Testaments: (Suras 2:87, 29:46, 32:23, 5:44, 6:154, 6:155, 2:87, 5:46, 5:68, 29:46 and 43:63) For example, Sura 5:68: "*O People of the Book! ye have no ground to stand upon unless ye stand fast by the Law (Torah), the Gospel (Injeel), and all the revelation that has come to you from your Lord.*"

But *the Koran itself is a mass of contradictions* with the Revealed Word, falsifying both the facts and teachings of both testaments. According to the Koran, the line of spiritual succession goes through Ishmael and not Isaac. *Moses was a Muslim.*

Jesus was *not the Son of God*, and was neither crucified nor Resurrected. *The Islamic Jesus (Isa) was a mortal human being.* He was not crucified, *did not atone for the sins of mankind*, and was not resurrected on the third day. He is recognised as the last prophet God sent to the Jewish people and *revered as a forerunner to Mohammed.*

Adherents to Islam do NOT read or study the Gospel. The possession of a Bible by one of the *'People of the Book'* in Islamic fundamentalist states *can result in a death sentence.* Belief in a single god does not mean that the God of Scripture is the one being worshipped by Islam. And, because the God of the Bible was known and worshipped *many centuries before Mohammed came along*, it is also clear who the true God is.

The New Testament clearly states that prophets must follow the same God as the One revealed through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses. (Deuteronomy 13:1-5).

It is no offence to Muslims that Islamic doctrine is different than Christian doctrine. *Things that are different are not the same.* Judged by the standards of Christian doctrine, the Koran cannot be a Third Testament *because it directly contradicts the First and Second (Old and New) Testaments.* It is a source of endless curiosity to me that Islam insists upon being considered older than Judaism and Christianity *despite its having first appeared twenty-six hundred years after Abraham, two thousand years after Moses, and six hundred years after Christ.* Equally unfathomable is Islam's insistence that Allah is the same god as the God of Christians and Jews, *but that the God of Christians and Jews is not the same as Allah.*

Muslims claim to worship the same God of Christians and Jews, but at the same time, believe Christians and Jews are following a false god. It is not an insult to Islam to recognise that there *are irreconcilable differences between Christianity and Islam* – any devout Muslim will immediately agree. But that is just about the only point of common agreement. It isn't hateful. It isn't intolerant. *It is simply true.* Things that are different are not the same.

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

Poems That Preach -

The Roman Catholic Fable

A pretty maid, a Protestant, was to a Catholic wed;
To love all Bible truths and tales, quite early she'd been bred,
It sorely grieved her husband's heart that she would not comply,
And join the Mother Church of Rome and heretics deny.

So day by day he flattered her, but still she saw no good
Would ever come from bowing down to idols made of wood.

The Mass, the host, the miracles, were made but to deceive;
And transubstantiation, too, she'd never dare believe.

He went to see his clergyman and told him his sad tale.
"My wife is an unbeliever, sir; you can perhaps prevail;
For all your Romish miracles my wife has strong aversion,
To really work a miracle may lead her to conversion."

The priest went with the gentleman -- he thought to gain a prize.
He said "I will convert her, sir, and open both her eyes."
So when they came into the house, the husband loudly cried,
"The priest has come to dine with us!" "He's welcome" she replied.

And when, at last, the meal was o'er, the priest at once began,
To teach his hostess all about the sinful state of man:
The greatness of our Saviour's love, which Christians can't deny.
To give Himself a sacrifice and for our sins to die.

"I will return tomorrow, lass, prepare some bread and wine;
The sacramental miracle will stop your soul's decline."
"I'll bake the bread," the lady said. "You may" he did reply.
"And when you've seen this miracle, convinced you'll be, say I."

The priest did come accordingly, the bread and wine did bless.
The lady asked, "Sir, is it changed?" The priest answered, "Yes".
It's changed from common bread and wine to truly flesh and blood;
Begorra, lass, this power of mine has changed it into God!"

So having blessed the bread and wine, to eat they did prepare.
The lady said unto the priest, "I warn you to take care",
For half an ounce of arsenic was mixed right in the batter,
But since you have its nature changed, it cannot really matter."

The priest was struck real dumb -- he looked as pale as death.
The bread and wine fell from his hands and he did gasp for breath.
"Bring me my horse!" the priest cried. "This is a cursed home!"
The lady replied, "Begone: t'is you who shares the curse of Rome."

The husband, too, he sat surprised, and not a word did say.
At length he spoke, "My dear," said he, "the priest has run away;
To gulp such mummery and tripe, I'm not for sure, quite able;
I'll go with you and we'll renounce this Roman Catholic fable."

Author Unknown

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

Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

This time Christopher Hitchens got it exactly right.

During a recent trip to Portland, Oregon, noted atheist Christopher Hitchens laid down some seriously good theology. Most people recognize Hitchens as the author of the bestselling book *God is Not Great: Why Religion Poisons Everything*. Since the book's publication in 2007, Hitchens has toured the country debating a series of religious leaders, including some well-known evangelical thinkers. He is clever, acerbic, quick on his feet, and in general a very articulate spokesman for atheism. In Portland he was interviewed by Unitarian minister Marilyn Sewell. The entire transcript of the interview has been [posted online](#). The following exchange took place near the start of the interview:

Sewell: The religion you cite in your book is generally the fundamentalist faith of various kinds. I'm a liberal Christian, and I don't take the stories from the scripture literally. I don't believe in the doctrine of atonement (that Jesus died for our sins, for example). Do you make a distinction between fundamentalist faith and liberal religion?

Hitchens: I would say that if you don't believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ and Messiah, and that he rose again from the dead and by his sacrifice our sins are forgiven, you're really not in any meaningful sense a Christian.

Sewell wanted no part of that discussion so her next words are, "Let me go someplace else."

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

PH.D. Says No Scientific Fact Contradicts the Bible -

Terry Mortenson, Ph.D. in the History of Geology from Coventry University in England, says there is no scientific fact that contradicts the Bible.

Dr. Mortenson is on the staff of the Creation Museum in Kentucky, and in a video recorded interview with me at the museum on June 23, 2009, he said: "I have studied a lot of arguments from evolutionists; I have had seven formal debates with evolutionary professors at universities, and I have never read or heard any scientific fact that contradicts what the Bible says. There are evolutionist's interpretations of the facts, but the facts themselves are not contrary to Scripture."

In a blog entitled "Origins Views and the Assemblies of God," dated December 11, 2010, Dr. Mortenson wrote:

“Science has not found anything that contradicts the straightforward, literal understanding of Genesis ... Science has not found a living cell spontaneously evolving into existence by chance from non-living matter, as evolutionists claim has happened 3.5 billion years ago. Science has not found transitional forms between different kinds of plants and animals, either living or in the fossil record, to support evolutionist claims that all life is descended from a common ancestor--the first living cell. And science has not found millions of years of time in the rocks or a gas cloud collapsing to form a star. None of those things has ever been observed by any scientist, so they are not findings of science. Rather, evolutionary scientists using anti-biblical (naturalistic and uniformitarian) assumptions and imagination have interpreted some of the observations of the natural world (while ignoring other observations) to invent a story about the past that contradicts the time-tested, historically orthodox and exegetically sound interpretation of God’s inerrant Word. It is not a conflict between the ‘findings of science’ and ‘traditional interpretations’ of the Bible. It is rather the conflict between the atheistic and deistic interpretations of God’s creation by people who are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18–20) versus the sound interpretation of God’s Word by godly leaders and pastors in the church down through history.” (**Friday Church News Notes, July 22, 2011, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143**)

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

Sermon Fodder –

How Important Is Gratitude?

This beautiful story comes from Sherman Rogers' old book, "Foremen: Leaders or Drivers?" In his true-life story, Rogers illustrates the importance of effective relationships.

During his college years, Rogers spent a summer in an Idaho logging camp. When the superintendent had to leave for a few days, he put Rogers in charge. "What if the men refuse to follow my orders?" Rogers asked. He thought of Tony, an immigrant worker who grumbled and growled all day, giving the other men a hard time.

"Fire them," the superintendent said. Then, as if reading Rogers' mind, he added, "I suppose you think you are going to fire Tony if you get the chance. I'd feel badly about that. I have been logging for 40 years. Tony is the most reliable worker I've ever had. I know he is a grouch and that he hates everybody and everything. But he comes in first and leaves last. There has not been an accident for eight years on the hill where he works."

Rogers took over the next day. He went to Tony and spoke to him. "Tony, do you know I'm in charge here today?" Tony grunted. "I was going to fire you the first time we tangled, but I want you to know I'm not," he told Tony, adding what the superintendent had said.

When he finished, Tony dropped the shovelful of sand he had held and tears streamed down his face. "Why he no tell me dat eight years ago?" That day Tony worked harder than ever before -- and he smiled! He later said to Rogers, "I told Maria you first foreman in deese country who ever say, 'Good work, Tony,' and it make Maria feel like Christmas."

Rogers went back to school after that summer. Twelve years later he met Tony again. He was superintendent for railroad construction for one of the largest logging companies in the West. Rogers asked him how he came to California and happened to have such success.

Tony replied, "One minute, you change my whole life."

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

Be Careful When You Go Up To Jerusalem -

Many years ago Robert Meyer told an illustration in a sermon he preached in our church. He said it was an old Lebanese story. It went like this:

"One day the little donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem was talking to his mother. He said, 'Mother, I went up to Jerusalem again yesterday, but it was all different. Last time the crowds rushed to see me. They spread palm branches and garments in the road for me to walk on and sang praises to God when I passed by. But this time it was all different. No one even noticed me. There were no crowds, no palm branches, no garments spread for me to walk on, and no one sang praises to God. Why was it so different this time, Mother?' His mother replied, 'Son, the first time the crowds came because you were lifting up the Saviour, and this time you went up for yourself.'"

And so it is for us. When we lift up the Saviour, we can rejoice that men worship Him with praises and sacrifices. When we lift up ourselves, we should never wonder at the silence in the streets.

At all costs we must not claim for ourselves the glory that belongs to Him.

He alone is worthy of the praise of men.

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

Stirring the Possum -

The New Rules For Separation (A Spoof!)

The above title was the theme of a discerning article by Pastor Tod Brainard in which he summarized the "new rules" which, in effect, many former militant Fundamentalists and some younger fundamentalists have created and by which they are now playing. "Some of the 'New' Rules are as follows:"

- 1). Never practice Biblical separation from a compromising well-liked man or ministry if they are "winning souls,"
- 2). Never practice Biblical separation from a compromising well-liked man or ministry if they are considered "too big to fail."

- 3). Never practice Biblical separation from any compromising Bible college or university that may give you an honorary doctorate sometime in the future.
- 4). Only practice Biblical separation if the majority of others in the camp are separating. (Never practice Biblical separation alone because you are probably wrong then.)
- 5). Always give extra consideration for well-known men in the movement because they probably have a good reason for their compromise.
- 6). Never practice Biblical separation if it means losing church members.
- 7). Never practice Biblical separation when it comes to music. After all, you have a college degree to know what music is good or bad.

Bro. Brainard says you "may chuckle," at these "new" rules, but that they are actually being practiced on a regular basis.

He says, "when you come to a fork in the road, you cannot take both roads, you must practice separation."

II Thessalonians 3:6, 14.

Copied from excerpts from the Projector

<http://www.theprojector.org/Articles/Fundamentalism.htm>

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

Therapy For the Funny Bone -

Billy Bong Boomerang goes to work and sees that one of his co-workers has a thermos. He asks him what it is. His friend says, "It's a thermos." "What does it do?" Bill Bong asks. "It keeps hot things hot and cold things cold."

Billy Bong is amazed, so when he gets off work, he immediately goes to Walmart and buys one.

The next day Billy Bong shows up at work with his new thermos. His friend asks, "What do you have in it?" He says, "Soup and ice cream!"

How to Sell Toothbrushes

The kids filed back into class Monday morning. They were very excited. Their weekend homework was to sell something, then give a talk on how to do productive salesmanship.

Little Sally led off: "I sold biscuits and I made \$30," she said proudly, "My sales approach was to appeal to the customer's civic spirit and I credit that approach for my obvious success.." "Very good," said the teacher.

Little Jenny was next: "I sold magazines," she said, "I made \$45 and I explained to everyone that magazines would keep them up to date on current events." "Very good, Jenny," said the teacher.

Eventually it was Little Johnny's turn. The teacher held her breath.

Little Johnny walked to the front of the classroom and dumped a box full of cash on the teacher's desk. "\$2,465," he said. "\$2,465" cried the teacher, "What in the world were you selling?"

"Toothbrushes," said Little Johnny. "Toothbrushes!" echoed the teacher, "How could you possibly sell enough toothbrushes to make that much money?"

"I found the busiest corner in town," said Little Johnny, "I set up a Chip & Dip stand and gave everybody who walked by a free sample." They all said the same thing, "Hey, this tastes like dog _____!" And I said, "It IS dog _____! Wanna buy a toothbrush? I used our government's strategy of giving people something rotten for free, and then charging them five bucks to fix it!"

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

Eddy-Torial –

The Bones of Elisha

And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet. II Kings 13:20,21.

Browsing one of F.W. Boreham's books late Sunday night brought me across a chapter with the title, "The Bones of Elisha." Boreham is forever dropping sermon seeds in my heart. This time he planted the seed for an occasional editorial for the Heads Up! You see, the bones of Elisha were still so full of vitality, even in the grave, that a dead man sprang to life when he touched them.

There is a very real sense in which we, the listless (dare I say, lifeless?) saints of the 21st century can be stirred to life again, even revived by the remains of the Elisha's of old.

Let me tell you the story of one of my Elisha's. His name was John Wilder. John Bunyan Wilder. Bro. Wilder was born in Oklahoma in 1913. This much we can find in the genealogy of his family tree. When he was converted and called to preach, I do not know. Some of you who read Heads Up may be able to fill in the gaps for me. I know he pastored Calvary Baptist Church in Harlingen,

Texas, three different times. I know he resigned his pastorate to serve in the US army during WWII. He was not only promoted to officer's rank, but served in the OSS (the predecessor to the CIA) and that some of his service was in Italy.

A neighbour of my parents, when she heard that we were moving to McAllen, Texas (in 1967), to plant Maranatha Baptist Church, loaned me two books by John Wilder. They were "In The Shadow of Rome" and "The Other Side of Rome." Bro. Wilder searched the libraries of universities and uncovered the deep dark secrets of Roman Catholicism and included them in his books. He said that some of the material he found was so sinister that the librarians would not allow him to take the books home to study. His books on Rome helped me enormously. I did not know where Bro. Wilder lived, only that his address in the books was in Harlingen, Texas, near McAllen.

We had not been in McAllen more than a month when a brother invited us to a church where a friend was interim pastor. And who should sit down behind us, but Bro. John Wilder! That "chance" meeting was the beginning of a blessed friendship. He was 54 years old and I was 23. Bro. Wilder was invited to preach in many large churches, but he liked to come to our little church every chance he had. He couldn't sing, so he whistled the hymns along with us. He loved the gospel and preached it everywhere. He had a radio program in Central America and went down to preach revival meetings, and saw churches planted there as a result. He told of sitting on the platform of one church before the sermon and being handed a telegram from a dear old black brother who had been listening to Bro. Wilder preach over the radio. He asked him to come to the island where he lived and preach a week of meetings. When he arrived he found that the brother had emptied his bank account to rent a boat house, put a floor in it and string up some lights so they had a place to hold the meetings. If I remember right, there were 85 people saved and a church started there.

Bro. Wilder loved to give out tracts and witness to people. He told of driving to Alaska. Way up in the Canadian wilderness he said he saw where a dirt track joined the big Al-Can highway, so he stopped, piled up a few big rocks, put another one on top, and then placed a gospel tract on top, with a smaller rock to keep it from blowing away, and prayed that God would bless His word to some sinner's heart. Months later, after arriving back in Texas, he received a letter with a faded, weather-beaten tract in it. The writer told Bro. Wilder he lived down that little track. When he came out to buy supplies, he couldn't believe that someone would pile all those rocks up and leave that tract just for him. At first, he said, he thought the message of the tract was foolishness, but the more he thought about it, the more he realised the Lord was just who he needed, so he called on the Lord and wrote Bro. Wilder, asking him to write his name on the tract and send it back.

Bro. Wilder was a close friend to Lester Roloff and helped him with his tent meetings in south Texas. When Bro. Roloff resigned his church in Corpus Christi, Texas, and went into evangelistic work, he asked the pastors in Harlingen to meet with him and discuss holding a city-wide tent meeting, and he would send the converts to their churches. Bro. Wilder told me that the pastor of the First Baptist Church was a cigarette smoking modernist. In the meeting, he put his feet up on the table and blew cigarette smoke at Bro. Roloff and told him that their town didn't need his kind of preaching. Bro. Roloff put his head in his hands and wept, tears running out between his fingers. And Bro. Wilder spoke up and said, "Bro. Roloff, you can pitch your tent in the big vacant lot next to my church, and preach. We'd be glad to have you." And many precious souls were saved there. I spoke to one of them just a few months ago when I preached at Maranatha Baptist Church.

Bro. Wilder told me once about an audience with Pope Pius XII, the pope that encouraged Hitler to persecute the Jews. It was at the end of the war. All the Allied officers were invited to the Vatican to permit Pope Pius to honour the victorious armies by inspecting the troops, so to speak. Bro.

Wilder told me, to his dismay, that when the pope entered the room where the officers were standing at attention, every one of them knelt. Every one of them except Bro. Wilder, who stood at attention, and stared straight ahead. Pope Pius slowly made his way along the ranks until he came to Bro. Wilder. He looked him in the eye, and asked, "What is your name?" To which Bro. Wilder replied, "Captain John Bunyan Wilder!" He said the pope didn't say a word. He just turned and walked away.

Bro. Wilder was asked to be interim pastor of the church we planted in McAllen and served there for a short time. He was promoted to Heaven about twenty years ago, but I can never visit the Rio Grande Valley without feeling that I have touched Elisha's bones. Every where I look, John Bunyan Wilder is there. Thank God for the bones of Elisha!

Oh Lord, help us to be greatly enlivened by the bones of our Elisha's!

Bro. Buddy Smith

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

























Back Issues of Heads Up!

Available at:

www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au/resources.html

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

Heads Up! is a fortnightly publication produced by Pastor Buddy Smith,
[Grace Baptist Church](http://www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au), Malanda, Qld., 4885, Australia.

To be included to receive copies please contact us by one of the following methods:

Post: P.O. Box 684, Malanda, Qld., 4885;

Phone: 07 4096 6657

Email: smiletex@bigpond.net.au

Website: www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au





