



*Refreshing Evangelism or
How to Grow a NT Church in
the Falling Away.*

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Chapter 1: Sound Bible is Sound Doctrine.

As a young pastor in Hot Springs Arkansas¹, I was invited by one of the large Baptists churches in the city to teach a study course series on the book of James. At one of the sessions I was taken to task by a middle-age woman to said after listening as it was a verse by verse straight exegesis of exactly what is in the book of James {just letting the Bible say what it wants to say}, “Is that really Baptist doctrine?” This question implies that there could be a denominational difference between official doctrine and the doctrine of the Bible, and even worse it also implies that Baptist doctrine could come from any other place except the Bible, in spite of the heritage of Baptists and as recorded in Baptist’s Statements of Faith, “The Bible is the sole criterion for faith and practice.” One of the tolls on Christian churches from the Falling Away is that such church members have moved into the majority, caused either by: (1) a lack of teaching and listening on sound doctrine about the Bible itself; Or (2) attitudes and life styles that have generated unsound doctrine on the place of the Bible in the life of the Christian. {Lack of proper respect for actual Bible, instead of for the cover and icon of Bible, on the part of leaders naturally leads to a lack of respect on the part of church members, ranging all the way from those who see no authority in the Bible to the other extreme of those who neglect the place the Word of God deserves.}

Speaking disrespectfully of the Bible is like speaking less than well about mother, apple pie, and the American flag; yet the same church members will show a lack of respect by neglect. In other words, do not think about them at all!

1-1: The demands of The Bible on every life as given in the Bible Itself.

There would be no need for such a statement as above if every church member {goodness if even the majority of church members} really believed down deep in their hearts and souls, like Jesus said:

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

¹Actually at the Walnut Valley Baptist Church just north of Hot Springs.

1. Have you stopped to think about what Jesus has stated here: !1) first that every word of the Bible is a word that has originated from the mouth, thought, and character of God {what Baptist statements of faith from the past meant when they stated "THE BIBLE IS DIVINE IN ORIGIN"²}; and (2) every creature of God is to spend as much effort at living on the Bible as they do making a living.

2. What has happened with the historical movement since about 1968 of the Falling Away {the great Apostasy the Bible predicts} is as church members have lost their first love of God, Christ, and the Bible is that both convictions and courage of convictions have been lost; and at the same time the American Democratic Faith has become a substitute for Christian faith. While before the falling away, the source of unity among all Christians was the 7 ONES {one body, one Spirit, one hope of the Christian calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all}; now, well into the falling away, the reason all churches and denominations have so much in common is they are all victims of the falling away. In other words, when you have little convictions and courage of convictions, you have the same thing in common with all other churches and denominations; and you come to the point of saying, "It doesn't matter which church you go to, as long as long as you go." {Wish that it were so; however when you consider how far the American church is now into the falling away, you must strive to find one of the 2 out of 7 churches, like in the book of Revelations, where the majority membership, if possible, are overcomers.]

I can vividly recall how as a senior in Bible at Ouachita Baptist, I asked Dr. Blackmon, a professor wise in Bible and pastoring, if it would be possible to write a research paper on "Baptist Distinctives", to which at first he replied, "Is there any such thing?" And brothers, just imagine, that was in 1961; now, over 50 years later where do you think the SBC, and others, are on distinctives, especially on the distinction that: (1) The Bible is the Word of God--divine in origin, absolute the authority, sufficient in message, high fidelity in communication, and self-interpretive; and (2) The Bible is the sole criterion for faith and practice³.

² Number one in Sound Bible of Sound Doctrine.

³At least the Roman Catholic hierarchy made no bones about their own authority over Scripture with doctrinal statements to that effect, but Baptists have just eased with the Falling away into denominational priorities of teachings over Bible.

*1-2: Implications and Implementations of Sound Bible to Sound Doctrine and to Sound Living.*⁴ Church member, it hardly matters what you believe if you do not have the convictions, and courage of convictions, to implement it into your lifestyle. Jesus was serious when He taught all Christians of all times that “man is to live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.”

1. How the Bible is DIVINE IN ORIGIN should impact your lifestyle. Here is a book claiming to be words from the LORD God our father, the Creator of this Universe; and if you accept that claim, as you should⁵, just think how eager you must be to scoff up every word from cover to cover, and to do that often.

2. How the Bible is ABSOLUTE IN AUTHORITY should impact your life. Granted most church members at this point have a problem in accepting any authority that they themselves find in the Bible over the authoritative opinions of others. Quite often, it is a matter of “giving up” of knowing what is really truth and right. {In #18 of this Refreshing Evangelism series, you will find a discussion of “What is Truth?”, so stay tuned.} However based on hermeneutics⁶ and Christian evidences and apologetics⁷, the most basic reply to that is “the harder you try to understand Bible”, the closer you will come to absolute truth. And once, you really catch on to number 5 below, about how the Bible is self-interpretive, you are going to get at how “no scripture is of any private interpretation, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Once, from the Word and prayer, you develop some courage of convictions, then you should based on the authority of the only divine Creator and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, say like Peter, “We must listen to God rather than to men”. (Acts 4:19.20)

⁴Reference on this web site “Sound Living is Sound Doctrine”.

⁵See for a prima facie case on the Bible as the Word of God, the book by McLennan Day, WONDER OF THE WORD.

⁶Commonly known as the science of biblical interpretation, as in Ramm’s book; but really is nothing less than the principles the Bible Itself lays down for proper understanding and interpretation.

⁷See the web site on www.biblecombibleman.com entitled “The Christian Evidences”.

It helps if you have a little background on the second Baptist distinctive, that of SOUL COMPETENCY which is sometimes based on the book of Hebrews, called the priesthood of believers. One time on the tennis court, a priest showed up to play with his collar still on, and after play told the group that he was available if they needed assistance in prayer and other official religious matters, to which I replied based on the Baptist distinctive of the priesthood of all believer, "Thanks, but I have direct access", and pointed upward. And this is exactly what soul competency or the priesthood of believers implies, every believer through the Lord Jesus Christ is entitled to direct access to God the Father and to the Bible of God the Father.

It is amazing about the paranoid nature of American between their Christian faith and the American Democratic faith: how they on the one hand can believe that "all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"; and then on the other hand come to the Bible with the attitude that they are not equal in soul competency to understand it, and beyond that do not have the conviction that is from the pages of that Bible where they will learn about happiness.

3. How the Bible is SUFFICIENT IN MESSAGE should impact your life. It is recalled how J. B. Phillips in YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL told of how youth did not believe that God understood radar or computers. The same thing could be said about ignorance on the Bible, that God just did not understand us and our problems when He wrote that Book. No, all that have spent sufficient time with IT have found that it is sufficient for all life, all problems of life, for salvation, and for eternal plans, as well as for the living of a challenging and abundant Christian life.

4. How the Bible is HIGH FIDELITY IN COMMUNICATION should affect you. Like the Apostle Paul wrote:

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the divisions of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:12,13)

(1), It will refresh you as a Christian to develop, primarily from usage, the conviction that the Bible is ALIVE, much more than paper and cover and print,

and well beyond any other book. It will bring Refreshing Evangelism with “times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord” to you and to your church group to feel like Phillips did in the translation of the book of Revelation that, like an electrician, he had gotten ahold of a live wire. Oh, that more church members throughout America that could experience the same in Bible reading and study. This within itself would bring Refreshing Evangelism to American churches.

(2) The Bible, as Word of God and words out of the mouth of God, has POWER to change your life, change your thinking, and especially to change your salvation. In short, there is a very deep connection between the Bible and God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and the “church of the firstborn written in heaven.” One might make a case that there is also a connection between the new birth and the Bible.

(3) The Bible is “SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD” It is both sharp and cuts two ways. How? In 3 ways: (a) “piercing even to the divisions of soul and spirit”, (b) “and of joints and marrow,” (c) “and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”.

NOTE: Caution, be sure to stay away from the Bible if you do not really wish to know what you are like in the sight of God.

(4) No creature can hide forever from His Creator and the words that come out of the mouth of His Creator.

(5). You will give account to Him for every word that has come out of the mouth of God.

5. How the Bible is SELF-INTERPRETIVE implements into life.

(1). There is only one real interrelation of the Bible, the Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation of the Bible Peter spoke of in II Peter 1:21,22.

“No prophesy⁸ of scripture is of any private interpretation {you see this eliminates all other than the Authorized Interpretation}, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (II Peter 1:21,22)

⁸While we might think, or incompletely quote, that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God”, it is the “prophesy” or

NOTE: If you do not see that, then perhaps you have not been reading the Top 12 Topics of the Bible, developed based on all the OT quotations in the NT, which by the all always explain the proper from the Apostles and Prophets interpretation. What is most important in the OT, is quoted and explained in the NT, and that is what is meant by SELF-INTERPRETIVE. Whatever a Prophet writes, an Apostle and Jesus explain; and whatever Jesus and an Apostle write, a Prophet predicted.

(2) Now, what does this mean to the life you live? That you can know and understand the Bible since it is self-interpretive. That you can understand and live by the Bible; and that no-one, absolutely no one, should come between you and God on the understanding of the Bible. Sure, like the Ethiopian said to Philip, "How can I understand except someone should guide me'", you need good conservative and spirit-inspired guides and advisers to Bible. Just make sure you chose very wisely these guides. Make sure they have already experienced all 5 of the Refreshing Evangelisms of: the divinity of the Word; the proper authority of the Word; sufficiency in the Word; years before you that have many hours of high fidelity communications in the Sword of the Spirit; and they in turn have already enjoyed the comparing of scripture with scripture of the ASPI.⁹

1-3: You had best practice Refreshing Evangelism on the Bible right now to get caught up before the Withdrawal of the Holy Spirit as Bible understanding without the help of the Holy Spirit becomes very difficult.

1. Granted the time between the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit, with the subsequent release of Satan from bondage, is only a short time before the END, but it can be for Christians a very miserable short time with the help of the "paraclete", the one who goes along beside and helps us. Not only will you

interpretation that can not be private. It has to be the Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation.

⁹The Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation. It is semi-public in that everyone can not understand it unless (1) they are born again, (2) they are willing to do the will of God; (3) they compare scripture with scripture; and (4) they seek and find the Spirit of God in long hours of Bible study and reading. Men like B. H. Carroll, R. G. Lee, Bernard Ramm, Ray Summers, McDowell, F.F. Bruce, and C.S. Lewis are recommended.

Christians have to put up with the physical tribulations of the final tribulation, but you will have to do it with less help!

2. Since the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ with the sending of the Holy Spirit, democratically and with great power, it has been His job to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and can you imagine how during that short time before the END, you will be required to be Christian and live Christian without any external help from the Spirit. He has done all the Refreshing Evangelism. It is almost inconceivable to think of how it will be for Christians, without help from the Spirit, that short time!

1-4: The "ALL SCRIPTURE" Dedicated Lifetime Approach is Sound Bible and Sound Doctrine.

Dr B.H. Carroll, former President of Baylor, had a dedicated lifetime approach unequaled by any other when he started Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary by taking students through the whole English Bible in a short period of time. We are fortunate to have his lectures through the Bible in the 17 Bible commentaries called AN INTERPRETATION OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE.¹⁰ Two or maybe 3 factors obviously dominated the life of Carroll: (1) CHRIST, he told Lee Scarborough to keep Christ up-front and at center; (2) BIBLE, as his emphasis on the Bible itself, and exegesis, over the too common approach of today's BBFs¹¹ to select a few, or hunt and peck, almost makes AN INTREPRETATION as timeless as the Bible Itself¹².

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that the man of

¹⁰Get a set while you can, because the BBF that took over the SBC are slowly eroding away all the good traditions and heritages from the past. Have you noticed how the old classics of southern Baptists have been replaced in the SBC Lifeway book stores?

¹¹Bible Baptists Fundamentalists.

¹²Have you noticed even as research on the Bible has amassed significantly, both (1) people do not know more about the Bible Itself, and (2) the Bible with Its message from God remains the same, communication in high fidelity to all who will observe Its method of self-interpretation, and will practice the good hermeneutics of "just letting the Bible say what it wants to say" regardless of the version or translation or language. Remember the Bible is alive!

God {this is generic for men and women like in Genesis} may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (II Timothy 3:16,17)

Yes, we have used it often to prove that the Bible is divine in origin to the unbeliever; however it is primarily written to the believer to profit in the only way the believer should give himself over to profiting--that is by allowing God to lead him on into the complete life of sanctification, with a thoroughness of ALL scripture {cover to cover and chapter by chapter} that is balanced with the full spectrum of profitability, that of doctrine, reproach, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Have you ever noticed that there are two main thrusts in the world for righteousness, there is the Holy Spirit Who over two thousand years ago entered this world scene to “convict the world of sin, or righteousness, and judgment”, and then there is the Bible that with proper ALL scripture usage leads the man of God into more righteousness, and completion.

1. Now all this can not happen, and is not happening, if you pastors and preachers, also denominational leaders, do not make the ALL Scripture approach.

2. Some ways to do this are: (1) Read and teach and preach through the Bible at least once a year; (2) read and study through Carroll’s INTERPRETATION, supplementing your study with some new conservative commentaries like the NEW INTERNATIONAL series {You will love F. F. Bruce.}; (3) Learn to live with the OT quotes in the NT as the God-given structure and unity to assure us that all that is most important from the OT will be included in the NT; and wow, with proper ASPI interpretation also--the approach you will find in the 4 versions of volume one of the LEARN CHRIST commentaries; and (4) while not as good as Carroll in going through the whole Bible in 17 volumes, the LEARN CHRIST commentaries do it in six volumes. If you go through all six of the LCC commentaries, you have a much better chance in your life and ministry approach to do the ALL Scripture approach. {The first 5 volumes, actually 8 when you consider there are 3 versions of volume 1, are now being made free in PDF to the constituents of the www.biblecombibleman.com web site; and in most cases are expedited for deliver by e-mail upon the submit form request.}

1-5: Wow, the Treasures waiting there for your Bible Pleasures!

You just don't realize what Bible pleasures, of the eternal kind, that are waiting for you with some serious applications to Bible reading and Bible study; of course in a prayerful attitude and expression. You will profit daily, and your people will profit greatly!

Chapter 2: A Refreshing Textual Look at Acts 3:19-21

You have read Acts 3 before and this total Sermon from Simon Peter; however if you sit under a fundamentalists Bible Baptist preacher I doubt that you have heard all the words in textual format, especially on God's holding of Christ captive in heaven until the very end of this old earth and the ushering in of the new earth, that is at "the restoration of all things". Therefore just a fresh look at the words themselves should be refreshing for you, but beyond that is the potential for more, much much more!

In the first of this series on "Refreshing Evangelism" or "Times of Refreshing from the presence of the Lord" if you prefer, Blackwood's book on homiletics, *PREACHING FROM THE BIBLE*, was mentioned; and from that book as a source of authority along with Riley's *PREACHER AND HIS PREACHING*, Charles Spurgeon's *LECTURES TO MY STUDENTS*, we would note that there in general 3 types of sermons: (1) textual, which goes straight down through the text like in Acts 3:19-21 and in the order of the text; (2) expository, where a chapter or so of Bible verses are expounded like we may do later in this series on this whole sermon from Simon Peter in the early days of the kingdom of Christ immediately after the ascension of Christ to heaven; and (3) topical, where a certain doctrine of teaching **{doctrine and teaching are interchangeable words}** in the Bible is covered everywhere it is located in the Bible, or as many as the preacher can find with the use of something like *NAVE'S TOPICAL BIBLE* or a good concordance.

2-1: A Refreshing Look at Acts 3:19-21 with some exciting previews of REFRESHINGS you will receive in the future newsletters.

1. Times of Refreshing must have the foundation of repentance, conversion, and the blotting out of sins on the part of God. (Acts 3:19)
2. The completion of Times of Refreshing comes with the simultaneous Second Coming of Christ, the new Jerusalem lowered to Mount Zion, and the creation by God the new heavens and the new earth. (Acts 3:20a)
3. God the Father sends Jesus Christ the second time, as He also sent Him the first time except the second time in power and glory. (Acts 3:20a)

4. This same Jesus Christ was preached throughout the history of Israel by the Prophets, starting with Moses. (Acts 3:20b and 2:22-24)

5. Even as heaven now receives on the dead in Christ until the creation of the new earth, Christ will be in heaven until “the restoration of all things”. (Acts 3:21a).

“...since the world began” (Acts 3:21b) marks the beginning of all things (Genesis 1:1); and “the restoration of all things”, people and land, marks the end of all things with the re-creation of new heavens and a new earth. The Apostle John on the isle of Patmos had a special revelation of this great event of the restoration of all things.

(1). Restoration of the Land.

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth¹³, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God [see how everything is sent by the God in heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the New Jerusalem]...(Revelation 21:1,2)

(2). Before that, in Revelation 20:11-15, John saw the restoration of the peoples of the earth.

6. This famous “restoration of all things” was spoken of and written in the Prophets from the beginnings of the Bible. (Acts 3:21b)

2-2: Recently a Bible search question, sincere or insincere and skeptical who knows, came on www.biblecombibleman.com which asked “is sound doctrine the same as sound teaching?”

1. Sound doctrine is sound teaching if it comes from the Bible, as in the Bible the words “doctrine” and “teachings” are interchangeable.

2. When sound doctrine does not flow out of the Bible from the teachings of the Bible as given by the prophets, apostles, and Jesus the problem is not with the

¹³This is another problem of preaching in the church today that promotes the turning away from truth from the pulpits: you hear about heaven, but seldom do you hear about the new earth which is going to be the eternal above of all real “called and chosen” Christians after the Second Coming.

Bible, it is with the attitude of the interpreter. The reader or hearer must be willing to do what is taught in order to properly understand it

3. That brings us naturally to consider the ASPI interpretation of the Bible. It is quoted, “no scripture is of any private interpretation, **{Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation, as you must first be born again and then have the help of the Spirit for understanding}** but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:20,21), but few get the impact that this demands not many interpretations of Scripture, but only one; and anytime there is a contradiction of interpretation, one of more parties has lost contact with the reality of the way the Bible was written. Primarily contact with the Holy Spirit, and a pre-requisite to do the will of God and Christ in order to understand. In short, the majority of people and even Christians just can not get it into their heads, that the learning and understanding of the Bible is different from all other learning; because the Bible and the way it was written is different from all other books and wisdom,

2-3: *Another search question, what are the stages of turning away from truth?*

Hopefully this sincere seeker after Bible truth found the answer as directed to such e-book as DEN OF THIEVES, HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS, and most specifically in “Turning Away Finalizes the Falling Away”. It behooves that speaker to look at and download the free PDF of the same title and save to his computer, of course that requires a Adobe Reader is on his computer, also free from www.adobe.com.

As you have read or will read in “Turning Away Finalizes the Falling Away”, the introduction begins with the 5 stages of the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:4,5, of which “Turning Away” is the fourth stage. God Himself takes care of the 5th stage as such of called only but not chose of God’s people are “turned into fables”. **{It happened a long time ago to most in the Roman Catholic church and even more in the Mormon Church--in fact since they started with their famous non-Christian Bibles, there is a question as to how they could have every fallen into truth; but only in the last 40-80 years has it been happening to members of Protestant churches.}**

Then TURNING AWAY continues with a statement of the gist of the message:

“GIST OF THIS MESSAGE: TURNING AWAY FROM TRUTH IS
TURNING

AWAY FROM THE REAL GOD THAT IS THE FOUNTAIN OF
LIVING

WATERS, AND BEING TURNED INTO FABLES IS THE SELF-
CREATION

AND SELF CONSTRUCTION OF AN IMAGE OF GOD FOR
SALVATION THAT IS A BROKEN CISTERN THAT CAN NOT
HOLD WATER."

While most pastors today would have you think in order for increased membership, that falling away is absence from attendance at their church, a careful study of Bible, especially in Jeremiah and Hebrews, indicates that falling away is really a falling away from God, Christ, and the real Bible. One might say that everything that was lost in the Garden is once again lost as God's "called but not chosen" people lose the benefits of RESTORATION!

You must download and read the message. The other main points, which one might call the stages of turning away from truth, are: (1) the text of the message of Jeremiah 7:28 {don't forget that Jeremiah preached the stages of turning away from truth every day at the temple gate, and this is recorded in the famous temple message of Jeremiah 7 and 23; also that the Bible is given to not only individuals for examples of what to do and what not to do, but also to cities and nations (Jude 7)}; (2) what can help America and American churches today from Jeremiah deal with the stages of the falling away and of turning away from truth--the next time you read through the testing and tribulations of Revelation, and then pray at the close of the book "even so come quickly Lord Jesus Christ", remember that the twin events of the Falling Away and the final tribulation are (a) inevitable and (b) and must happen immediately before the Second Coming--

"3. The answer is simple: (1) a minority of Christians in the churches and in

America will overcome the Falling Away and the turning away from truth and (2) the majority of church members and citizens that lose the battle with truth also lose their salvation so that the Second Coming also loses hope of eternal salvation with God for them.

NOTE: Is it any wonder that Paul says "work out your salvation {or work at and with your salvation, and from the inside out} with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). And Paul writes in Hebrews, the book of the falling away, "how shall we escape {escape what? the falling away and eternal death} if we neglect {in any way} so great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3)

Remember we are still in the stages of turning away from the message you can

download in PDF, "Turning Away Finalizes the Falling Away":

(3) When truth dies in a nation of God's people, and the answer is in Jeremiah 7, for God's people then and now; and if you have not read it, and meditate on it, and taken it very seriously as to what could also happen to you other people who think you are among God's chosen, THEN WAKE UP!

(4) When was truth born in Israel?

(5) True Prophecy is truth: False Prophecy is a lie and False Truth.

(6) How Judah was cut off from the truth? Here is your answer in that message of the stages of the turning away, 1...2...3, etc.

(7) Falling Away is to the Second Coming as Truth is to the Falling away. In other words the falling away must come before the Second Coming and a loss of truth before the great apostasy of the Falling Away¹⁴.

(8) A nation of God's people, majority-wise, can turn away from truth. It happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and it can happen here.

(9) As the pillar of the truth crumbles and as the ground of the truth shakes.

(10) We depend on the truth about truth in the Bible.

(11) Strange so much about truth in the Bible and yet so little heard from the pulpits of the nation. One would think we are already deep into this fourth {turning away from truth} and final stage of the Falling away just before God turns our whole nation into fables.

2-4: What will be restored at the end? as Restoration of ALL things at the end time Second Coming of Christ is obvious in the text above of Acts, "...Jesus Christ...whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things..." (Acts 3:29,21)

The very general answer is simple: EVERYTHING LOST IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WHEN MAN FIRST SINNED WILL BE RESTORED!

1. Yes brethren, it is shouting time as first of all close fellowship with this great God of the Universe, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ will be restored through Christ. It was lost as God cast our distant forefathers, Adam and Eve, out of the Garden; and it will be restored as God lowers the New Jerusalem down from

¹⁴If you are real serious and spiritual Christian, that can also see and understand the Bible, with "eyes to see and ears to hear", you can see both happening now

heaven to ever live and dwell among a new world with a new earth of God's people.

2. For those that have already died in Christ and those caught up with them at the Second Coming and termination of the old earth by fire, the physical bodies of real Christians that have previously on the old earth been members of the one body, the assembly of Christ, will be restored. Lost in the Garden was sinlessness, lost was the absence of pain and sorrow and death; and all these lost benefits will be restored! Isn't that worth a shout. This is in short full salvation of the everlasting soul with the body. While today preachers use the words like lost and save, and speak of how there is the beginning of salvation in the new birth with continuation in Christlikeness through sanctification by the Spirit of God, then finally glorification at the END as the soul and body come back together, Peter in this famous second sermon after the Ascension of Christ described it all and more in the potently packed words of "the restoration of all things".

3. It is beyond our understanding as to which Christians of the assembly written in heaven will be better off, the ones that have already died before the Second Coming or the ones who must make it through the Falling Away and the final tribulation of destruction of the old earth, OR the Christians who have already died "in Christ". Obviously while the previously dead Christians can have their souls in heaven with God and Jesus before the Second Coming, then be transferred with their bodies to everlasting life on the new earth, this is contrasted with the live ones who have their bodies and souls instantly restored at the Second Coming. And again, it is shouting time as either one is great!

Chapter 3: Some Fundamentals of Refreshing Evangelism

Granted this series on “Refreshing Evangelism”, introduced with the times of refreshing and of restoration of Acts 3:19-21, starts with a temple address to the “men of Israel” (Acts 3:12) by the Apostle Peter, it will continue on a much larger scale than that with “Come and See” evangelism from the Apostle John and the Gospel of John, simultaneously with “Gospel Pride” from the Apostle Paul and the book of Romans. The continuity with Peter, John, and Paul naturally come with this textual beginning of the text of Acts 3:19-21 {please read it now} from that great historical book of the beginnings of Christianity sometimes called the Acts of the Apostles and/or the Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles of Christ and other dedicated Christians.

And from the get-go, as you have noticed in the first two messages, and in the outreach statement of the sixth years of SunGrist Bible on www.biblecombibleman.com, one Bible statement from one or a few verses, of say Acts, in the very nature of the Bible with a “Consistency of Content”¹⁵, quickly demands attention for proper understanding of the total context of the Bible from other books like Revelation and II Thessalonians. “Refreshing Evangelism” will stay this large, and get larger because the whole Bible to a certain extent is refreshing evangelism. Simply when you read the Bible as the Word of God {as you should}, you can quickly become involved in moments of refreshing; and often you are reminded of the total message of hope in the Bible {as Paul writes “if in this world only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable”} that ends with the restoration of all things with the END {See the two messages on “the End”, part 1 and part 2 in PDF for download on this website} of time and the Second Coming of Christ.

Yet “Refreshing Evangelism”, like the subject, itself will have certain focus in the Bible:

1. A foundation for refreshing evangelism from Peter and Acts 3:19-21.

¹⁵Read in the series of the Top 12 Topics of the Bible” about the consistency of the Bible as the Word of God. It is divine in origin, absolute in authority, sufficient in message, high fidelity in communications, and consistent in both structure and content.

2. Refreshing evangelism from Jesus Himself through the Apostle John and the book of John under the subtitle of COME AND SEE.

3. This refreshing Gospel, the source of both refreshing and restoration, is supplemented in an Appendix on the book of Romans, lest we forget any details of the Gospel, or go off on tangents of our own making; and under the subtitle of “A Focus on Gospel Pride”.

Let's jump in!

3-1: Why Should The Outreach of Refreshing Evangelism be Primarily for the Overcomers in the local churches? {Revelation 2 and 3}

Outreach is for the overcomers in the church because that is where evangelism of any kind must start. It is also for potential overcomers outside the local church, and for those disgusted with denominations and churches but members of both the kingdom of Christ and of the “church of the firstborn written in heaven”.

1. Examples in the Bible, both of right and wrong, are given to churches as well as individuals.

“Now all these thing happened to them as EXAMPLES, and they were written for admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” (I Cor 10:11)

2. Some may wonder why if churches are so bad today, at least 5 out of 7 or 70% of them, why doesn't Christ come right now to remove their candlestick like He threatened 5 out of 7 of the first century churches of Asia Minor. Isn't the answer obvious? First century churches didn't have the Bible as a standard for church examples like today. Christ does not have to repeat Himself today, since a New Testament church is a NT church, today or yesterday.

3. And even as Solomon wrote that “there is nothing new under the sun”, so churches deal with the same sins and worldliness today as then.

Briefly we will remind ourselves of the sins so serious in the seven churches (Revelation 2 and 3) that Christ threatened their removal as part of the kingdom of God: (1) a falling away from their first love, no more passion¹⁶ for Christ and the Bible; (2) there were allowing unchecked {more fear of rudeness, the most horrible sin that an American can commit} the influence of some members who were committed to unsound doctrine¹⁷; (3) the church allowed a woman of sin in the church to be a teacher, and to seduce other church members into the sin of idolatry; (4) a reputation in the community and the denomination, for several reasons, for being an ALIVE church, but in the sight of Christ and God they were a DEAD church¹⁸; (5) they had and have forgotten what and how they first received of the Word of God as they were founded on sound Bible from the Apostle Paul; (6) the expressions of their Christian faith were mediocre, neither hot nor cold¹⁹; and (7) they, after becoming church members became enamored with the Gospel of Wealth, of prosperity, and success; and like all the wealthy of the world no longer looked above for help, thinking they “needed nothing”²⁰.

¹⁶Unfortunately the American world has done a job on Christians and others {sometimes called PC for political correctness} in labeling any show of passion or conviction as rudeness. You noticed how during the Presidential debates between Obama and Romney any expression of passion or conviction was labeled as rude.

¹⁷The unsound doctrines of Balaam and Balak and of the Nicolaitans.

¹⁸For churches like individuals, there is the propensity to judge on appearance rather than righteous judgement. In fact this can be added to the list of differences between the American Democratic Faith and the Christian Faith: appearance over absolute reality in the sight of God and as recorded in the Bible, fear of rudeness replaces passion and conviction {part of an extremism that has a very worldly concept of toleration, while at the same time part of a growing as part of the falling away an intolerance toward sound doctrine (II Timothy 4:4,5), and the majority more than the minority {alias to Christ a few over the many},

¹⁹The whole matter of church membership to them was as routine as the daily brushing of teeth.

²⁰You see the problem of riches or wealth, or those who desire them, it passes the dependence for salvation--past, present, and future--from God to possesses and status. Simply, I have need for nothing, I have arrived, and I am self-made.

3-2: It is primarily church members and Christians, not the rest of the world, that possess something to fall away from—from God, Christ, and the Bible.-

Do you think that in this day of appearing nice that any church member would actually think of their membership as divided by Christ between “overcomers” and the defeated. How horrible, even from Christ Himself to suggest such faithfulness to the Word and convictions based on the Bible, to accuse some of your fellow church members of such sins in the sight of God as those listed above in 5 out of 7 of the churches above.

Yet just like with our own schools, education, and churches, we always think that we are the 2 out of 7, just because it is our church. Someone recently had the Bible search question on www.biblecombibleman.com, “tell me more about the churches in Nigeria that are falling away”. You see, just preachers preach today with words they know the congregation wants to hear, so the human tendency while ignoring the defeated and Falling Away in American churches, look to it in other parts of the world.

NOTE: Even as the Falling Away is a grassroots movement throughout the whole world, so your church is now in the fourth stage of the Falling Away of “turning away from truth”, and the next step already taken years ago by several denominations is the being turned into fables.

3-3: However what part of the whole world is now in the great apostasy called the Falling Away (II Timothy 4:4,5), do we fail to comprehend unless we have the audacity to think that we are not part of this world where we live.

Unfortunately our prayer for “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven” has only happened in heaven, not earth yet; for beyond the increase in sin and lawless (II Thess 2:7) that all living Christians must go through, the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth which releases Satan to do his worst—beyond all that where Christians must fight but not win, is the final victory at the Second Coming of Christ with the restoration of all things.

NOTE: You must see clearly all these aspects of that tremendous falling

Chapter 4: Who Is Jesus from John Chapters 6-10?

On this most critical question that any of God's creatures can be asked, according to the Book which God has written, is WHO IS JESUS? If you have the opportunity, you may want to listen to "Who Is Jesus?" from one of the greatest preachers that has ever lived, one George W. Truett, and from back in the days when southern Baptists were really southern Baptist. Or you can read a book of sermons from Truett with this message in it; that is, unless the BBFs²¹ have not already removed it from the Lifeway book stores.

4-1: Who Is Jesus? from John 6-10.

We will look at this sectional Bible Study on, "Who IS JESUS?", in terms of Who Jesus said that He was to His contemporaries; in terms of what the Apostle John wrote who He was to them; and to terms of the different reactions and divisions among the people and the leaders as to who Jesus was. This will assist in the understanding from the Bible of what the conditions are for the rest of God. We will see primarily in the reactions of the Jews of Christ's day how most did not meet those conditions of eternal rest, and why. Note how intense it is in this five chapters of John, from chapter six to ten. Jesus does a lot of teaching and Jesus performs miracles; but everything He says unless it is in private to the disciples is challenged, from the Jewish leaders, the people, and even His brothers. We find during the events of these five chapters that many of the disciples that followed Jesus around--some looking for a permanent way to be fed--ceased to follow Him. They could not understand how He was the bread of life. They choked at eating His flesh as the means for everlasting life. In fact one of the many reactions of the people was, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" Jesus explained that to His larger group of disciples, but many still left following Him. {NOTE: And now we will complete this Bible study with a combination of signs or works with the diverse reactions of the people. It is felt that the same reactions

²¹Bible Baptists Fundamentalists that now control the Southern Baptist Convention.

of the people in the First Century is the same as the reactions that are possible to people today. And that these are in certain categories.}

(R1) The Jewish Leaders Murmured because Jesus said that He was the Bread of Life and that He came down from heaven.

"The Jews then murmured against Him, because He said, 'I am the bread which came down from heaven.'" (John 6:41)

The first reaction we considered is in John 6:41 where the Jewish leaders reacted because Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life and said that He came down from heaven. So this is a reaction to the teaching sign of Jesus of the bread of life that followed the miracle sign of the feeding of the Five Thousand. The sign of course of the feeding of five thousand pointed to Jesus as the Bread of Life. They had investigated this Jesus of Nazareth more than they admitted. Why He is the son of Joseph, we know His Father and Mother. Once again as He heard the murmuring among the leaders, Jesus reminded them that they could not come to Him unless the Father draw them.

(R2) Some of the Jews quarreled among themselves as to how Jesus could give them His flesh and blood to eat, and many of the disciples said this is a hard saying.

"The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, 'How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?....These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, 'This is a hard saying; who can understand it?'" (John 6:52,60 NJKV)

Does this offend you. And He explains how it is the Spirit, the Holy Spirit that gives life.

(R3) Many disciples went back and walked no more with Jesus, but Simon Peter made the famous confession of Faith. (John 6:66 and 68,69).

"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also want to go away?' Then Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" (John 6:66-69 NJKV)

(R4) The brothers chastised Jesus for not making more public appearances: At this point even the brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him (John 7:5). Jesus was walking openly in Galilee more than Judea because the Jews sought to kill Him. And when it was close to time for the Feast of Tabernacles, his brothers chastised Him for not going at first in order that the larger body of disciples could see His works. "Show yourself to the world," was their words.

"For even His brothers did not believe in Him." (John 7:5 NJKV)

(R5) Seeking of Jesus by Jews, and Murmuring among the people that He is Good and others that He deceived the People. (John 7:12). Later we will come to a series of three questions from the Pharisees. Here we have some of the Jews, that is Jewish leaders asking "Where is He?" They were actively seeking Him and could not find Him. Of course, their motives already were to persecute and kill Jesus. Already the Jews had placed the people on notice that if anyone believed in Jesus, since it was heresy, they would be put out of the Temple; so the people "murmured among themselves" in a semi-whisper. Some murmured, "Jesus is Good." Others murmured, "No, Jesus is not good because He deceives the people."

"And there was much murmuring among the people concerning Him. Some said, 'He is good'; others said, 'No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.' However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews." (John 7:12,13)

(R6) The Jewish leaders as Jesus taught in the Temple marveled about where Jesus received His education (John 7:15,16), and Jesus explains where His doctrine or teachings come from.

"And the Jews marveled, saying, 'How does this Man know letters, having never studied?' Jesus answered them and said, 'My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether I speak on My own authority.'" (John 7:15-17 NJKV)

(R7) Some People Replied that Jesus had a Demon because He said that the leaders were trying to kill Him (John 7:20,21), because of one work they were trying to kill Him. Others from Jerusalem said this is He that they seek to kill (John 7:25ff); is this Christ, but we know where He is from.

"The people answered and said, 'You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'I did one work, and you all marvel.'" (John 7:20,21 NJKV)

This was back at Jerusalem where they knew primarily of only one miracle-sign, that of the healing of the man on the sabbath at the pool of Bethesda.

(R8) They sought to take Him but could not as it was not time (John 7:30); but many believed (7:31) when they saw the Signs that He performed. The Pharisees and chief priests sent officers of the Sanhedrin to take Him as they heard what the people were saying about Jesus (John 7:32).

"Then they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. And many of the people believed in Him, and said, 'When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done. The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.'" (John 7:31,32 NJKV)

(R9) On the Last day of the Feast as Jesus spoke of the Living water (John 7:37-39) the reactions were diverse: many said this is the Prophet; many said this is Christ; others will Christ come out of Galilee; and there was a division among the People (John 7:43) Since this is the most positive reaction of the crowd in Jerusalem to the Teachings of Jesus, we should look at it carefully.

4-2: *What did Jesus teach them?*

1. Let those that are thirsty come to Him;
2. Who believes in Jesus out of his heart, according to the Scripture (Isaiah 12:3,43:20,44:3, and 55:1), would flow rivers of living water.
3. John explains this phenomena of water out of the heart as the Holy Spirit, which was not yet come, did come on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension.

"Therefore many from the crowd, when they hard this saying, said, 'Truly this is the Prophet.' Others said, 'This is the Christ,' but some said, 'Will the Chris come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?' So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him." (John 8:40-44 NJKV)

(R10) The Sign of Jesus forgiving the woman in adultery pointed to His teaching as the Light of the Word, and the reaction of the Pharisees was that He was a witness to Himself (John 8:13).

"The Pharisees therefore said to Him, 'You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.'" (John 8:13 NJKV)

(R11) A series of questions: from the Pharisees, "Where is your Father?" (John 8:19); from the Jews, "Will He kill Himself?" (John 8:22); from the Jews, "Who are you?" (John 8:25)8-13: (R13) But many believed on Him when they heard His answer (John 8:30). Here is the crux of the whole matter as to how the world has accepted Jesus, how we should accept Jesus. These three key questions, His answers, and then the final answer about His lifting up caused many to believe on Him. Following is the intense sequence.

(1). What triggered the first question: the Pharisees stated that His testimony to Himself, when He said "I am the light of the world" was not true because He was His own witness. In other words, He was patting Himself on the back.

(2). Jesus replied that He knew where He came from and where He was going back to; then reminded them of the law of the Old Testament which said that the testimony was true from two men; and the conclusion was since the Father and Himself bore testimony to Him as the Light of the World, the testimony was true.

(3). The Pharisees could not let it stand there, and the first question in this series came, "Who is your Father?" Always the questions were attempts to trap Jesus. Jesus answered the question in two parts (John 8:19-21): (1) You don't know the Father and you don't know me or stated a different way If you had known the Father you would also know Jesus, the two go hand in hand; and (2) I am leaving, Jesus said, and you will seek me for salvation, but you will die in your sins since you cannot come where I go.

(4). This triggered the second question in that series of three, again from the Pharisees, and among themselves but so that the people and Jesus could hear, "Will he kill himself?" They tried to start the rumor that Jesus was going to commit suicide. This question came after Jesus said where I am going you cannot come. Jesus answer this time was once again the heart of the Gospel: (1) You are from this world and I am from another world; (2) You will die in your sins because you do not believe that I am He.

(5). This in turn triggered the third question from the Pharisees, probably the most important question that can ever be asked and then answered properly. Let us see what the answer of Jesus is? First the third question, " WHO ARE YOU?" "Who are you, Jesus?" is the most important question than any human on earth can ask. The answer of Jesus is:

a. Exactly what I have been saying to you from the beginning, no doubt the beginning of His ministry.

b. I have many things to say and to Judge of you; but as God is true, I speak to the world the things that I heard from Him. Jesus says that He is only an echo of the Father. What He heard, He repeated! (The Apostle John adds that they did not know that He spoke of the Father since He used the words "He" and "Him".)

c. Then comes the Gospel of the Atonement, and herein is found the condition for eternal rest as God the Father set it up. Jesus said that when you have lifted up the Son of Man then you will now know who He is; and that nothing is done by Jesus except what the Father taught Him (the implication here being that it is also recorded by the Father in the Scriptures of the Old Testament). The Father is with Him at all times.

d. As He spoke these words many believed on Him. Belief is the condition of eternal rest, and the reason most of the house of Israel after 40 years of testing God in the wilderness could not enter eternal rest, or even the Promised Land of Israel, was because of "an evil heart of unbelief", naturally the opposite of belief.

"As He spoke these words, many believed in Him" (John 8:30 NJKV)

e. You know how Billy Graham seeks to instruct those who believe after they have made a public profession of faith. Well, here Jesus is doing the same thing. We have the Master Teacher telling us exactly what it means to be a Christian, what it means to have faith. [1] You are indeed my disciples if you abide in my word; and [2] You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.

(R12) Some of the believers mixed with the Pharisees were very questioning, they reacted that they were already free since Abraham's seed, never having been in bondage. (John 8:33). Probably more the Pharisees than the believers.

"They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free.'" (John 8:33 NJKV)

They wanted to believe, but they did not want to be insulted. They were not slaves to anybody including the despised Roman government that ruler over their country. So Jesus explained what it meant to be in bondage and to be freed by the truth:

(R13) The Jews called Him a Samaritan and a Demon (John 8:48); then after His replies took up stones to stone Him (John 8:59).

(R14) The Pharisees became divided after Jesus performed the miracle-sign of healing the man blind from birth, some said that He could not be of God since He did not keep the sabbath, and others said how can a man that is a sinner doe these signs.

"Therefore some of the Pharisees said, 'This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How can a man who is sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them." (John 9:16)

We should carefully note the reaction of the man healed and then that of the Pharisees who cast him out of the Temple. **{There are more reactions from this sign in John 10:19-21}**

(R16) Reaction to the If you are Christ tell us plainly; and I and My Father are one; as they took up stones to stone Him. (John 10:22-42). We have a summary of reactions in the next section in Tabular form as some believe and others try to stone Jesus.

4-3: Conclusion, A Summary of What They Said About Jesus. Somewhere you may find yourself and your answers to Jesus. After all, it is what you say about Jesus that counts for your eternal rest in salvation.

TABLE 1. People Reactions to Jesus' Signs (these signs primarily teachings)

Location	Group	Reaction	What Jesus Said/Did to Trigger
8-1: John 6:41	Jews	Murmured Against Jesus	Said "I am the Bread of Life"

8-2: John 6:52	Some of the Jews	Quarreled Among Themselves	Said "Bread that I give is my flesh"
6:60	Many of larger group disciples	Said, "A Hard Saying" and "Who Can Understand It"	"Eat my Flesh and Drink My Blood"
8-3: John 6:66	Many of larger group disciples	Went back and walked no more with Jesus	(1) if you see the Ascension; (2) words are spirit and life;
6:69	12 disciples	made confession of faith lead by Peter	(3). some do not believe that the Father has not granted
8-4: John 7:3-5	Jesus' brothers	Chastised His lack of public appearances in Jerusalem	Stayed in Galilee more than Judea
8-5: John 7:11	Jews	"Where Is He?"	Delayed His trip to Jerusalem
7:12,13	The People	"He is good" vs "No, He deceives the people." (murmured for fear of the Jews)	
8-6: John 7:15	Jews	Marveled, where is His learning	Jesus Taught in the Temple
8-7: John 7:20	The People	Answered, "You have a demon, who is seeking to kill you."	Moses gave you the law and you seek to kill Me.
8-8: John 7:25-27	Residents of Jerusalem	(1). This One speaking openly is the One the Jews seek to kill, "do they know this is the Christ; (2). We know where this Man is from: when Christ comes no one knows where He is from.	Mentions the one miracles in Jerusalem: the man at Bethesda Urges righteous judgment as they circumcised on the sabbath
8-9: John 7:30-32,45,46	"they" Many of people Pharisees Officers	sought to take Him believed in Him and said, "will Christ do more signs than this" Pharisees and chief priests sent officers of the court to arrest Him "No man ever spoke like this"	You know Me and where I am from, but not the One who sent me Thirst, everlasting life, and the Spirit

8-10: John 7:40-53	Many of crowd Some of people officers Pharisees Nicodemus Pharisees everyone	"Truly, this is the Prophet" or "This is the Christ" or "Will Christ come out of Galilee?" there was a division among people wanted to take Jesus "no man ever spoke like this" "are you also deceived; have rulers or Pharisees believed "the crowd does not know the law and is accursed" "does our law judge a man before listening and seeing" no prophet comes out of Galilee everyone went to his house	Discourse on living waters out of the heart from Old Testament, and John later explains as Holy Spirit
8-11: John 8:13	Pharisees	Since you witness of yourself, your witness is not true.	Jesus discourse on "I am the Light" and followers do not walk in darkness
8-12: John 8:19,22,and 25	Pharisees and Jews	"Where is Your Father?" "Will He kill Himself?" "Who are You?"	I and My Father are the two witnesses that bear testimony
8-13: John 8:30 and 33	Pharisees mixed with some that believed	many believed they answer, as Abraham's descendants have never been in bondage	told of lifting up and Father with told of need to be free with truth

4-4: Three skeptical questions from the agnostics who claimed to be children of Abraham and of God. {Sort of ironical since Jesus came from residing in heaven with God. He knew God, and He knew the people of God!}

The people seldom, if ever, reacted adversely to the miracles as that did something for them: they reacted to the teachings because that required something from them. Now the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders did react to the miracles as that caused the people to leave them to follow Jesus. We

should look at the sequence of questions from the Jewish leaders, and the answers of Jesus.

1. **"Where Is He?" (John 7:11)** The answer of Jesus was by showing up during the middle of the feast time.

2. **"How did This Man Get An Education?" (John 7:15)** Jesus explained to them that His doctrine or teachings came from the God that sent Him, and that anyone that was actually seeking God's will they could tell whether it was from God or not. If it comes from a man himself, it is for his own glory; but it is true if the doctrine seeks the glory of the One that sent Him.

3. **"Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks" after he said "You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come?"**

Chapter 5: Reading for Soul's Hearing: Faith and Hope.

Not as much is known about the soul, since it is invisible in life and death; but we naturally suspect that the soul consists of the same heart and mind as the physical body, and that even as the heart and mind of this physical body have the physical senses of sound, hearing, smell, taste, and touch, so the senses of the soul are comparable in that they can both be touched with the eternal, and that like the 5 physical senses, they can often experience "times of refreshing from the presence of the LORD". (Acts 3:19). From the recent excitement about doomsday in 2012 from the Mayan calendar, we know that the human heart and mind, with the soul, is extremely curious about the "time of restoration of all things" that is the ultimate and END refreshing from the presence of the Lord as He from heaven sends the Lord Jesus Christ back to earth to wrap it all up with ultimate, eternal justice.

Like a cool shower on a hot and sandy beach, like a refreshing rain in a Texas drought, like a cup of water after hours in the desert, so is the kinds of "times of refreshing" that can come from the Great Eternal LORD God. {Often the Bible uses LORD for God the Father and Lord for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God to distinguish from Who is really at the top in control, and Who has also determined that Jesus would be the only name and means for salvation.} At this start of the new year of 2013, perhaps you would like a few reminders from the Bible of possible ways for these times of refreshing, might even desire to include them among your new years resolutions.

5-1. Greater than the big bang theory, there is a big blotting out spiritual reality, the primary time of refreshing from the LORD God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

That big blotting out is God's guarantee in His Word for the forgiveness of sins, the promise after confession of sins to Him through Christ, that He will remove your sins as far as the east is from the west. You can not get any better guarantee or promise than this, one from the Great Lord God, Creator of the Universe and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is right there in His

Word and backed up by the Apostle Peter, or we should really say that Peter's testimony is backed up in many places by the rest of the Bible. And the really good and refreshing news for anybody at anytime is that it applies to both sides of salvation, the BEFORE and the AFTER. {See a summary of the book of Ephesians, Paul's Statement of Faith and Practice on www.biblecombibleman.com/Ephesians.html or download the free PDF at www.biblecombibleman.com/Ephesians.pdf .}

Did you forget the scripture from Acts 3:19-21 of this series and Appendix on REFRESHING EVANGELISM?

5-2. Revel in the Word of God, the Bible, in 2013, that will bring you many times of refreshing from God through Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This reveling in the Word is a refreshing to the soul's senses in that it brings to the human heart, mind, and soul HOPE and Faith. Just to think of the Bible connection between HOPE and FAITH is refreshing.

1. FAITH.

(1). Faith comes first, faith in the Bible and faith in God the Father, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith in the Holy Spirit as your Comforter going right through life with you. {Even this much faith alone will prevent the wallowing in MISERY that we hear from the largest pulpits as the misery problem gains more attention than the faith and hope solution. Goodness, some Christian evidences and apologetics has it place, and I grew up on it--see the web page at www.biblecombibleman.com/ChristianEvidencesApologetics.html ; but to attempt to apologize for our God the Father because of pain, sin, suffering, and calamities in the world is taking it far beyond the extent that is recommend in good homiletics, "to start where people are, and take them where they should be."} LET US PRIMARILY HOLD UP THE STANDARD OF FAITH AND HOPE, THAT "AGAINST HOPE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO BELIEVE IN HOPE".

NOTE: This quote from the Bible bespeaks of 2 kinds of hope: (a) in the "against hope" it is the ordinary ways and thoughts of the world, where our logic, experience, and life's philosophy, and even church understanding and culture, tell us that it just can not and will not be; and (b) the second half of the quote from the Bible tells of hope beyond the ordinary, against the ordinary hope, for example Abraham and Sarah believed God when He told them that at 100 years of age they would have a son, that son was Isaac.²²

Like Paul said, you should be "put in remembrance" as much as taught from the Bible that **"faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)**

2. HOPE.

(1). Hope is also for blessings in this life; for example Abraham, "who against hope, believed in hope" (Romans 4:18) as God told him that there would be many descendants to come out of his lineage.

(2). Take some scriptures on "hope" from a concordance; then look them up in your Bible, read them and dwell on them including the context. Think of the

²²Most of us can not appreciate how hard it is for a short preacher in a big pulpit to stand up in front of a large congregation of a historical church in a significant downtown, one primarily of wealthy, rich, and comfortable and well-to-do church members and give real depth in faith and hope which exceeds philosophy, psychology, and cultural understanding; but anything else borders on "itching ears" Bible teaching and preaching. It sounds like a pastor, so loaded with administration that little time remains for the double honor of "word and doctrine", who needs his ears flattered with comfort, with the comfort of approval from his own wealthy and worldly congregation {wrapped up in "the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of sin. For show and leadership in the Convention, claiming that this local church is there to help you in this economic crunch, sufferings and calamities, as if you need an omnibus man or priest because you can not go directly to God through Christ and with the help of the Comforter to get HOPE and FAITH. How much help in the midst of many meetings is such a church to the needy that daily sit in the shadow of the church building, or how a lesser dressed and lesser respected person might feel in those congregations. Then you realize that this church, this people, and this pastor have made captives of themselves in that isolated environment where the GO and make disciples is more for meetings with fellow church members. In that kind of audience, you just can not get a good Bible response of faith and hope as they have found their comforts against suffering, evil, and pain in this life and in their money and possessions. Because of the influence of the Falling Away in our world, you will seldom find that second kind of hope and faith where "against" the norm "believed in hope itself"; and the biggest part of the story remains to be seen and told if we do not rapidly come to "if in this life only we have hope, then we are of all men most miserable." A large part of the misery impression from that message is a prolonged dwelling on the sin, suffering, and pain and calamities that last only for a short time, the complete story is not told until you look at the justice and rightness of the much larger eternal life with the Father on the new earth. If we could only visualize the blessings of eternity, misery would be eclipsed and surely it would be torture just to tolerate this life on earth.

meaning and the implications for you. For example "hope" in Psalm 39:7--it is thoughts about God and hope, "My hope is in You, deliver me from my transgressions..."; or "hope" in I John 3:3 where the implications for you are great as either you already have that hope inside you, or you can--"And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure"; or read the famous hope and faith chapter of Hebrews 11, especially if you desire a good report card from God at the end--"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for {you see some of the great relationship between Christian faith and Christian hope}, the evidence of things not seen." As an exercise in Bible study you might satisfy your curiosity of how many hopes in the roll call of faith were fulfilled as the heroes of faith were still here on earth, and how many had to exercise enough faith and hope to wait for an eternal fulfillment.

3. Come to the river of living waters for times of refreshing from the presence of the LORD, through prayer, prayer meditation, and real meat filled Bible study. **{Don't cheat yourself of what surely must be one of the prime occupations of our time in eternity, reveling in the Word!²³}**

Learn to enjoy your Bibles, like prophesy (I Corinthians 14), it has "edification, comfort, and exhortation". Use your concordance to look some word like "hope" in the Bible, that is certainly an encouraging word. Do helpful and refreshing things with the Word like taking the faith chapter of Hebrews 11, then with 2 separate columns list which hope of these heroes of faith was hope in this world, and which was hope for the better things to come in the AFTER END life.

NOTE: The helpful table below on faith and hope, from the famous Hebrews chapter 11 of faith and hope is given to you as a primer for your individual seeking after faith and hope, just like God intended the original writing of Hebrews and Hebrews 11 for your faith and hope. The table is only a primer to get you to continue it in your soul by PRAYERFUL MEDITATION if not on paper or in a Word document.

²³God makes Himself known, according to the Word in the first chapters of Romans, in the marvelous designs of Creation and nature, in the individual and collective conscience of societies; but primarily, in that it is so much more objective and concrete, in the words of the Word.

TABLE 1. Was the Hope in this Life or in the Next Life?

Hebrews 11	The hero and act of faith	Hope in this life?	Hope in the Next Life?
verse 2	The forefathers in our Christian faith obtained a good testimony.	It must have given them some comfort to know that they would be remembered for their good testimony	However the testimony as recorded in the Bible was for the future generations, and the good works recordings in heaven.
verse 3	verse 3 is about us: faith that the world was framed by God. ²⁴	Benefits in this life for good or evil: either we benefit with the rewards of faith and hope in this life; or being in a godless evolution, we reap what is sown in culture.	God, who had our hairs numbered, Who knows when we sit down or get up, also notes every little act of faith and hope for the eternal record.
verse 4	Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice.	Benefits in both lives: in this one as a witness was laid on him of a right or righteous life, also God witnessed it.	.and for the next life, it was recorded and noted that He was righteous, a characteristic needed for those new people that will inherit the new earth!

²⁴This was not a Conviction previously mentioned, but among those who have the most trouble with sin, suffering, evil and pain are those who have no faith that God created us and the Universe. With an increase of that faith in God with more realization of all these natural details of His design, comes more hope both in this life and the life to come.

verse 5	Enoch walked with God and pleased God.	You can have the hope of the challenge in this life that you also can please God and walk with God. A big in the present life benefit for Enoch was that he did not have to pass through the drastic change of death.	You can see how God wanted his friendship with Himself up there in heaven, and how welcome Enoch must have felt!
verse 6	faith in faith and hope itself	with faith: you can please God, and you can have confidence to come to God, which you must do in order to be rewarded in this life and the life to come. If you believe that “He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”, as contrasted to those who ignore and neglect Him except during suffering and calamity, then you will bare min be rewarded with “God’s grace is sufficient, for His strength is made perfect in weakness.”	faith with its side kick of hope is really the only means of entering into this after life, that is real faith in the Lord Jesus Christ of our Lord God the Father, and the means that they have provided for salvation.
verse 7	Noah built the ark	surely this epitomizes the “against hope” of the world, since the rest of the world scoffed until the rains and flooding	Noah became “an heir of the righteousness which is by faith”, which bespeaks of rewards in both lives.
verse 8	at the command from God, Abraham left his home for an unknown inheritance	There was some hope in this life in that because of this faith in God, Abraham did find the promised land of Canaan for himself, his family, and his heritage in the Jewish people.	God also acknowledge Abraham as the friend of God, as the father of two great peoples--Jews and Arabs--and a supreme example for all Gods people of faith.

verse 9	by faith Abraham moved to a foreign land and lived in tents with his family	This would have to be also in the “against hope” category of the life on earth. Surely there was not a large amount of comfort, as the world considers comfort, in a heathen land and in tents.	Now, besides being considered the father of 2 great peoples, Abraham is our great forefather in the faith.
verse 10	this is the hope that faith in God brings, Abraham “waited” in hope and faith	“for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”	Faith and hope in God the maker and Creator, and faith in the city of New Jerusalem that He has promised
verse 11 and 12	the faith and hope of Sarah and Abraham	AGAINST HOPE: “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child, when she was past the age...”	“.because she judged Him faithful Who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.” ²⁵

²⁵Actually it would be better to have 3 columns, the first on this present life, the second on the influence and heritage on this world to future generations, and then the third in eternity. However that can be left as a fruitful exercise for you--much better than misery and more beneficial--as you might want to complete the rest of the verses of Hebrews 11 in your own chart, or mind!

5-3. After approximately 5 years of Bible study in Jeremiah and Prophecy, you never expected to come back to Jeremiah for Bible teachings on the human needs for refreshings from sin and sins.

Actually "Bible Studies in Jeremiah" continues to be the number one web page each week for www.biblecombibleman.com. With approximately over 500 page visits and 27 hours of visit time per week, it continues to lead all the web pages of the over 6 years of SunGrist_Bible on www.biblecombibleman.com. More people continue to come into the Jeremiah web page {and many messages of Jeremiah web pages} than even the index for the web site, so this is no effort to knock what was is still a number one interest.

1. It is only that in general we look at Jeremiah for info on how and why God's first group of people, Judah and Jerusalem, did backsliding and falling away from God. Sorry we didn't get to it much then on the cause and cure of sin for the individual now, so momentarily we plunge back into Jeremiah for the cause and cure of sin.

(1). The human heart is born sinful and desperately wicked.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

(2). The cure for sin is an initial time of refreshing where according to Peter your "sins are blotted out", and one which by the way continues with conversion and repentance, to take away the old stony heart and replace it with a new heart. {Just to think of this possibility is a time of refreshing!}

NOTE: Even as you can not blame our God when He sends calamities on people who live their whole lives in routines and ignore and neglect Him, so we can lay on Him the kind of environment that has been created as a result of the way sin entered the blood stream of the human race because of rebellion against God. Even this dominant in America and American life and lifestyle, it's a rebellion against God. It is certainly obvious that it is the opposite of loving God with all the heart, mind, and soul.

“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh...” (Ezekiel 11:19)²⁶

2. We walk a tightrope as Christians, going out to the victims of God-sent calamities, so many of which has recently been seen in America since 9/11, with compassion and humble unselfish service, and yet recognizing that what Americans sow is what Americans will reap. We just can not blame our Great God for all this neglect and ignorance of God, and increasingly so, in America. Can we know where such calamities are just the inevitable consequence of the “whole creation groaning like a woman in travail” or chastisement from God, we must have the courage of convictions, also of faith and hope, that both exist! Yes, of some, we can say “they deserved it because of the way they were treating God”, to others we can say they suffered for no wrong which they had done {and that there is always the potential to come out soul-wise better for it}; and then to say that we can not judge with righteous judgment which is which on each individual block and at each individual home, nor are we supposed to. To know that overall America and Americans are increasingly drifting away from God, Christ, and the Bible; that them and their churches are increasingly becoming the listeners after false prophets and the victims of “because sin shall abound, the love of many will wax cold”; that American churches and false prophets keep heaping up to themselves with such false doctrines as “rapture”, “millennium” {not even Bible words}, and the Gospel of Prosperity, these unsound prophets and itching ears teachers, part of the hope and faith is that the END is very near when Christ comes again. “Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 22:20)

3. Since the heart is born wicked and still retains a certain amount of sin and wickedness after a new heart, therefore insuring in any life a certain amount of continuing sin, what is the difference between the saved and the unsaved sinner, between occasional sin and habitual sin?

Don't ever forget that God chose to call David a friend after His own heart in spite of that one sinful act of adultery where David took Bathsheba as his wife

²⁶Actually this second quote is from Ezekiel instead of Jeremiah, but remember in the “Jeremiah and Prophecy” studies there was also much from Ezekiel. One might even call Ezekiel the book of a new heart for the old heart, the most dynamic in the OT mention of the new birth. (See Ezekiel 18:31 and 36:26)

and insured the death of her husband in battle. Actually two, one time sins, that of adultery and that of murder. Yet because they were no habitual sins, and a way of life, David during his whole life remained a friend of God.

NOTE: THAT IS GRACE, GRACIOUSNESS, AND FRIENDSHIP; AND THAT SPEAKS OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS BY GOD, AND THE BLOTTING OUT OF THOSE SINS AS IF THEY NEVER HAPPENED.

5-4: With renewed and refreshed FAITH and HOPE, show in your thoughts and actions and words More Courage of Convictions that are firmly rooted in Scriptures.

1. God did not create this world of sin and suffering. THIS IS NOT THE WORLD GOD CREATED! Sin, pain, and suffering came into a perfect world in the Garden of Eden that God created when Adam and Eve first sinned, and it continues in the world today also by the same curse on the earth because of that sin.
2. The Bible does speak of a kind of false repentance which neither blots out or forgives that is a kind of sorrow that one is caught, not real conversion and repentance.
3. It seems long, but this life is oh so short as compared to over "10,000 years" in the after the END life.
4. There is absolutely no reason that every man, woman, and child on the face of this earth can not know an abundant life with the touch of the eternal, a life of comfort without pain, suffering, sin and sorrow.
5. Find some way to practice your convictions that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is PROFITABLE..." {II Timothy 3:16,17}. Find some ways to listen to the Word of God, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17) **{You know your mind and heart, and soul especially hears the Word of God when you quote it in your mind, read it, or say it out loud, even in prayer, what you have memorized.} Go**

through the NT or the Bible with tapes; close carefully and listen to real preachers who often quote from the Bible in support of what they say; find a good conservative, reliable preacher; and the same for good books and commentaries; and even quote the Scriptures to yourself, and listen to what is being heard.

You just can not get enough faith in God, Christ, and the Bible; and although we may not prosper in the Word enough to "walk with God" like Enoch, we will prosper in faith, maybe even beyond a grain of mustard seed or enough faith to remove mountains out of our minds! The world has yet to see the greatest mustard seed of what God can do with a man full of faith, the Word, and that walks righteously in God.

6. Yes, the temptations, suffering, and trails can build up like mountains in the mind; however be reminded, based on the Word, that God "will not allow you to be tempted above that which you are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it." (I Cor 10:13) And those ways of escape are so individualistic, simply between you and God although many will come it is in their organization in order to show numbers, that no immediate attempt will be made to cover the full extent in the mind and heart of God, beyond the "Hope and Mountains" of the next and concluding section; and to also with another reminded of how "to mount up with wings as eagles, to run and not be weary and walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31), that reminded is to (1) wait on God, and (2) renew your strength.

5-5: Hope and Mountains.

You know about faith and mountains--how Jesus said to the disciples that if you have even a "grain of mustard seed" {and the concluding paragraph will be on refreshing your hope that you can get up to that grain of mustard seed}--however how do we get from mountains of faith to mountains of hope, or vice versa?

1. First since most mountains exist in the mind, let us get it straight what Jesus actually said, including that mountains can be either moved into the head or out of the head.²⁷

“...I say to you if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move...” (Matthew 17:20)

NOTE: You already have noticed that exactly the same circumstances can be received into your head {or heart} as either a mountain of obstacles or as a mountain of opportunity. The difference depends on the inward faith and hope that is deep in your soul.

2. Think of the soul as an inwardly protected shell, which it can be, which conquers and lives forever. After all the soul is where you primarily live anyway, or should be. The reason Jesus said, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, mind, and soul” is because that is where you really live; that is the real you that can live forever if you nourish it properly; and in the soul is the real you. This is not the same as retreating from the realities of the world, nor the same as living only for eternity; for this is exactly that “abundant life” of which Jesus spoke, “And you shall have life and that more abundantly.” {John 10:10} It is a recognition that the heart, mind, and soul is the real you, and has hope not only for this life but also for the life to come. The real reality is to recognize that this life on earth at best is very short-- “what is your life, it is a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away (James 4:14); that even if by strength you live beyond 70 years to 80 years {Psalms 90:10}, beyond those 80 years you can legitimately expect “sorrow and labor”; and well before these standard numbers, if you have lived “godly in Christ Jesus, then you will suffer persecution” (II Timothy 3:12). There are many messages of Job, much of the space is devoted to the superficial advice from his worldly counselors, but the primary message is that the “righteous suffer for no wrong which they have done”; and beyond that

²⁷Now Paul did talk about the faith to remove mountains in the love chapter of I Corinthians (13:2), but even as love is in the heart, mind, and soul so mountains to be removed can be primarily in the same location!

the great conviction, and the courage of conviction of Job, that "I know that my redeemer lives (Job 19:25), and that with these eyes I shall see Him on this earth" {the new earth}.

NOTE: That is faith and hope combined.

"My brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. {Jeremiah by no means was the only Prophet to suffer, rumor has it that the chief of prophets, Isaiah, was also beheaded.} Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord {this end intended was for this life in a restoration of all that was lost, and of course for the next life}--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful." (James 5:10,11)

3. You can either starve the soul by living "by bread alone" {all of the normal pursuits of life}, or you can nourish the soul by "every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." (Luke 4:4)

4. You take care of the "wait upon the LORD" God the Father, through Christ and with the help of the Comforting Holy Spirit; then God will take care of the second part of "strength renewal". And let us be spiritually realistic, based on total Bible, since like God told Paul, "my strength is made perfect in weakness", the guarantees of hope you have in the Bible and based on your faith in the Bible as the Word of God is: (1) You once that mountain is committed properly to God in prayer {part of the waiting}, either (2) the pain and suffering will be removed, or (3) God will provide grace sufficient to overcome.

5. If you want this same "grace of God that is sufficient" as Paul found during his Christian life, then you must also find a degree of commitment in the same direction of convictions and courage as "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

6. As you would renew the inward strength of your soul, include PRAYERFUL MEDITATION with your waiting on God of prayer and Bible!

7. Finally, with in mind that "faith {and hope} cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17), HEARING IS THE READING OF THE SOUL. What reading the Bible can do, the hearing of the soul can do more as it gets to the heart, mind, and soul. Please include prayer meditation or mulling and dwelling, and even fretting, on PRAYERFUL MEDITATION.

8. Wait on the LORD with serious Bible study. God through the Bible and honor the fact that ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY GOD. You will have the opportunity in the next 3 years from SunGrist Bible and www.biblecombibleman.com to go through the whole Bible, by web pages and also in emailed newsletters. Take an advantage of it, and to assist you in the plan of "Through the Bible in 3 Years", go to the web page by that name-- www.biblecombibleman.com/ThroughTheBibleIn3Years.html .

9. Finally we would be amiss on total Scripture, if we did not mention the way to clean out the soul from domination with things, bread, and the trouble and works of this life; and in turn to fill the soul with God, Christ, and the Bible by way of the new heart and spirit God promised in Jeremiah. Even as some say, "An idle {or empty} mind is the devil's workshop, a soul devoid of God and thoughts about God, is a victim for heartache and sorrow in this life and certainly in the life to come, with the eternal death of sin, sorrow, and suffering.

(1). Through repentance, faith, and conversion is how the soul initially gets filled up with right and righteousness, with the eternal and abundant life of the soul. Jesus said He and the Father knock on the door of your soul and heart, even mind, and if you will JUST OPEN UP and receive, Jesus and the Father will come into your soul to dwell with you forever.

(2). This is the way the "He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world" gets into your soul in the first place, stays there, and is allowed with you mind, heart, and will to abide there forever. This is the filling of the soul

with something greater than the sin, suffering, and pain of from: (1) he that is in the world and the prince of the world, and (2) from "the spirit within us that lusteth to envy" (James 4:5)

NOTE: Yes that part of the soul that lusts to sin and envy and toward the pride of life, the lust of the flesh and eyes, never goes away until "we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is" (I John 3:2), but the effects can be minimized and lessened, by way of He that is in us greater than he that is in the world" with faith and hope, with waiting on the LORD, with a renewal of the inward strength of God and from God, and by allowing the soul to soar like an eagle, to spiritually and sometimes even physically run and not be weary and walk and not faint.

Chapter 6: Refreshing Evangelism Adds to Church of the Firstborn.

Not only does refreshing evangelism add to the only church roll of any real importance, that of "the assembly {or church} of the firstborn written in heaven" (Hebrews 11:4), but also it does not brag on its gift--you know like the leg over the arm or head saying "we don't need you", or of pastors saying to "prophets", appointed just like pastors and evangelists by the Ascended Christ (Ephesians 4:11) but ignored today for some reasons which must be explained. Granted it more often in the American church the gifted of healing that take the haughty attitude to other gifts in the church of saying "we are winning people to Christ" as ahead of other gifts in the body of Christ {particularly the fundamentalists and Bible Baptists now entrenched in the SBC} flaunt this approach as the main justification for their existence and to convince their own people and denomination of their worthiness in spite of some other questionable behaviors²⁸ and primarily attitudes.

Sorry for a necessary reality and spiritual reality check, but we must in all intellectual honesty ask, "Who are they winning these converts to?" The local church which goes no further than their isolated building or even the equally, like civil service workers, denomination for status or gain. Or perhaps they are being won to the influence of the pastor or to the denomination? If Campbell could ask some years ago "Where are the Converts?" perhaps today with the influence of the Falling Away on churches and denominations, we should ask "What are they converted to?" The strange effect of Bible Baptists on the SBC is that the churches and professional leaders become more and more isolated in an archaic perspective unlike what B.H. Carroll told Scarborough about keeping Christ at the center of all! For example in SBC bookstores, seminaries, writings, and churches, there is an obvious effort to eliminate all the classics of the past like Ramm on Christian evidences and apologetics, like Wayne Oates on the pastor and religious dimensions of personality, like Summers and "The Meaning and Message of Revelation"; and if you don't watch them, it will be no long before they remove influences of men like Truett, Lee, and Carroll.

²⁸The fighting against what they call "moderates" but who simply disagree with them on rapture and millennium, the same lack of love for brethren that caused the split of the SBC into 3 denominations.

Although Commager called fundamentalists "paranoid"--and that needs some explanation, they are consistent on an isolated or exclusive a perspective: (1) while others were struggling their way through real Bible eschatology, their backwoods beginnings bought the Scofield Bible notes as a quick and ease way to believe and preach, ignoring the dubious beginnings from Darby, an Irish Catholic priest, and Scofield, a divorced lawyer who pastored First Congregational Church in Dallas and used a free correspondence course across the Bible belt and California²⁹ to influence generations³⁰; (2) they consistently cry literalism on the Bible and on their only brand of evangelism, while they (a) do eisegesis by reading into the Bible the Scofield notes, and a "rapture" and millennium that are not even Bible words, (b) do a hunt and peek system on the Bible while they ignore the most of ALL SCRIPTURE, (c) maintain a limited perspective on the ministry that excludes at least half of "reach, teach, win, and develop"³¹; and (d) unfortunately as American education was falling behind 18 other nations on fundamentals, Bible Baptist wee setting there ready for a public whose reading level dropped rapidly from the sixth grade level to the third grade level.

6-1: Now how much of this present condition of American evangelistic churches can be proven from the Bible. At least for Baptists, the history and covenants have always been "The Bible as the sole criterion for faith and practice". Of course we must start with our primary text of refreshing evangelism, Acts 3:19-21, then get some examples of what New Testament churches are supposed

²⁹Commager states fundamentalism was started by a group of California millionaires.

³⁰The Scofield Bible Association in Memphis works full time to extend that influence, and perhaps is the money behind the continuation of programs by the dead Adrian Rogers despite another pastor has been at Bellevue for many years. Perhaps you do not recall that it was Rogers, Criswell, and Stanley who lead the fight on Christian brethren at Seminaries and in the pastorate.

³¹Most of you in the SBC are probably too young to remember from the Sunday School Board, a marvelous little study course book called "Outreach for the Unreached" which based on the concept of the ministry as a ministry of the whole church like in Ephesians, stressed the fourfold work of the great commission and refreshing evangelism in the Bible as "reach, teach, win, and develop". Modern pastors, under the influence of the Falling and the Falling Away of their churches, have learned for popularity and pats on the back, to stress winning as the only reaching. Yet if there were more of the teaching and development of refreshing evangelism, there would be in less churches the putting of live bitties under a dead hen.

to be from the examples in Acts; and then true to one of the main goals of refreshing evangelism, spread out to ALL SCRIPTURE.

1. How can there be a real start on refreshing evangelism, times of refreshing, and restoration of all things--the real hope of all those truly evangelized--if the primary text is ignored of Acts 3:19-21.

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19)

Well, repentance and conversion is obviously necessary, continuously for church members as well as the souls they would seek to win. Surely there should be "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" in any local church or denomination that is involved in refreshing evangelism.

"and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before." (Acts 3:20)

It must be a Jesus Christ that was preached by Peter, by the other Apostles, and recorded in the Bible. There are so many methods that work to increase numbers and glory to the local church, it is equally easy to slip to another Jesus "of a different kind".³²

2. It is a reality and spiritual reality of every church today except your own, that they must be corrected by Paul and the Word like the church at Ephesus was, in that "they have not so learned Christ" (Ephesians 4:20) Today, like then, Christ and Christian faith has become a compromise with world, called "other Gentiles" in Ephesians 4. You may notice that your converts today and the church into which you put them is still "walking like other Gentles walk. How? (1) "In the futility of their mind"; (2) obviously their understanding has to be darkened as they are alienated from the life of God; (3) Ignorance of the Word; (4) Coming from the blindness of the heart which can not be overcome with literalism, mucho

³²"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him Who called you in the grace of Christ {He who called you into grace is also the He of the sender of times of refreshing}, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:6-9)

mediocre and superficial Bible classes, and piddling on the Word; (5) Gone beyond proper feeling into "lewdness"; and (6) "working all uncleanness with greediness (Ephesians 4:17-19)

6-2: Contrary to many preachers today, Peter was well aware of his spiritual environment there in the Temple, surrounded by the most religious people of all time, yet who had rejected Jesus.

"But you denied the Holy One and Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses." (Acts 3:14,15)

1. Yes, the spiritual environment of preachers today is worse than that in that apart from the vivid imagination they exercise among themselves to deny the extent of the great apostasy today called the Falling Away (II Timothy 3:3,4), and how even the first stage of intolerance toward sound doctrine of themselves and their supporters--"they will not endure sound"--affects their preaching of the real Jesus as well as the whole spectrum of Bible doctrine. This great and present falling away of church members from real Jesus, real Bible, and real God in favor of "other gods" or idols, can easily be marked some where around the 1970s, that period where the preaching of Billy Graham became much less popular.

It was much more noticeable even in 1968 as seemingly evangelistic churches were having fired preachers for Sunday dinner, massively running off the preachers of sound doctrine with years of faithful service to Christ. {out of their own wants shall they heap up teachers with itching ears", stage 3 of the Falling Away} in favor of preachers that would tickle their ears with words of comfort and ego building. {You know, often reminders of how they are the people of God, and how the sinners that need repentance and conversion are still out there in the highways and hedges.}

2. Where is American Christianity today? Obviously, if you get out of the closet of your imagination to look at the real condition of your churches today, you will notice that you are in the fourth stage of the Falling Away, the "turning away from truth", about to plunge over the fifth stage of "being turned into fables".

There are always more Bible Baptists like Falwell, who exercise their imaginations to find signs of revival like Ted Haggard, the former head of the national evangelistic association, like the deceptions of the non-biblical words of "rapture" and "millennialism" {See the "Demonic Veil of the Rapture" for the effects on preachers and churches.}, and church revivals with the "purpose driven wants" of church members replacing Christ or Spirit driven motivations in churches.

NOTE: You and your church members are living in your imaginations, part of the turning away from truth process, if you can not see these as unsound doctrine, as "itching ears" teachings, and as the inevitable results of a people that have become intolerant of sound doctrine {"will not endure sound doctrine"}.

6-3: Have you carefully noted what comes before C {C for CONVERSION} is B {B for BE}. It will bless your soul and biblical insight, like a time of refreshing to get the full impact, even Bible theology, of the Be and C from several Scriptures, which really speak of how times of refreshing do come today, as in the NT times of Peter and the other apostles as recorded in the book of Acts} from the presence of the Lord, such as...

1. Real conversion is more than adding members to a local church. It is a CHANGE in heart, mind, and behavior.
2. Conversion like baptism {salvation} is a life time process for church members as much as sinners out there in the highways and hedges. This is why the real ministry of reaching, teaching, winning, and developing {a summary of the great commission}, is at best only 50% carried out when "winning" becomes the sole priority of preachers.
3. The "BE" speaks more of the work of God, the "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" if you please" than it does of any methods or message³³ of preachers.

³³The methods have already been mentioned of questionable motivations to make a show and add to the church rolls,

- a. The "BE" in our primary text of refreshing evangelism, Acts 3:19.

"Repent therefore and BE converted..." (Acts 3:19)

Obviously, the repent is what the converted sinner must do in order to receive salvation, and the "BE CONVERTED" is the work of God, a work that is still possible for a few³⁴ in this day of the Falling Away, and as a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, right up to the time of the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit³⁵ from earth.

- b. The "BE" in "Believe and BE baptized of Mark 16:16.

"And He said unto them, 'Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature He who BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned.'" (Mark 16:15,16)

Our homiletics and theology for preaching the real Jesus for salvation is a little mediocre {to say the least} if we fail to realize that "Baptism" is another word for salvation. No, well have you ever noticed that in the seven ONES of major doctrines in Ephesians³⁶, there is no mention of "salvation". What are we preaching if we are not preaching salvation as a major doctrine in the sound preaching of the real gospel and Jesus.

the message is presently being developed which questions how any group of fundamentalists could preach a sound Jesus who are head over hells in a Falling Away that they don't admit; and also an eschatological theology and extra biblical teachings of Scofield Notes, which they use to judge salvation and the criterion on which they destroyed careers and reputations of Christian brothers whom they accused of "moderation" or "liberalism". Brother, if you want to know what real liberalism is, it is adding non-biblical thoughts and words to your theology and preaching like rapture and millennialism!

³⁴We can not be so cynical as to think that zero churches today are victims of the Falling, especially since 2 out of the 7 churches of Asia Minor in Revelation 2 and 3 were not threatened by Christ with their candlestick removal from the kingdom of those written in heaven.

³⁵You can hardly expect any real conversions after the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth as Paul writes about in II Thessalonians; after all it is the Spirit, not overly aggressive for numbers preachers, that we rely on to "convict the world of sin, or righteous, and of judgement." (John 16:6)

³⁶"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, ONE BAPTISM, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

NOTE: For more on the large subject in the Bible, please see the third volume of the LEARN CHRIST commentaries, entitled, "Believe and Be Baptized, the Life and 14 New Testament letters of the Apostle Paul. Or participate in the free online Bible study of "The Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul".

6-4: You want some real literalism from the Bible and in your preaching, then notice the priority of the ONEs of Ephesians 4:4-6 is on God Himself, whereas today there is sort of a Christology that seldom speaks of God the Father.

1. For years, as I preached, pastored, or interim pastored at over 16 churches, a reaction of the congregation--especially among those more bent toward Bible Baptist than real Southern Baptist--when I Corinthians 15:24-28 was read on the proper relationship between Christ and God the Father.

2. Granted as from the beginning of the life of Christ on earth, and now, Christ has been the only means of salvation as ordained by God the father.

"There is no other name under heaven where men must be saved."

Even here, notice that it is "under heaven" which means under God.

3. Try it from your pulpit with a simple and straightforward, without comment reading of I Corinthians 15:24-27, and see the reaction of your congregation. It will tell you volumes about your congregation and your preaching; about their real understanding of the Bible and of Jesus; about who is literal, moderate, or is a practitioner of itching ears homiletics and theology.

"Then comes the end, when He {Christ} delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority." (I Corinthians 15:24)

NOTE: This latter "put to an end" is the negative and necessary before side of the restoration of all things. It puts to an end of Satan and all those of the world who rejected the salvation of God in hell and the lake of fire, and

as a preliminary to the great blessings then allowed for those born of God and members of the eternal kingdom because their names have been previously written in the roll of heaven and the tablets of stone, enrolled in the assembly of the firstborn. There are going to be a lot of shocked authorities and powers when they find out that there are no eternal points for the rich and worldly, even national leaders. {See "National Leadership Drunk on Power and Privilege" as part of the online Bible Studies on "Jeremiah and Prophecy", and now in a paperback book on amazon.com under the twin title of NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES, Jeremiah and Prophecy.}

"For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet." {I Corinthians 15:25}

Fundamentalists are to be applauded for an emphasis on how the Christ must reign over the kingdom of Christ and over the individual life here on earth until the restoration of all things, Obviously there is a big gap in their understanding of the WHEN of "all enemies under His feet". It is at the Seconding Coming at the end, the same time of the restoration of all things. Often, they don't want to preach a step forward as the reign is turned over to God the Father!

"The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." (I Corinthians 15:26)

NOTE: You see how this destroys all the enemies at the end with the restoration of whole and complete life as before originally in the Garden of Eden.

"For He has put all things under his feet." {In 15:27 and quoted from Psalm 6:8}

NOTE: God the Father has put all things under the feet of Christ. If you doubt that, then read it in the total context of Psalm 6, and utilizing one of the fundamental principles of hermeneutics, the science of biblical interpretation; that is, comparing scripture with scripture. However this is not required as with all quotes in the NT from the OT, then the Bible, Christ or an apostle give the proper in the same recommended and authorized method of I Peter 1:21. This proper and authorized interpretation, you will find net in 15:27b and 15:28.

"But when He says 'all things are put under Him' (Psalm 6:8), it is evident that He who puts all things under Him is excepted." (I Corinthians 15:27b)

NOTE: Both literal and clear fundamentalists, right! We are just reading what it says, and allowing it to speak for itself, the ultimate in real literalism!

"Now when all things are made subject to Him {Christ at the end and the restoration of all things}, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him {God the Father} who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." (I Corinthians 15:28)

4. Of course if you make a habit of practicing "intellectual honesty", you will notice that this portion of Bible violates the majority concept of eschatological {last things} matters, so that the reaction of your congregation will be as much here as it is on Christology; that is they have not faced up to our text of Acts 3:19-21, and how God is holding Christ in heaven to the end, at the restoration of all things, obviously eliminating the false concept of so many fundamentalists enamored with the Scofield notes that there will be a rapture and a millennium long before the restoration of all things.

NOTE: Now be reasonable and honest on your Bible understanding and interpretation, if God is holding Jesus in heaven until the end of all things, how could He possibly allow for a rapture and millennium before the end? {Please see the two PDFs, "The End part 1" and "The End part 2" available for download on www.biblecombibleman.com.}

5. Consider it, what does "the restoration of all things" mean. Simply {as one professor of Bible at Ouachita was in the habit of saying, "just let the Bible say what it is trying to say}, it is the restoration of all things that were lost at the Fall when man first sinned in the Garden of Eden.

a. Primarily through Christ and the salvation He provided in the shedding of His blood on the cross, a restoration of close fellowship with God. In the cool of the evening, God would come down from heaven to have close fellowship and communication with God.-

b. One of the great blessings of the restoration of the New Jerusalem on Mount Zion and on the restoration of the new earth, is the restoration of God dwelling on the new earth and in the New Jerusalem with man.

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.'" (Revelation 21:1-3)

c. Perhaps you would right now have another time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord as you real more about the final restoration of all things: restoration of real happiness among humanity instead of sorrows {"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"}; restoration of life with the annihilation of death, and of sorrow and of crying, and of pain.

One way to summarize the restoration of all things, is with the concluding words of all these blessings from the restoration, "for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4). All these things are part of the "one hope of His calling", please do not allow some over zealous fundamentalists off on a tangent robe you of all these hopes for the end of time in favor of the tall tales of Scofield that have been bought in the Scofield Reference Bible. When the source is so dubious, originating first with a Roman Catholic priest in Ireland and a divorced lawyer and pastor of the First Congregation church in Dallas, then the methods and message is also dubious.

Chapter 7: Who Adds to the Church Daily? and Where?

"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47)

7-1: A textual and exegetical outline of the verse above, also even topical and expository as we see how it summarizes all that happened in Christianity up to this point in history.

1. Who did the additions to the church? Not the pastor, a visiting evangelist, or ever zealous "soul-winners" in the local church; but the LORD God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. While none would deny the uniqueness and great contribution of the First church in Jerusalem with the Apostle James as pastor, and with so many who had seen the Risen Christ themselves, it was "to the church", the church of the one body of Christ and the assembly of the Firstborn {Jesus was the firstborn of all Christians that came after Him, and after the preaching and teaching which was in His name}. To properly understand this, you must carefully study the approximately 128 times the word "ecclesia" for church or assembly is found in the New Testament. {A good analytical concordance can help you with this like Young's or Strong's.} Granted that some of them that collectively joined together at the place of assembly were also added to the church of the firstborn written in heaven (Hebrews 11:6), but by no means all. The ones being selectively added to the church roll up there in heaven was determined by the choice of the great God the Father. Remember what Jesus taught, "Many are called but few are chosen". (Matthew 20:16) Obviously there are at least 4 factors affecting revival of this "one a day additions" today: (1) this was a one time shot of a few years for the Jewish nation, notice that it tapered somewhat as Paul got out primary among the Gentiles {however still fewer also Jews}; (2) there has been some very good years of evangelism among Americans and by Americans to the world, that came to almost a sudden halt about 1968, the same time that Billy Graham became less popular, and that tends to mark for us the solid beginning of the great

apostasy in Christianity called the Falling Away (II Timothy 3:3,4)³⁷; (3) with this deep Falling Away of present Christianity, churches and denominations have gone so far into (a) intolerance toward sound doctrine, (b) motivation by church member "wants", (c) the heaping up of pastors and other teachers with "itching ears", and the business of additions as Christianity "turns away from truth"³⁸; that the atmosphere of churches no longer has the convictions, dedication, or Spirit for "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (the Acts text of this series on refreshing evangelism); and (4) it is all over during the Falling Away's last "little time"³⁹ as Satan is released from bondage for a little while, because no longer⁴⁰ will there be the additions of the Lord aspect through the work of the Holy Spirit to "convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment"⁴¹.

³⁷This gives us approximately 40-50 years into the Falling Away, approaching the approximately 80 years the Bible's example of a Falling Away teaches us in Hebrews, a Falling Away of God's original people in the wilderness because of a lack of faith in the Living God of the Living.

³⁸All that remains for the American church in the 5 stages of the Falling Away is the last, and the one that seals the doom of the church on earth, as God "turns them into fables". You must notice the exponential growth in fables with the Scofield notes, Mormonism, and the fundamentalists fake literalism, even with kind of evangelism that has come from the Ted Haggard types, from the purpose driven substitution for "wants" in the place of Christ and the Spirit, the LeHaye distortions of the non-biblical words of "rapture" and "millennium" substituted for the real Bible of the Second Coming and "the restoration of all things" only at the end of the time of this old earth, and other complications of denominations too controversial to even mention in the present atmosphere of extreme tolerance of unsound doctrine of America.

³⁹Surely even you fundamentalists with your fake literalism must see that there is little more than a "little time" left with the recent surrounding of by Muslims bent on the destruction of Jerusalem, the dragging of all nations into the area for the great battle of Armageddon.

⁴⁰According to II Thessalonians 2:7, what has kept Satan in bondage up to now is the "restraining" work of the Holy Spirit, and when He is withdrawn from earth, there will be no limitations for a little while on the work of the Holy Spirit.

⁴¹John 16:8-11.

7-2: *“Were BEING saved” in Acts 2:47 is the equivalent of the BEs and Cs for conversion that were discussed earlier in a previous Bible study session.*

1. Remember the “Repent therefore and be converted” of the series text of Acts 3:19, and from Jesus the “Believe and Be Baptized” teaching from Jesus of Mark 16:16 with the explanation from other Scripture how the “one baptism” is the one salvation of the 7 major doctrines of the Bible.⁴²
2. You can consider “were being saved” in two ways: (1) that since additions were made daily, that the “were being saved” applied to the time sequence that went on right up to the cutting off of Jews at the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem⁴³; and/or (2) as God was at work among them and the newly arrived presence of the Holy Spirit on earth to convict the world of sin, of righteous, and of judgment, it speaks more of the quality of the early church and Christianity, as God and the Spirit were daily at work having many called and chosen to be saved!
3. Actually 3 ways in that complete salvation is a process of past present, and future of more godliness and Christlikeness, it could mean that in the initial days of Christianity after the Ascension of Christ, early Christians were just starting salvation from God and the Spirit that continued a lifetime.

7-3: *How good do you think Acts 2:47 is as a summary of all that happened in Acts up to that point, of Acts even up to the text of the series--Acts 3:19-21? And maybe it should be considered as a summary of all of Acts if we consider the “Outreach for the*

⁴²Hopefully you are enjoying the free online Bible study called “Life and Letters of Paul” derived and added to from the Bible commentary in the 6 LEARN CHRIST commentaries, also summarizing the 14 NT letters of the Apostle Paul under “Believe and Be Baptized”. You will see this even more as Refreshing Evangelism comes to the appendix with study of the book of Romans, with the great passages on what baptism really is.

⁴³Forecast by Jesus in the great “last things” passage of Matthew 24 and Mark 13.

Unreached” other half of the great commission, the teaching and development parts.

Some of the great moments of Bible refreshing in my own life includes (1) the book of Acts using the Moffit translation as the sophomore year at UT and at the Bible chair at University Baptist Church, where I was also on the pastor's youth council to Dr Smith, (2) a spiritual study as a freshman at Baylor under Dr Woodfin using the RSV, and (3) The Life and Letters o Paul written by David Smith and taught at Ouachita Baptist College, and (4) during graduate work in physics, a course on the book of Revelation taught by Dr Ray Summers. Don't get me wrong, there were many other highlights of Bible study, many times that on my own or in preparation for teaching and preaching. And how quite often I felt a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord like J.B> Phillips mentions in the preface of his commentary on Revelation or on the Life and Letters of Paul, like an electrician who in the process got ahold of a live wire. {You know, that is another good definition of Refreshing Evangelism, "like getting ahold of a live wire". Did I hear an "amen" across the internet?

Look again at the great commission highlighted by reaching, teaching, winning, and developing; and then we will consider what is the best Scriptural summary of the book of Acts like the Acts of the Apostles, like the acts of the Holy Spirit through the apostles and other Christians, like a continuation of "all Jesus began to do or teach", or may be even THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY ALL THAT WERE BEING SAVED!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things which I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."⁴⁴ (Matthew 28:19,20)

1. Outreach as the same as "Go".

⁴⁴Did you hear that wayfaring fundamentalist? "...LO I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE." How in the world could God be with those who are carrying out o the great commission to the very end of this old earth if all Christians and pastors, as falsely claimed by LeHaye and the Scofieldnites, if they have already long before the end been raptured from the hard times near the end, as they dream. And this is the very nature of Bible teachings on eschatology in the Bible, they are casual statements of reality, but they are always there!

2. "Make disciples" as the equivalent of winning; however even here in the great commission there is the teaching aspect, even as making disciples is a learning process so being a disciple is a continuing process.

3. "teaching them to observe all things which I have commanded you" includes teaching and development and certainly takes time.

7-4: A Quick Summary of all that happened in Jerusalem and recorded in Acts by Dr Luke and the Spirit in the early days before the temple destruction under Titus of 58 A.D. with some effort at achieving a summarizing subtitle.

NOTE: Let me warn you what you might find, that Real refreshing evangelism is more a daily atmosphere created in the church body and spread to an enlarging community that it is one week of revival with a revival sign and advertisement put out, or even occasional evangelistic sermons by the pastor, or even less the same sermon of instant salvation always preached without other teaching and development.⁴⁵ And what pastors use to impress each other at the denominational level and in conferences, is not the same as the Refreshing Evangelism of the book of Acts and the Bible.

7-5: As young preacher boy I puzzled over the evangelistic efforts of fundamentalists to make the salvation of others depend on how they felt about "last things". Now, I have come to realize the opposite, that we should have worried about them and the Bible perspectives from which they came, the same perspectives and motivations that led to the giant splits in the SBC, and led up to this moment in the "itching ears" Falling Away of the SBC and those less conservative around them! Just like their fake literalism, which

⁴⁵Other good southern Baptists heritage will go under the table with the rule and captivity of the Convention by the fundamentalists of Bible Baptist background will be books like: WITH CHRIST AFTER THE LOST by Scarborough, CHURCH ADMINISTRATION by Gaines Dobbins, THE CHRISTIAN PASTOR by Wayne Oates, and etc.

is more a defense of isolation of their sermon topics and texts to only a few of the ALL SCRIPTURE, and uncompromising attacks on “moderates” based on the very dubious Scofield Bible Notes on eschatology was more a cover up job for their own superficialities on ALL Bible.

NOTE: In short we should worry about their eschatological background for evangelism in spite of that oft heard most fundamentalists of the bunch, saying, “I am too busy winning the lost”. Can any member or preacher have a Biblical view of the Scriptures on evangelism and salvation that has such a distorted understanding of real Bible on last things. For example, it is helping them little in understanding that the church is well into the Falling Away because they mistakenly think that Christians will be “raptured” out of this world before it happens! {Read on this www.biblecombibleman.com web site, “Wound of the Unheard Doctrine” and “Wounded Christians”.}

7-6: Do you think that because of the unique position of Christianity now, head over heels into that great apostasy called the Falling Away, that it is time to focus more on those in your churches and denominations already at the beginning of stage 4, turning away from truth, and so close with most of your church and churches to be “turned into fables”, the last final stage of the Great Apostasy. Perhaps you can help save some of your members, helping them to “work out their own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

Evangelism, other than a Refreshing Evangelism, will continue to decrease like the battle for the survival of Christianity that we are in now. It is a well established fact from denomination history, the history of evangelism, and Baptist history, even the history of the SBC, that evangelism goes down during times of war, My goodness what a WAR Christianity is into now with the rising tide of the mystery of sin and lawlessness that Paul writes about in II Thessalonians, not to mention the extent of the Falling Away and the approach of the “little season” when the Great Evangelist, the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from earth {also in II Thessalonians 2:7} It is so unfortunate that churches and denominations get so

involved in their own customs, traditions, and concepts and terminology that they are not at all awake to the drastic change in the history of Christianity of these present days. You know for example that while "evangelism" and Christianity are clearly essential to theology and history, they are not Biblical words. That is why a refreshed study of the book of Acts might get us more into a Refreshed evangelism both more Bible based and consistent with these terminal days of this old earth!

This is not to say at all that evangelism, the outreach for the unreached and making disciples--the first 50% of the great commission--is to be ignored; but with emphasis as much on the second 50, the teaching them to observe all things and the development. And when you consider that making disciples is a lifetime process, the second half actually becomes more like 66.6% or one third of the work of the pastor and the work of the ministry. Especially should all you assigned work by the Ascended Christ (Ephesians 4:11)--that is, "pastors and teachers, evangelists, and prophets"--both brace yourself for the little season as the Spirit is withdrawn from earth, loosing Satan, and the completion of the Falling Away when Christ Comes Again, and the battle is over in victory.

Now, the critical part: there is no way a less than Biblical truth and reality on last things will lead you into such a re-arrangement of great commission realities, if you think and preach: (1) that Christians will not be part of the Falling Away, and (2) if you fail to recognize that your church members are already in the Falling Away, and (3) if you do not admit to the Refreshing Evangelism of Acts 3:19-21 where "times of refreshing" happen right up to the end, the restoration of all things, at the Second Coming of Christ.

7-7: *WHERE?*

To say with confidence that the LORD and Lord add to the church of the Firstborn {the Lord Jesus Christ was the firstborn of the assembly}, written in heaven⁴⁶, seems to not tell the whole story; and it remains somewhat of a mystery

⁴⁶Bottom line of the 128 times ecclesia is used in the NT, meaning church of assembly, is that the only real, eternal meaning is the church roll written in heaven, recorded in the Lamb's book of life. Other church rolls are not to be neglected to the extent that there is some correlation between the membership rolls of the local church and the

for eternity as to the correlations between local churches and the assembly roll call in heaven. Living, as we should, by "every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" as Jesus taught, we are compelled by exegesis of the Bible to reconcile Acts 2:47b--"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"--with Acts 2:41:

"Then those who gladly received the word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." (Acts 2:41)

The counting of numbers, except that a lot of souls were saved, was not then as important to the Holy Spirit and Dr Luke, both of whom wrote the book of Acts use the log manuscript of the Apostle Paul. If it were the BBF⁴⁷, they could give you an exact number, for counting is by and large, with show, what they are all about. However, the prime point here is that these words of Acts which came out of the mouth of God, counted it worthy of mention as commendable to the local church in Jerusalem that in one day only, 3000 souls were added to them. One might make a fine point of distinction that the adding to the local assembly of 3000 is not exactly, and precisely, the same as the Lord adding daily to the church of the firstborn written in heaven. {Unless the BBF has bean counters better than big business, surely even their august body can not add 3,000 every day; and in fact, after their takeover with the split of the convention into 3 conventions, and the subsequent 20 years of rule over the SBC⁴⁸, the lack of love in their hearts that allowed them to destroy so many carriers and reputations of pastors and seminary teachers has become more evident. They are now, like the local church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22), lukewarm and in the process of being spewed out. This is one reason that when they get converts to their local church, they are so eager to share those numbers with the Convention, as if there

general assembly of the firstborn written in heaven.

⁴⁷Bible Baptists Fundamentalists who now control the Southern Baptist Convention. While they won the votes to elect a President, replace board members and pastors and seminary and college teachers, they still about 29 years later have not won the hearts of southern baptists. And the more they superficialities on Bible literalism becomes obvious, especially on their proposed literalism of Scofield notes on eschatology becomes obvious, the less those dedicated southern baptists are likely to accept their leadership.

⁴⁸Southern Baptist Convention

was a direct correlation between the church roll of their local churches and the assembly written in heaven.

It is apparent that at least one member of that first local assembly in Jerusalem, in spite of their excellent Pastor, James, was not enrolled simultaneously in the church of the firstborn written in heaven. Ananias and his wife purported to be part of the sharing, that started the first middle class in the world, in the assembly at Jerusalem; however having lied to the Holy Spirit, and taking credit before the assembly and the apostles for the giving of the whole amount, immediately died as they were caught in the hypocritical lie⁴⁹ of sharing!

⁴⁹Something the rich in America today should heed, especially if they are church members and only share out of their abundance a little.

Chapter 8: How Has the Church Fallen Away from Truth?

"For the time will come when THEY will not endure sound doctrine, but according to THEIR OWN desires; because THEY have itching ears, THEY will heap up for THEMSELVES teachers; and THEY will turn THEIR EARS away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (II Timothy 4:4,5)

8-1: The short, quick answer first.

Since surely such a question, assumed to be sincere, came from a reading of this part of the Bible in the first place, then the same Scripture--II Timothy 4:4,5--almost answers within itself the question by looking above at the capitalized THEYs or related words. Short, simple, and quick, it is that (1) THEY who will not endure sound doctrine that are falling away, and who but Christians and church members previously had any sound doctrine; (2) THEIR OWN DESIRES seems like it could apply to all that are "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (II Timothy 3:1-5) {by the way this section of the same book of II Timothy has describes the THEYs of church members who have lost their way, "having a form of godliness and denying the power thereof"⁵⁰}; (3) THEY that have itching ears in churches and denominations because they want to hear something new and flattering⁵¹ that tickles their ears; (4) THEY vote to kick out of the churches, men of God of sound doctrine and long service, destroying like the Bible Baptists Fundamentalists that split and presently control the SBC, destroying the careers and reputations of Christian brothers, while they apply their own desires and

⁵⁰This begs the issue of the long, more complete answer because it is obvious that the THEY of II Timothy 3:1-5 are individual church members, not necessarily the whole church, and that it applies rather to local churches and denominations rather than to the total body of Christ, written in heaven.

⁵¹Dr. R.G. Lee--who was the pastor to my wife and I, performed our wedding ceremony, and licensed me to preach--would get upset for Scriptural reasons when anyone remotely connected him to flattery and flattering; but the basis of the falling away in the first place is both people and preachers don't know more than a select few Scriptures, and/or don't really care that much about what the Bible says about what they want to believe. Bare min, they do not properly respect the Bible as THE WORD OF GOD! They may carry it to church and talk about it in sunday school, but real respect, honor, and submission, and correction, and instruction in righteousness is another matter. It is the prime justifiable reason so many in the world see church members as hypocrites, and the same reason the world falls to see unity among all church members as a testimony to Christ.

influence in the direct of popular and select Bible preachers⁵²; (5) THEMSELVES will heap up teachers, preachers, and pastors, and even denominational leaders {ways to know we are now approximately 40 years into the falling away as a worldwide movement among churches and denominations} like themselves of itching ears, that they can control out of their own desires, and that will compliment them as "the people of God" {by no means wasting their time out there in the community instead of caring for members}; (6) the THEIR EARS that are "turned away from truth", counts the ears in any of your churches and denominations for both the unsound of II Timothy 4:4,5 and that of the bad habits of church members of II Timothy 3:1-8; and (7) if you can not see the causalities in churches and denominations today where there is an obvious of turning away from truth and into fables then you just do not have "eyes to see and ears to hear", or you don't want to see IT!

8-2: It is not THE CHURCH that is falling away, that is the number of real, eternal church members written in heaven where we do not presently have access to the records {although many BBFs⁵³ think they can read those records from a distance}; but it is the local churches and denominations that have so many members falling away from their "first love" of God, Christ, and the Bible, that the whole local church and/or denomination appears that way⁵⁴.

For this part of the long answer, please go to the web page or PDF on "Who Adds to the Church and Where?", also "Refreshing Evangelism adds to the church of the Firstborn" as well as other messages in the Refreshing Evangelism series.

⁵²"Select Bible preaching" is one of the primary necessities for the ALL Scripture approach of SunGrist_Bible on www.biblecombibleman.com . See the web pages on "ALL Scripture".

⁵³Bible Baptists Fundamentalists, we calls them as we seez them even though in control of the SBC and in the pulpits of the largest churches in the Convention.

⁵⁴That is part of the price we pay for a democratic society.

8-3: *To wrap up the long answer, you should download the following extensive Bible presentations in PDF.*

1. WHAT THE CHURCHES DON'T WANT YOU TO HEAR, that they are leaders in the Falling Away.
2. SNATCHING, STUMBLING, AND THE FALLING AWAY.
3. HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS.
4. DEN OF THIEVES.
5. SOME SOUNDS OF SOUND FAITH.

8-4: *If you desire a challenge that is sufficient for the Falling Away, please go to the book by Jerry and Ann McMichael on **FRIENDS OF JESUS IN THIS AGE OF BIBLE AND THE COMPUTER**, which seriously surveys and applies the advice of Jesus to disciples with the definitive answer of “If you are my disciples you will do what I have commanded you”, and you will love one another to the extent of “humble unselfish service.”*

8-5: *Next to the last, look at the larger context of Ephesians and Ephesus with the **THEYs** if you have any remaining doubt that it is the New Testament churches of then and now that are falling away.*

1. You know how faithful Paul, the writer of the epistle of Ephesians, was to the teachings of Jesus, so that naturally you would expect that when Paul talked of a time in the future when “For the **TIME** will come when they will not endure sound doctrine”, he was talking about the same **TIME** and **GROUP** as Matthew 24:11-14. {For more Bible on the last day historical and eschatological sequences of the **END**, you may want to download the PDFs in two parts, **ENDpart1** and **ENDpart2**.}

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold {by the way, this is the primary HOW as in "How has the church fallen away from truth?", it is the love of Christians losing, in the words of Revelation 2:4 "their first love", like at the church of Ephesus in the first century--did Paul know this would happen shortly after his life, yes; and give it as an example of what not to do of the great apostasy of the last few years called THE Falling Away, yes} But he who endures to the end {if you do not read into this that some Christians will be on the earth at the end and during the falling away, you are indeed foolish, deceived by a false rapture and a false millennium} shall be saved. {You see, who be saved except Christians?} And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations {if not there now, it can not be long}. and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:11-14)

2. Yes, Paul was writing specifically to Timothy, his own son in the faith, and a typical preacher and evangelist; but as with all Scripture, it is given for our examples "upon whom the end of the ages has come".

3. Recall how Paul told in Acts 20:29,30 how "savage wolves"⁵⁵ as church leaders would come to the church at Ephesus, and thorough out the world. This is the same falling away that he wrote to Timothy about, a precursor and bad example of the great apostasy at the end of time.

4. If you call the falling away of the church at Ephesus and the other churches of Asia Minor (Revelation 2 and 3) at the lesser falling away as compared to the great apostasy of the Falling away of today, what then would you call the falling away of "the latter times", that is what is midway between great and lesser except just an early, say midway between 100-2013, or say around 850 A.D. extensive falling away from sound doctrine?

⁵⁵Even as "itching ears" of II Timothy 4:4,5 can apply to both church members and those they call to serve as leaders that lead away from truth, so it is hard to tell here in Acts which are more savage, the savage wolves that grow up in the church or the leaders that come from without. They are both dangers to the spiritual health and well being of a church body dedicated to Christ; and certainly Warren's purpose driven wants will allow for savage drives.

"Now the spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth." (I Timothy 4:1,2)

NOTE: Being midway in history, "latter times" as contrasted to last days and the end of last days with "for the time will come", it should be noted that all these problems have continued to the present with a: (1) departing from the faith {another way of how the churches have fallen away}; (2) doctrines of devils and deceiving attitudes and spirits, another way for churches to fall away; (3) speaking lies in hypocrisy, you can see how that would your church into the falling away; (4) having their conscience seared with a hot iron, who some of those church members that you can honestly judge with righteous judgment as there (John 7:24); (5) forbidding to marry and some meats, well you know the denominations that are there now and have been for centuries.

5. Have you noticed how close these words from Jesus and Paul sound like the time of II Thessalonians 2:1-12 when "the falling away comes first" (2:3) before the famous Day⁵⁶ of the LORD and Lord of both OT and NT, called "the day of Christ" so you will not, like the BBFs, get confused about a false rapture and millennium before the End. {Please read the details of II Thessalonians 2:12 including how Satan has been restrained by the Holy Spirit since the Holy Spirit came in great presence and power after the Ascension of Christ, and how the releasing of Satan from the bondage of a counter force against "sin, righteousness, and judgment" will bring with a rising tide of sin and lawlessness, the final days of the Falling Away. {As and guide you may also want to read on this site "Holy Spirit versus Satan.}}

⁵⁶Consistently throughout the Bible, OT and NT, that Day refers to all the same events of Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:16-21, where after many signs above and beneath the sun will be darkened, then the END will come simultaneously with the Second Coming of Christ and immediately after the Falling Away.

8-6: Depending on how serious you are to know Bible truth on the HOW, the how of how have the local churches and denominations fallen away, the how of how are churches and denominations increasingly falling away as we approach the END, then you will want to do further Bible study in Jeremiah, the book of the Falling Away in the Old Testament and in Hebrews, the book of the Falling Away in the New Testament. In those two books, you will see step by step over a period of more than 40-80 years, the people of God developed “an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God” (Hebrews 3:12).

1. The “how” of the Falling away in Jeremiah.⁵⁷

“For My people have committed two evils: THEY {there is that “they” again} have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn out cisterns-- broken cisterns that can hold no water.” (Jeremiah 2:13)

NOTE: It is so subtly the way time, our own sinful spirits “that lusteth to envy” (James 4:5), and the influences of the world and Satan wear down God's people to increasingly drift away from God and the fountain of living waters, to broken cisterns of salvation will can not hold water, the two dead gods most obvious today are “cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches”. How quickly the individual brain can create a god not the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A POSITIVE STEP: If you have not completed the “Bible Studies in Jeremiah” on this web site, you should.

⁵⁷What makes the Falling away now the “great apostasy” or great falling away is the extent to which the churches and denominations {alias, globs of Christian believers} massive will fall into unbelief or the forsaking of the living God in favor of dead gods. You by now are aware of many previous falling ways like the church at Ephesus and the seven churches of Asia Minor, and the history of each church in Revelation 2 and 3 will give you more details on the HOW; at mid history, the latter times, it was then mostly one church which became deathly ill with doctrines of devils and evil spirits; then there is the massive falling away of God's original people for 80 years in the wilderness; and of course, the how records of Jeremiah. So extensive and large have been the falling AWAYs throughout the history of civilization, and more so now, it is a marvel that we can thank the grace of God that there always has been and continues to be right up to the end an elect group of continuing believers. {See on amazon.com the book by SunGrist and Jerry V McMichael subtitled THE WAY OF CONTINUING FAITH.}

2. The "how" of the Falling away in Hebrews. {By far the book of Hebrews is the definitive book on the HOW of the falling away.⁵⁸}

"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today', lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:12,13)

Exhortation is a preventive measure against the falling away; what better exhortation than the Word of God in the NT book on the how and cure for the falling away, the book of Hebrews; and by using the SUBMIT form below, you can order by e-mail a free copy of the commentary CHRIST, PAUL, AND THE FALLING AWAY.

8-7: Accept an apology for such a long answer, but the Falling Away is the number one problem today for Christians in the whole world, churches and denominations; and once the reality of it is faced, the next step is the question of HOW for which we can thank a surfer of this web site; and recognizing the HOW, we can then proceed into the Bible cures, both corrective and preventative, daily exhortation.

1. Exhortation by way of a balanced life of Bible and Bread.
2. Exhortation by way of the ALL Scripture approach of thru the Bible in 3 years.

Final NOTE: If this does not fully answer your question, or if you have thought of other questions; or want to dialog, you are welcome to use the SUBMIT form below. As Christians and fellow laborers in the vineyard of the kingdom of Christ, we just can not think about and discuss this major issue too much! To think about it and discuss it is to think about

⁵⁸It is tragic in any generation, but it is going to be massive in the last days of the last days.

and discuss Bible as of the 10 major doctrines of the Bible, the Falling Away is number 9. {See the 10 major doctrines of the Bible in **SOME SOUNDS OF SOUND FAITH.**} Also you are welcome to [download a free copy in PDF of this Bible answer](#) to a critical Bible question.

Chapter 9: Churches of the Bible Belt "Repent and Be Converted".

Can a nation or part of a nation well known as the Bible belt repent and be converted? Certainly, that is the whole point of the famous passage of II Chronicles 7:14:

9-1: A Refreshing Look Again at II Chronicles 7:14. {Surely you will recall that it is addressed to God' own people, "If my people..."}

1. "If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, {humility is a good beginning on the part of churches for repentance from the condemned "pride of life"⁵⁹ of I John 2:15-17 is more prevalent and permitted among church members than the 2 other sins "not of the Father, but of the world" of "lust of the flesh" and "lust of the eyes"}...

NOTE: Soon in these Bible studies on Refreshing Evangelism, we will come to the book of Romans under the title of "Gospel". Years ago, before I stopped messing with Broadman press for publication, they objected aggressively to any title with PRIDE in it, falling to recognize the extent among church members as to how often they had pride in their children, pride in their church and denominations, and even pride in their works: goodness, why not pride in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that exceeds all these other natural prides, and to some extent should replace them especially where they have become an idol; a pride like Paul expressed in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..."

2. "...and pray and seek My face" (II Chronicles 7:14).

NOTE: Contrast the typical Bible belt worship of 70% of the Bible belt services which go no higher than the church ceiling, or go downward to you know who since any prayer going to a supernatural being other than the God the Lord Jesus

⁵⁹You probable do not have eyes to see and ears to hear that this is the opposite of I Corinthians 1:31 that "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD." It just so happens that Gospel pride is the only allowed Christian glory or pride.

Christ, and because of the idols⁶⁰ in the puny little minds of the average church member failing far short of this great God, naturally go to Satan. Church members have no convictions today: first, because they don't know any real doctrine, only rumors of doctrine upon which to base convictions; and born out of neglect and hell is the intolerance in churches toward sound doctrine, "for the time will {has} come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (II Timothy 4:3,4)

How do we know that churches in the Bible belt are now in the great apostasy called the Falling Away, because of this obvious neglect and intolerance toward sound doctrine, and other reasons like the current series of calamities would not be hitting the Bible belt and the rest of America if God's own people were meeting the requirements of II Chronicles 7:14, for the real purpose of God's message through Solomon on refreshing evangelism was stated in the verse before 7:14--

3. "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain⁶¹, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people..." (II Chronicles 7:13)

NOTE: It is realized that most of you Bible belt church members do not even have enough convictions to read or hear this verse above, and accept the truth. {By the way, "turning away from truth" {II Timothy 4:3,4} is the fourth stage of the falling away, immediately before the last and fifth stage of the falling away which is in God's hands and out of the control of the churches, "the being turned into fables". (II Timothy 4:3,4)

{Read how turning away from truth leads to "Strong Delusions"⁶² in my book on amazon.com, THE WAY OF CONTINUING FAITH.}

⁶⁰That is a pitifully funny thing of the first stage of the great apostasy called the Falling Away of churches, the "will not endure sound doctrine" {II Timothy 4:3,4} doesn't even allow enough real Bible and real conviction for such prayers to go anywhere except down. If church members in the Bible belt had just one ounce of conviction on God and the Bible in II Chronicles 7:14, then there would not be this series of intense Calamities on fhte Bible belt since 9/11, including the destruction of churches, {See how real prayer with repentance and conversion among the churches of the Bible belt would prevent such calamities--the "healing of the Land" of II Chronicles if you please--by reading on this www.biblecombibleman.com website the message of "Calamities Chase Chastisement".

⁶¹Referenc, "Texas Drought" on www.biblecombiblema.com.

⁶²"And for this reason God will send them strong delusion {GOD SENDS IT, very comparable to God's turning them

4. Churches of the Bible, you who claim to be the MY of God's people, you must "REPENT AND BE CONVERTED".

"If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS..." (II Chronicles 7:14)

You still have not, hopefully come under the strong delusions of Romans and II Thessalonians whereby you can not endure the sound doctrine that to turn away from your wicked ways is the equivalent of Repent and Be Converted. I know most of you are excusing yourself right now, thinking or saying, "Well I and my church are safe for their are no wicked ways in us." That is about what God's people in Jeremiah said, although there house of God like most in this day of the Falling away are "Dens of Thieves"; but you and them refuse to endure the sound doctrine {or teachings} of the Bible that the two greatest sins of the people of God are pitifully expressed by God Himself in Jeremiah x:xx: "My people have committed two evils, they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters; and they have hewn cisterns, broken cisterns, that will hold no water."

NOTE: Can you deny that you and your church have not forsaken God as the fountain of living waters, and the source and controller of complete salvation--past, present, and future--and that you have not made idols of worship {broken cisterns} to take the legitimate place of priority and loyalty in your life that justly belongs to the Great God the Father, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the God of the only Christian Bible! There are so many ways that you can slip into idolatry, starting with the creation in your own mind and life of a god that is not the same as the God of the Bible and the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁶³

into fables of II Timothy 4:3,4 after the church members have turned away from turh. Oh, if God's people today, especially in the Bible belt could see the iseparable connections between truth versus the lie, strong delusion, and the Falling Away!

⁶³These are the two best ways to identify that your God is the only God: (1) that He is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, and (2) that He is the real God of the real Bible. ALL ELSE IS IDOLATRY AND A HIDEOUS AND WICKED WAY FROM WHICH REPENTANCE AND CONVERSION IS REQUIRED. If you could only see the "pride of the life" of the Bible, and the Gospel pride as set forth by Paul in Romans as the only means of Christian glorying, then you could come back to a little more reality in your worship and service of the real God!

9-2: Peter preached there in the temple with refreshing evangelism on REPENT AND BE CONVERTED to the most religious moral majority that ever lived, and today we must preach in similar houses of God, like them also claiming to be God's own people--the Bible belt is the second most religious moral majority of all time, and also claiming like those at the temple to be God's own people!

The US and Bible belt in particular lessened as a total part of hits and visits, their participation in www.biblecombibleman.com as last week they read strong convictions on hard and sound doctrines based on the righteous judgment over appearance recommended by Jesus. Hits and visits from the US were still 28% of the traffic, and still was number one; but paled in the approximately 70% of the Ukraine, China, and Russia.⁶⁴ Since this sounds so strangely like the 2 out of 7 good churches in Asia Minor, and the 5 out of 7 bad churches, that now churches of the United States are more bad and the Christians of other more populated countries are more good! This should not be since the Falling Away is as much a world wide movement as it is of American churches in the Bible belt. Of course, it was recognized from results of Election 2012, from the votes and exit polls, that as SunGrist_Bible seeks "Refreshing Evangelism" there is the need to reach other Baptists in the Bible belt, perhaps more of the Afro-American church members of more conviction.

9-3: It has long been recognized that there is a strong relationship between truth of all kind, and the ultimate truth of the Lord Jesus

⁶⁴Still the total number of countries remains at 40 or over, and the number of downloads is appreciated, especially the ones of the truth about any RAPTURE. You know, surely we must admit that in any nation at any time, truth is not popular; and during the Falling away from God, Christ, and the Bible in the churches, we can expect much less appreciation for truth! At least, God has not yet turned all of American into fables, we pray; however according to the Bible in II Timothy 4:3,4 it will inevitable come. Serious Bible students can see where you are headed America, it is only a matter of time, if you are not there already!

Christ that can make you free and keep you free from bondage, sin, Satan, and lack of reality!

1. Surely you can remember and presently have enough courage and conviction of a Christian American, or just look at those places on American monuments, buildings, and statues where it is recorded "and the truth shall make you free."
2. Bible belt churches made one giant step forward {"you shall know them by their works"} as they showed in Election 2012: (1) a lack of Christian American character that allowed them not to vote or abstain from voting for the most Christian President this nation has every seen; and (2) willingness to put a wealthy member of a non-Christian cult with 2 cures resting on them in as President, giving more priority to the pocket book and party than to convictions against such cults once held strongly by the party called the churches of the Bible belt.

NOTE: Sorry about this mistake on Obama, perhaps he started out well and impressive but then after renouncing membership in his Chicago Baptist church, he seemed to drift toward the immoralities of the Democratic Party.

Wake up Bible belt churches, this is one strong evidence of how you are so deep into the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:3,4 that you have gone past stage #1 of intolerance toward sound doctrine, have proceeded since about 1968 into stage #2, church motivations controlled by personal wants and desires, obviously head over heels into all the implications of stage #3, "the heaping up of teachers with itching ears"; well into the turning away from truth and reality of stage 4 and at the precipice where God turns the churches of the Bible belt, like the Mormons and Roman Catholic Church into FABLES.

3. Obviously from real⁶⁵ Bible, the "lie" is the ultimate departure from the truth, and with Satan a the father of the lie, it tells you the dominant influence in American life, politics, and history--and even American character--that has lead to the sorry state of affairs in Bible belt churches!

⁶⁵There is a difference between Bible and real Bible, between carrying it around and having God deal with you through it, between classes from itching ears teachers in churches and denomination meetings and the still small voice of God as He tells you the truth! Reference "Truth and Bible Inerpretation" on www.biblecombibleman.com!

4. It is possible to tell that the popularity of Refreshing Evangelism from Peter and Acts as the Bible belt has begun to see real Bible and real truth; and even though "Bible Studies in Jeremiah" still exceeds the index.html, the truth of the temple message by Jeremiah still has not sunk in. This decrease in popularity to hard truth is clear as the hits and visits on www.biblecombibleman.com have gone down this week, while Christians in Russia, China, and the Ukraine have retained the same number of high hits and visits, also of document downloads. {Does this tell us that the Falling away in the United States, especially in the Bible belt, is ahead of the Falling away in the other populated parts of the world, or that "Popular Preachers of Prosperity"⁶⁶ have come to dominate the Bible belt?}

Also Americans, captive to the lies of Satan, have started to pay the price of the past, since 1968⁶⁷, heaping up of teachers with itching ears. All those success speakers in the churches, all those preachers of the gospel of prosperity and things, with reinforcement from denominational speakers and local church teachers has found its inevitable recompense in the turning away from truth, and the being turned in fables by God. Right there in the category of famous itching ears teachers of the progenitors⁶⁸ of a false "rapture" and "millennium". There is something about this so-called literalism by fundamentalists and Bible Baptists of the Bible belt that, having already added non-biblical words like rapture and millennium to their eschatological vocabulary and concepts, can not rescue themselves from similar superficialities on the rest of their so-called literalism on the Bible. It is almost like the intolerance toward sound doctrine started with Scofield on "last things" then spread to all their truth on the Bible. {Of course Christian Americans must see the difference between the extremes of toleration

⁶⁶Reference,

⁶⁷Evangelist Dwight L. Moody fortunately had his R.A. Torrey to reinforce with Bible meat, sometimes even correct with real Bible; however no such Bible teacher has stepped forward, that we know of, for Billy Graham. It is always necessary as part of the great commission to "Go and make disciples", and like Graham did for so many years until he became less popular approximately 1968; however it is also necessary to develop them and to "teach them to observe all things" that Jesus has commanded.

⁶⁸Reference, "Rapture" or "The Demonic Veil of the Rapture" on www.biblecombible.com.

in the American Democratic faith, which actually lead to no convictions, and the intolerance toward sound doctrine that leads away from Christian faith⁶⁹.)

5. Of course, as evangelists of refreshing evangelism, we must continue at our own expense, to:

“Do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry, watch in all things, and endure afflictions.” (II Timothy 4:xx)

NOTE: Has it not occurred to you that the recently advertised number of ministers falling away from their faith, and the exponential increase in good ministers being run off {part of the heaping up of teachers with itching ears is to first run off the sound doctrines that pinch church member desires, then for the pulpit committee and the subsequent church members to select one of itching ears; and believe me, they know!}, and often inhumanely, out of their churches is the signs of the 5 stages of the falling away?

9-4: What are some of the obvious signs in Bible belt churches which require the “Repent and be converted” of Peter and refreshing evangelism, obvious church member signs of the Falling Away which requires the same “turning away from their sins” and the turning back to truth like in the great Reformation in Europe of the Great Awakening in early American history.

1. The number of church members who are divorced, now well over 50%; and who: (1) did not confess divorce to God as a sin and receive forgiveness and cleanings, and (2) who still hold on to innocence; and (3) who are so captive to their own wants, and lack of sound Bible doctrine that they do not admit to the sound doctrines of the Bible and of Jesus on marriage, quite often encouraged by their itching ears advisors, pastors, teachers, and fellow church members.

⁶⁹Reference “The Christain American Mind” of this Refreshing Evangelism series.

2. Lax convictions of what the Bible teaches on gays and lesbians, especially in the first of Romans, and how such departure from truth leads to strong delusion.
3. Their recent vote, or absence of a vote, for an obvious Christian over a cult and lie ridden with 3 other contradictory Bibles, Mormon.
4. The obvious ignorance of truth and Bible, indifference toward Bible and truth, in the Bible belt that leads to all kinds of fables in the name of truth, Christ, and Christianity.
5. The increased number of church members, influenced easily by TV and books, who take the name of God in vain, in spite of the Bible guarantee that they "will not be held guiltless": so much to the point that OMG has become almost a dictionary word. My wife and I have heard it personally from the teachers of "worship leaders" as well as pastors and their wives at church camp meetings. But you know if you are intellectual honest; if you have the ability for "righteous judgment" as recommended by Jesus (John 17:24) and the God given grace to overcome "appearance" in favor of the righteous judgments of the Bible and the conscience of those truly born again.
6. In spite of the obvious bad signs of attitude and behavior in your church of the Bible belt, those of I Timothy 3:1-9 and of HIDEOUTS FOR BAD HABITS⁷⁰, the only Christian Apologetics today known by church members is to apologize for the bad behavior and bad attitudes of their church members with such excuses as "we are all sinners", "sinners but saved", and "there are no hypocrites in our church; most of this bad response to the "turn away from your sins" coming from a "pride of life" about your church, yourself, and a superficial faith in God, Christ, and the Bible. {Like Peter preached and like is echoed in II Chronicles 7:14, also a mainstay of refreshing evangelism, Church Members "Repent and be converted".
7. Church member's failure to recognize the Bible on how calamities come from God and are a result of church sins to stay away from God and real spiritual prayer

⁷⁰Refrebee my book on HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS and HTMLs and downloads by the same subject on www.biblecombibleman.com.

is also a sign of how Bible belt churches are deep into the Falling Away, the same sign of a failure to heed II Chronicles 7:14 written to God's own people.

7. Even as societies turned away from almost all truth in Romans 2, starting with "they would not retain God in their mind" and believed THE LIE⁷¹, so today in America you will find simultaneously the believing of such untruths, and lacks of intellectual honesty, even ignorance in such foolhardy hasty generalizations as "Obama was not born in the United States" and "Obama is not a Christian but a Muslim". My oh my, how far we have come away from honesty and truth when this happens, the obvious victim of the propaganda of late night radio and the dirty tricksters like Karl Rowe, or the wealthy windbags like Trump and Limbaugh. How do you tell when someone or some nation, or even the Bible belt, has passed the threshold of no return from truth into fables? It could be beyond our understanding, and even righteous judgment replacing appearance, but surely as loose words out of mouths showing the lack of respect for our majority elected President of the United States can be accepted as a WARNING!

9-5: It may be too late for another Great Awakening {it is not yet hopeless for a few American churches to repent and be converted as well as the more obvious continuing of such in the rest of the populated world} among bible belt churches, since recent news makes it obvious that Israel is already surrounded, only a man of sin remains to be obvious and you almost allow the election of a prime candidate of untruth⁷² in Election 2012.

1. There is always the horrible thought that he, the man of sin and the son of perdition, is already on the world scene, yet we church members of unsound doctrine, lack of truth and reality, and of the Falling away and failure on II Chronicles 7:14 can not see Him. If you are mixed up on the rapture and millennium, you are not in good shape to even realize all the climatic events of the

⁷¹See THE LIE on www.biblecombibleman.com.

⁷²Judge righteous judgement now, would you consider the other candidate a man of truth, or a man dominated by lies, untruth, and lack of Christian American character, though wealthy.

second coming of Christ. like Peter said in "the restoration of all things" of refreshing evangelism.

NOTE: You know there are just so many casual statements in the Bible that it is almost impossible to see how many of the fundamentalists have bought the falsehoods of Scofield.⁷³

2. It is possible, as warned in "Why Calamities"⁷⁴, that this intense series of calamities on Americans since 9/11 is more of the third kind--calamities like in the book of Revelation which shake the earth and come quickly to the end--than those of the first kind, which are designed by God and afflicted on His own people to get their attention about turning away from sins.

3. Momentarily look carefully and spiritually with all intellectual honesty at the innumerable number of Bible secondary or casual mentions of the second coming and the restoration of all things happening only at the END⁷⁵.

(1) That you that are alive and remain will not only be there right before the Second Coming and the restoration of all things, but that you will not hinder, "prevent" or in any way get before the dead in Christ.

(2) Peter on the restoration of all things, and how God holds Christ captive in heaven until then. Tell us, you hypocrites that claim to be literal {your literalism is much like that of the scribes and Pharisees}, how there could be a rapture where Christians are falsely rescued from the Falling away, from the little time when Satan appears being released from bondage, to heaven when He will not be even released by God the Father until the end.

⁷³The north had to straighten out many of the Bible belt rebels during the Civil War, does it remain for them and the faithful churches of the north {perhaps the 2 out of 7 of the churches of Asia Minor} to straighten you out on truth, sound doctrine, and eschatology. Hopefully your awakening to total truth and reality does not come about the same time as the battle of Armageddon.

⁷⁴Reference "Why Calamities" on my website of www.biblecombibleman.com.

⁷⁵See THE END, part 1 and part 2, on the web page of www.biblecombibleman.com or available for free download in PDF from the same web site. Just use a Bible search to find them.

(3) The "then the end comes" of II Corinthians 15:24.

Chapter 10: Salvation is the Most Obvious Time of Refreshing.

Ever since the Holy Spirit came to take the place of Jesus on earth, and in the start of the kingdom of Christ, salvation has been the most obvious time of refreshing from the presence of the LORD God the Father {with the Lord Jesus Christ at His right hand making intercession for our sins and preparing to come get us again in great power and glory at the end. Peter made it clear in his first sermon {sermon begins with a quote from in Joel 2:28-33 as recorded in the Bible, Acts 2:14-21} on the first day of Pentecost after the ascension of Christ, that the kingdom of Christ was a new great event of Christianity that established the major events of spiritual blessings and curses right up to the end of time as we know it, until the "restoration of all things".

10-1: An Outline of Christian History from the Apostle Peter and the Prophet Joel.

1. This first day of Pentecost after the Ascension marked the beginning of the last days.⁷⁶

"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says Gods...' (Acts 2:16,17 and Joel 2:28-33)

NOTE: Who says, God says Scofield and feud mentalists that this marked the beginning of the last days. Sorry, you that have swallowed Scofield hook, line, and sinker would like to have it otherwise; but God says and you have better listen if you deserve to be part of Refreshing Evangelism and part of that special Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God that Peter preached,

⁷⁶Fundamentalists and Bible Baptists get so wrapped up in the speculations and fictitious philosophies of Scofield, that they can not even screw their heads on correctly that this was the beginning of the last days and that THE END marks the end of the last days with the Second Coming and the restoration of all things. Yes, eschatalogy does matter in the Christian faith and proper interpretation of the Bible! Scofield applied more the methology of a divorced lawyer, and a Congregationalist, than a gifted Bible teacher. In fact, you might consider his theologies on eschatalogy, the real beginning in the United States, except for Mormans and the Roman Catholic heirarcy, of "itching ears" (II Timothy 4:3,4) Bible teaachings.

the Lord Jesus Christ of refreshing and restoration. (in Peters second sermon in the temple, Acts 3:19-21).

2. Jump to Acts 2:20b, second part, for a Christian and historical landmark for the whole earth, the often neglected in preaching and teaching "great and awesome day of the LORD" {a thread of prophecies and predictions about this one great day of the LORD run consistently through the whole Bible for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear}. This is the END of which spoke in Matthew 24:14⁷⁷ when everything happens {another way to say the "restoration of all things"}: the end of the little time when Satan is released as the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth {this withdrawal is nearly at the end of the Falling Away, that great apostasy of church members, called a "little time" or short time in the Bible"⁷⁸ by God the Father happens, another great historical event of the kingdom, THE church of the firstborn written in heaven; then the battle of Armageddon which triggers the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus brining with Him the dead in Christ and snatching up living Christians {the gathering of the saints by the angels from all ends of the earth, in earth and in the sea}; and then little is left except a just rendering in hell and the lake of fire for Satan and those so wicked as to reject God' own son; oh yes, and the lowering from heaven to Mount Zion the New city of Jerusalem in which God, Jesus, and the Apostles will reign over the new earth of new born-again Creatures and Creation {also part of the restoration of all things in that it marks restoration of all lost to humanity and to God, including close fellowship, with the advent of human sin, sorrow, and pain with original sin}.

3. Now some obvious landmarks in this period of time called the last days, starting with Coming of the Holy Spirit to earth and ending with the restoration of all things at the Second Coming.

⁷⁷One problem fundamentalists have with Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation is that the time sequence is not linear, each series like the beginning of sorrows and the continuing of sorrows goes all the way to the END.

⁷⁸Christians should be grateful that it is a short time, because accoring to Daniel 12:7, the Falling away comes to such a peak that "the power of the Holy people is completely shattered".

(1). God democratically pours out His Holy Spirit on all flesh that believe, that repent and are converted.⁷⁹ The prime product of this original and continuing times of refreshing is PROPHECY⁸⁰, but also visions and dreams.

NOTE: Churches and pastors today, if you desire for your church real Refreshing Evangelism as from the first sermons of the Apostle Peter, then you must restore the gift and office of the prophet, an office to have equal standing with pastors, teachers, and evangelists. Caution, do not think Paul was writing about OT prophets, because all these officers of the church were appointed by the ASCENDED Christ, and after His Ascension. So greatly has modern churches gone into professionalism for the minister, that the probability of this part of refreshing evangelism ever happening again is slim!

(2). The last days will be a period of time with "wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath" (Acts 2:19)⁸¹--the specifics of which are "blood and fire and vapor of smoke"⁸².

(3). You know the last days are about to end when these signs and wonders evolve naturally, and under the control of God and Christ {"through Him all things consist"}, into a dark sun and a bloody moon. (Acts 2:20a and Joel 2:28-33)

⁷⁹By the way, even as salvation is a continuing process, if it is according to the Bible and refreshing evangelism--past, present, and future or generally called regeneration, sanctification, and glorification at the restoration of all things; so also is repentance and conversion a past, present, and future process.

⁸⁰This is prophesy as explained in I Corinthians 14, related to what is generally called teaching and preaching, and with some prediction but in the same characteristics of OT prophets, primarily a message for that day and time. The problem with churches today is their departure away from the office appointments of the Ascended Christ (Ephesians x:xx): they honor the office of pastor, evangelists, and teachers, however neglect the prophet, which for generations in churches has been most comparable to lay preachers.

⁸¹There is the possibility that these signs and wonders in heaven and on earth are part of the times of refreshing from the presence of the LORD, and if not that certainly that leads into the restoration of all things. Never do we wish to gloat over the calamities God brings on other Americans, and we must do what we can to help; however we must also see it, according to the Bible, as just acts of God; and efforts on His part to get the attention of most of His Falling Away people, those who are "eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage" as if God did not exist and is not important! Of course so many of them are so stubborn as not to see the work of God in calamities, especially the churches destroyed in the intense series of calamities since 9/11.

⁸²Perhaps you have noticed in the intense series of calamities since 9/11 that with any hurricane, tornado, fire, or other calamity even including flooding there is BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

(4). Now fundamentalists I don't know what to say to you in kindness, except consistently with the Word of God here in Acts 2:20b, these signs and wonders and finally darkened sun and bloody moon lead into the Day of the LORD of the OT and the day of the Lord Jesus Christ of the NT, in other words to the Second Coming of Christ which is simultaneously one day of the restoration of all things!

NOTE: I suppose the real marvel is that we other Christians and Baptists have so long tolerated, in spite of the Bible saying consistently and many times that all things such as the gathering of the saints with the dead in Christ happens at the same time as the Second Coming and at the end. So obviously does the Bible make it obvious that they are full of malarkey on a "rapture" before the Second Coming and the simultaneous restoration of all things, and on a "millennium" that also happens at the end of the restoration of all things; and as the good SBC teachers like Ray Summers and Mc tried to teach us, the one thousand years applies to the forever time of the new earth. We as real southern Baptists through the takeover of the convention by Bible Baptists and fundamentalists were wrong to let them get away with the side-effect of "itching ears" and the Falling Away; and even more wrong to let many of our best seminary teachers and so-called moderate pastors have their careers and reputations as conservatives destroyed. And even as we reap what we sow, we are continuing to pay for it!

10-2: All during this period of the last days is the good news, and certainly in the times of refreshing promise, that "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." (Acts 2:21) It remains only for us to show from the Bible, and as part of refreshing evangelism, the Bible specifics of HOW TO BE SAVED?

Chapter 11: Gospel Pride over “Pride of Life” is for the Glory of God.

Self-esteem with pride of life has recently become so engrained in American thought and character, also invaded the teachings in the churches, that it seems sacra-religious to bad mouth pride of life. Secular psychology would certainly recall at any efforts to lessen self pride, even in dominance by a more religious motivation. {For a more Christian psychologist approach, please read THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY by Wayne Oates of SBTS as he stresses those dimensions as more in the terms of integration, community, and so on.} Of course, secular psychologists, for the most part, would not subscribe to the high Christian calling, like with the Apostle Paul, who live and taught, “God forbid that I should glory save in the preaching of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ”. (Galatians x:xx)

Long ago it was more popular among SBC⁸³ youth to subscribe to the motivation as expressed by W.O. Carver with the title of his commentary on Ephesians, THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE CHRISTIAN CALLING. Now with the control of Bible Baptists over the SBC, in their bookstores it is hard to find a copy; and their itching ears teachings have lead away from a proper and literal understanding⁸⁴ of --

“walk worthy of the calling with which you are called...” (Ephesians 4:1b)

No doubt much of this worldliness among bible belt churches has come from a emphasis on the American Democratic faith over Christian faith and subservience to the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. One might call it sort of a political correctness.

⁸³SBC for Southern Baptist Convention.

⁸⁴There is a strange and unsound aroma of wordliness in their churches and denomination. Perhaps it is feasible and pragmatic, if you can not beat them then joining them in order to reach outh for Christ. Yet increasing we are witnessing in the fruits of the Faling awy the reaping of what has been sowed.

11-1: Refreshing Evangelism among the churches must include a revival of “for the glory of God”. Something that has also been replaced currently with all this acceptance of “worldliness”, and if you have eyes to see and ears to hear, you can see it in the replacement of Spirit driven and Christ driven motivations, also drives for the glory of God, with popularity in the churches of purpose driven “wants” and “desires”.

Christian and church member motivations based on wants or desires is one evidence of where pride of life has overcome Gospel Pride, and being stage #2 of the Falling Away--“out their own desires shall they heap up teachers with itching ears”⁸⁵--has also made significant contributions among church members to the other 4 stages of the Falling way: intolerance toward sound doctrine; the heaping in of teachers with itching ears and the heaping out of teachers of sound doctrine; turning away from truth; and being turned by God into fables.

11-2: A Proper Biblical and real literal understanding of certain Bible words and concepts, even Bible-based principles, can help Gospel Pride win out over Pride of Life for the glory of God.

1. According to the Bible in I John, what is so bad about “pride of life”?
2. God never has in the long history of revelations in the Bible thought much about human pride. It is the opposite of humility, of submission to God and His will and way, and it is condemned in the Bible more than even money, riches, and wealth as source of all kinds of sin. It is pride of life control that leads into idolatry as those desiring more control and satisfaction create in their own mind and life, a god that does not exist; then worship and serve that idol.

⁸⁵You witnessed this on a large scale as Bible Baptists wormed their way into the more prosperous churches of the SBC, and then as they heaped out from the seminaries, colleges, and pastored men of sound doctrine like Bert Dominy, Summers, Ramm, and Winifred Moore.

3. Paul expressed Gospel Pride in the first chapter introduction of the book of Romans, the most thorough and exhaustive study of Gods plan of salvation and righteousness to be found in all literature.

"For I am not ashamed {this is more a very positive affirmation of pride in the Gospel} of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for every one believes....For in it the righteousness {rightness and justice and love and thoroughness of God for His creations} of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" (Romans 1:18)⁸⁶

Good 'ole Paul the lawyer and thorough Bible scholar that God chose to be the chief editor of the NT; for right here in some of the first words of Romans chapter one he sets forth a possible outline of the book of Romans.

(1). Christian testimonies and God given testimonies to Gospel Pride in the Gospel of the kingdom and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Foremost for Christians today who would start into this salvation, insure that they already have this salvation, and exercise some Gospel Pride, is the personal testimony of witness to Jesus and the Gospel they must give. Paul also gives us in Romans the clearest and most thorough, and of course from God, definition of this Gospel Pride through testimony and public confession of Christ!

"...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9,10)

Correctly refreshing evangelism looks for this from those initially making a profession of faith in Christ; but it is never too late {unless one has passed the point of no return with the unpardonable sin of hardened unbelief} to make this same confession of pride in Christ and in the Gospel of Christ for God's power, righteousness, and salvation. Beyond that it is necessary to

⁸⁶Good 'ole Paul the lawyer and thorough Bible scholar that God chose to be the chief editor of the NT; for right here in some of the first words of Romans chapter one he sets forth a possible outline of the book of Romans.

have such a consistent testimony of Gospel Pride. Have you not noticed the verse before Romans 10:9,10:

"But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart(that is, the word of faith which we preach) (Romans 10:8)

NOTE: Hear that, it says how close the people of God must continue to be next to the Word of the Gospel; how it must continually come out of their mouth as a testimony; and above all how it must remain in their heart. This is closer than you realize to the "repent and be converted" on the part of church members of Refreshing Evangelism that started this series on the same subject. Or let us put it in a more positive fashion that if you desire to have your land healed, the revival of habit to turn away from your sins, is to turn away from neglect of Christ from your mouth and heart!

(2) With a steady and habitual expression, one way or another, of Gospel pride, then our lack of shame of the Gospel turns into God not being ashamed of us!

"For the scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame'" (Romans 10:11 and Isaiah 28:16)

AND

(3) The Gospel is the power of God into salvation. **"For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'" (Romans 10:13 and Joel 2:32)**

NOTE: These are not little one time for all time magic formulas, under their guidance, that fundamentalists evangelists would lead you to be for their own glory of numbers. Confession and faith in the heart, as also repentance and conversion, is a lifetime and habitual experience.

(4). It is For everyone who believes, the Jew first⁸⁷ and then Gentiles.

⁸⁷This "first" was more a historical order in that God gave them through the birth and residence and teachings of Jesus, first shot at salvation; however even as with the preaching and church building and missionary efforts of Paul the Jews rejected the Gospel like most of them still do today, then God and Paul chose the Gentiles as more the people of God than Jews. In fact, as Paul made clear God really established a new nation of Jews, Jews in heart through the

Contrary to another false eschatological teaching of fundamentalists and Scofield, it is hardly likely even under the extreme fear of Armageddon as the armies of the world come against Jerusalem and the camp of the saints that Jews will be saved as a nation. Clearly according to Daniel, they had only a certain number of days for salvation after the death of Christ and the destruction of the temple, and we must look at some of the solid teachings of B.H. Carroll on these matters in his AN INTERPRETATION OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE.

11-3: You must see for refreshing evangelism that “pride of life” along with “lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes” are evidences of worldliness in any Christian life. Forget it if you are not even trying to be “in the world but not of the world”, or if you are not a Christian and church member; or if you do not desire to be a member of THE CHURCH of the firstborn written in heaven. Granted today these popular preachers of prosperity would choke on the inconsistencies of their messages if at the same time they preached to you about “worldliness”.

During the recent campaign of Election 2012, you heard some rich man with a Polish accent⁸⁸, condemned American votes for the “bad mouthing of success”; and once again we see the rebirth in 2012 of the old and classical greed of the Gospel of Wealth and the corollary of success. Such false testimony, according to the Bible, is just plain worldliness, the kind of desire for wealth and riches that the Bible constantly condemns.

new birth, that was made up of a new people of God more from the Gentiles than Jews. Don't get confused, there have periodically been a few like the evangelist Hyman Appleman; and certainly the Jewish apostles of Christ will be ruling over the new earth from the new Jerusalem, of course under God and Christ who had that point have come back to eternal reign and rule, and fellowship with His new creatures.

⁸⁸In our cartoon caricature of those motivated by money, and along with Witch Mitch and Bummer Bomber and Gubber Inquest, he is fictiously of course, called Mr Success. You realize, however, that these are only representative of the 1% committed to the protection of their wealth!

11-4: In Refreshing Evangelism, there must be a revival of “for the glory of God in the Christian calling”. While along with disrespect of some of our forefathers in the faith like Carver and Carroll, Truett and Lee, has automatically come some disrespect for their sound Bible doctrines. It is hard to tell whether it is ignorance or neglect, or both; and it is hard to tell which came first, the disrespect for our SBC forefathers or disrespect for their sound doctrines. We must naturally suspect that the intolerance toward sound doctrine {“the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” of II Timothy 4:3,4 and of the Falling Away} led also to the neglect of these great men of God; or perhaps it is the tendency toward “the menace of mediocrity” with the “wrens making prey where eagles dare not perch” of R. G. Lee, that overwhelmed the SBC. You might call it the love of the ordinary and extremes of the American democratic faith over the Christian faith.

So much of the boomer and millennium indifference to generations of the past, is rooted and grounded in their own personal problems--among individuals and in churches--in a much greater drift away from tolerance of sound doctrine, toward motivation by desires and self-esteem, toward the heaping up of teachers of itching ears that will say something new and different for the greatest generation that ever lived {more of pride of life}⁸⁹, that turn away from truth without even realize it because of the indifference to the faith of these that came before them, and then when the youth turn into fables, the mediocre because the norm.

⁸⁹Youth and respect for youth much greater than respect and regard for all the members, along with their praise music and noise without understanding {I Cor 14} lead to the complete destruction of a once vibrant and prosperous First Baptist Church of Alamogordo New Mexico. And it is really the itching ears teachers and leaders of these youth that are responsible to God for the destruction of this local church! Any time, you try to find substitutes or Gospel Pride over other prides, you are asking for trouble: it only speeds up your church into the great apostasy of the Falling Away. Try this, talk to them about the pride of life and see what the reaction is to this portion of the Word of God!

Chapter 12: Repentance and Conversion Dies to Self.

Repentance and Conversion die to self, that is the very nature of this process in the One Baptism of One Salvation of God. If as a Christian and a church member, you have very few convictions of sound doctrine, you must have mentally and spiritually the seven ONE doctrines of Ephesians 4:4-6--

“There is one body {THE church of the Lord Jesus Christ written in heaven⁹⁰} and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Obviously with this last detailed description of God the Father, you know the Holy Spirit through Paul was writing to those already Christians; because this One and only God is also Father of all, recognized as above all and through all of the universe, but also “in all”. And right here, we must momentarily pause before discussion of the One Baptism of the One Salvation, to note the miracle of the salvation of repentance and conversion with the death to self in that the very God of this Universe takes up residence in the believer’s heart. Did you miss that in your Sunday school classes or Bible study, Jesus explained how both He and the Father would take up residence in a human heart as self died.

“Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)⁹¹

⁹⁰It is good that it is written in heaven otherwise some denomination would claim it for their own and even post a sign out in front of their building to that extent!

⁹¹For you church members who still after all these chapters caught on to conversion and repentance as a life time process, you should not here that Jesus is talking to a whole church, the church at Laodicea in Asia Minor. It was a personal and individual invitation to all members that could overcome the falling away of their church, you accept this invitation of Christ and the Father to come into them alone. The same message is for today, you do not have to be drug down by the inevitable falling away of your church, of all churches and denominations as the End approaches. The last messages of Christ to all churches was an invitation to individual church members to break away from the crowd, and to be an OVERCOMER!

12-1: While the message above from the Risen and Ascended Christ is to a whole church, Jesus gave a more individual invitation to come inside a person as Judas, not Iscariot, asked the question of John 14:22, "How will you manifest Yourself to us and not to the world?"

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23)

You can not get away from the message by Peter⁹² of repent and be converted; for above Jesus says it in another way, (1) loving Jesus and keeping the words of Jesus is the equivalent of repent and be converted⁹³; and (2) with subsequent times of refreshing like (a) my Father will love him, and (b) Christ and God the Father will come to him and make their home with him {Do I hear an AMEN any place here?} How refreshing is this, a promise of love from God the Father, and at the same time a promise of internal and forever residence in the heart of God and Jesus.

NOTE: It is somewhat strange that by far the majority of Bible words used to describe this residence in the heart of God and Christ is heard less than the "new birth"--which is also another way to describe this miracle from God--which is only found a few times in the Bible. It was forecast by Jeremiah--"I will take away the stony heart from them, and give them a new heart to know me" (Jeremiah x:xx)--and by Jesus in describing the one baptism of the one salvation to Nicodemus in words like "you must be born again". And since it is in the Bible at all, we would dare not neglect it in spite of the flippant usage by many questionable Christians that they have been born again. Certainly, we would dare not neglect words from Jesus to be born again. However, we can not appreciate the homiletical and theological practices of ignoring the other ways the Bible describes salvation! At the

⁹²Peter learned it from Jesus.

⁹³It may be confusing all these words to describe what is necessary for salvation, but what is being described is the attitude a sinner must take in order to "be converted" by God, and as you know attitudes are never easy to describe even when the words come from God Himself. The problem is not with the communication of God, it is with the slowness of the human to have ears to hear and eyes to see!

other extreme from this superficial and simplicity explanation of salvation in a few words only is the other extreme of theologians to get completely away from Bible words in the use of "regeneration" to describe the new birth.

We can learn from Sauer's APOSTOLIC PREACHING OF THE CROSS where he finds many ways and words to describe salvation through the blood of Jesus on the cross like redemption, atonement, the blood, propitiation, and so on. Never is neglect of some parts of the Bible justified in favor of the harping on just one word, or a few words, for salvation: that is a violation of the very command that ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable.

12-2: Paul, the God chosen chief editor of the New Testament, chose under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit primarily to describe the one salvation in terms of the One Baptism. You see that as no other place in the Bible with the Gospel Pride of Romans 8.

12-3: Did you miss that forgiveness of sins is also a time of refreshing--it feels so good. Recall the method of Peter's description of this act of love from God was in Acts x:xx, "Repent and be converted THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT". Here also, God in the Bible and through many apostles and prophets finds many ways to describe this act of live in forgiveness, sometimes as a act of grace. {Certainly something we are not naturally entitled to, or can earn for ourselves!}

1. "For by grace are you saved through faith. It is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8.9)

2. Since most often we hear of "faith" and "repentance" from the Bible as required for the proper attitude for salvation, that we might begin to wonder which is really required for salvation; and the answer is both, just two different words to describe that same required attitude from God for the one baptism and one salvation. There is repentance in faith, and there is faith in repentance. Understanding comes slow, but once you have the experience, there is little need,

at least for salvation, to have any more explanations; however it is important that we continue to chose "sound words" and "sound doctrine". For one thing "how shall they prepare for battle" if the trumpet sounds an uncertain thing, by church members inconsistent confusing the worship! (I Corinthians 14)

*12-4: We have the Bible background now to deal with the death to self. It is so often presented in the Bible, so seldom heard in pulpits today, and is so counter to the self-esteem and self-improvement trend of contemporary psychology. Many seminary trained ministers from courses on counseling have picked up these false concepts from secular psychology, and the reader is urged to study Oates' books, **THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY** and **THE CHRISTIAN PASTOR**.*

Chapter 13: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20)

The Book of Revelation is scary as we read chapter after chapter and verse after verse of what living Christians must go through in the "little time" near the END of the Falling Away; yet it concludes in Revelation 22:20 with the optimism and hopefulness of "Even so {in spite of all the terror the whole world has to go through in order to End time on this old earth, and usher in the New Earth}, come, Lord Jesus." So unimaginable are the harrows on this old earth near the end, that few Christians ever read it, fewer hang in their until they understand it, and more take the easy way out of Bible interpretation by swallowing the falsehoods of the Scofield Bible Notes. The (1) seven seals of history revealed with first representation by a white horse {white is always the good guy} beginning the last days⁹⁴ with establishment of the kingdom of Christ, the fiery red horse with rider granted by God the power to take peace from the earth with "wars and rumors of wars"⁹⁵, a black horse of famine {John in writing Revelation follows the outline of Jesus in Matthew 24 with first war and then famine, and so on etc. from Matthew 24:7}--so much condensed history of the end times of the last days are given here in a few verses that often we fail to grasp the scope⁹⁶, about the fourth seal the terror proceeds more into the latter days of the last days--very close to the beginning of the little while release of Satan⁹⁷, the fifth seal of martyrs representing again the beginnings of Christian persecutions to the last martyr with the cry of "HOW LLONG?"⁹⁸, the sixth seal of he famous darkened

⁹⁴Never loose your bearing on the simpler things of the Bible like Peter's explanation in Acts that the last days, also forecast bt the prophoe Joel, started with the coming of the Holy Spirit to earth and ends with the withdrawl of the Holy Spirit from earth that Paul adds in II Thessalonians x:xx.

⁹⁵Matthew 24:6.

⁹⁶Of course, so much of this just like the Chrit of the white horse established the forever kingdom and starting His reign though the end of the last days, is the history of the last days more than of the little while after Satan is released by the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth.

⁹⁷Satan during the little season of the very end days is given by God the power to release death and hungry on one fourth of the whole earth. Granted there has always been a high percentage of the population of the earth where hungry and death prevail, and the point of many of the eschatological teachings of the Bible is that these things will grow worse near the END--in the words of Paul, the whole creation groaneth, The ar3e the calamities of the third kind.

⁹⁸You should see the progression of last days here also toward the end with the bloody death of martyrs and their

sun and bloody moon of Joel and Peter--history has jumped into the just "before that great and notable day of the LORD", then as you would expect with the seventh seal the progression in history up to the wrap up as this seventh seal opens up the history of the seven trumpets; and (2) the first trumpet brings the burning up of one-third of the trees and all the grass on the earth {recall how Peter warned that the earth would burn up with a fervent heat⁹⁹, you just do not see until the book of Revelation that this is a God controlled and allowed progression of this old earth}, more fire with the second trumpet as a third of the living creatures in the sea were burned and a third of the ships burned up¹⁰⁰, the third trumpet brings bitter wormwood judgment to all the fresh water of the earth so that a third of mankind dies, the fourth gets to the signs in the heavens above, then with the fifth trumpet a better definition is given of how the sun is darkened and the moon made bloody¹⁰¹ with the release of Satan and the fallen angels from the bottomless pit with the smoke that darkens heaven; and as you might expect with the sounding of the seventh trumpet, all kind of good things start to happen with the second coming of Christ, the gathering of the dead and live in Christ, and the establishment on the new earth of a home for the new kingdom--

"The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)

testimonies in the cry of HOW LONG. It was never meant by God to be easy. However as you read on through Revelation, Revelation 20:4, that those Christians like the first apostles who died a bloody death do not have the sould rest of the in-between place called Hades' but rather go straight to heaven to reign with Christ for the thousand yers of the lasst days.

⁹⁹And some wonder why the earth is heating up, and chose to call it global warning, instead of a sign in the heavens above and the earth beneath before the great and notable day of the LORD (Joel 2:28-33 and Acts 2:xx).

¹⁰⁰Can't you see this progression, almost natural, evolution of history under the permissive control of God. Of course, never forget that all this is in preparation of the forever new earth with new citizens.

¹⁰¹You see how nothing is really new from the eschatology of Jesus in Matthew 24 and that of Joel and Peter; that is, unless you have been foolish enought to buy the DROUGHT EVANGELISM of Scofield and the fundamentalists. Granted, they did create a whole new world out Revelation, and then go back in the bad practices of isogesis {reading meaning into the Bible}, a clear and tragic violation of good principles of Bible interpretiion, that is of taking Scripture out of the total contest of the Bible, reading meaning tinto the Bible, and chainging what was so clear from the previous teachings of Jesus on eschatology, and from Peter and Joel, colored by the speculations and philosophies of the lawyer-like teachings of Scofield.

13-1: What we failed to see in the last days predictions¹⁰² of Peter and Joel and the famous Matthew 24 eschatology of Jesus, is some of the details of history; but the risen and ascended Christ came back to fill into some more of the details of history of the last days!

NOTE: Bet you never thought that in the reading of the book of Revelation, you are learning the history of the last days.

1. There are two things that you must comprehend in order to deal with the eschatological {last things} teachings of the Bible: (1) don't ask me why, except it could be the parable nature of the Bible whereby it is not intended that all should understand and be saved}, but the Bible consistently uses the technique of starting at a different point in history and then going all the way to the end, like with Jesus in Matthew 24, starting with "the beginning of sorrows" (24:8) and then going all the way to the end only six verses (24:14) with "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come."; and (2) the second, third, and sometimes even fifth TO THE END outline of history comes back to add in more details.¹⁰³ {One might think of it as radar scans of history, that first gets only the peaks from a distance, and then as the sweeps of history get closer and closer, the valleys of details, like sea and smoke, etc., are filled in.

2. -You see these principles at work in the sweep to the end of the seven trumpets, after the kingdom of Christ fulfilled on earth with the eternal reign after the END, then history starts again at the point of the birth of Christ and the escape into Egypt (12:1-6), proceeds with the throwing of Satan and the other fallen angels from heaven {NOTE: you see this establishes the consistent battle of history between good and evil, between the Holy Spirit and Satan, between the children of God and the children of this world}, the persecution by Satan by the believers, the rise and fall of wicked Caesars and Rome, the redemption of those saved from men {same as the "whosoever believes shall be saved" of Peter

¹⁰²History of the earth from the coming of the Holy Spirit to earth in great power and glory to the withdrawal, and then a little while.

¹⁰³Scofield and fundamentalists have their Waterloo in straining onto the Bible a simple and more natural linear sequence of time and history.

and Joel},, the final reaping of "grapes of wrath" with the embedded seven bowls of judgment of Revelation 15-16, all the way to the end with the final shaking of the earth and the great battle of Armageddon.

See how in only two chapters history has progressed from the birth of Christ all the way to that final great battle marking the end of the old earth {called in Hebrew Armageddon or Megiddo} and the final great shaking of the whole earth to the point of destruction--

"And they {angels of GOD as directed by God, the Bible teaches that each nation has a guiding angel, some good and some bad} gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "IT IS DONE!" (Revelation 16:16,17)

NOTE: If it is all done, what is the need of six more wonderful chapters of history in the book of Revelation, and hopefully the answer is evident--to fill in more details in history as the one of the angels of the seven bowls (17:10) came out to explain to John--certainly around the figurative Babylon to represent the fall of Rome, made famous in the book by Tolstoy THE RISE AND FALL OF ROME.

13-2: It is easy in Revelation 22:20 to shun the real meaning of the QUICK coming of the Lord Jesus Christ: it and the other simultaneous events of the end, like the final battle and second coming, the gathering of the saints will all happen in the famous ONE DAY of the LORD and Lord of the OT, the teachings of Jesus, and that of the Apostles.

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly'. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20)

"QUICKLY" from Jesus is not in terms of years--although to Him as with God the Father, the thousand years of the last days is as one day--it is in terms of how

quickly every thing happens on the ONE day of the LORD and Lord.¹⁰⁴ What all happens on that one day is fascinating, almost beyond our understanding: (1) the final surrounding of Jerusalem and the camp of the saints and the destruction of the armies by God at Megiddo, (2) culmination of the final shaking and destruction of the old earth {the burning up with fervent hit of Peter, and the partial and progressive burning up with the visions of Revelation}, (3) the Second Coming of Christ, (4) the gathering by the angels of the dead and living elect from the 4 corners of the earth, (5) separation of the goats from the sheep with eternal death for the goats and eternal death on the new earth for the sheep. It strains credulity to strive for a complete sequence on that one day; but since it all happens in one day why does it matter.

1. One Day of the LORD comes quickly, in one day, in the Old Testament.

a. From Joel and Peter quoting with explanation from Joel.

“The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.” (Joel 2:28-33 as quoted by Peter in Acts 2.)

The great day is the greatest day of all history, at least the history of the last days, in that among other things we are snatched up to the meet the Second Coming of the Lord in the air. It is awesome for many reasons: of course the gathering of the elect and the second coming are awesome; but are followed immediately by separation and Judgment, hell, and the new earth for the elect.

b. From Isaiah 24:

“For the windows from on high are open, and he foundations of the earth are shaken. The earth is violently broken; the earth is split open. The earth is

¹⁰⁴Of the LORD and Lord because in the OT it is the One Day of the LORD {in capital letters you will notice}, and in the New Testament it is the One day of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course as we tried to straighten out at the beginning of Refreshing Evangelism, the “that God may be all” and “the One God over all”, through both testaments and through the history of the last days, it is God the Father making the final call as to when that One Day is {not the fundamentalists though they like to play god to their churches and denominations}. It is only the Father who knows the exact day of the One day with the Second Coming, according to Jesus who said that He Himself did not know the exact time.

shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again. It shall come to pass in THAT DAY the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed. For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously." (Isaiah 24:18-23)

NOTE: Sounds like both Joel and Peter as well as the last chapters of the book of Revelation.

2. One Day of the Lord Jesus Christ comes packed in one day in the New Testament. You can see this quickness in the many eschatological statements from Jesus like "in the night like a thief", "suddenly like the lightning", "at a time that you think not the Son of man comes", and like "in the days of Noah, people will be eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage" as if these events were not going to happen, as if Bible, God, and Christ did not matter to the daily affairs and style of life!

13-3: Some of the bottom lines of real eschatology in the Bible from Jesus, Daniel, Peter, and Joel {Also Paul, especially on the restraining of Satan by the Holy Spirit, and withdrawal with release of Satan from bondage, and the rising tide of sin and lawlessness that erupts into the little time after the release of Satan}.

NOTE: What is the most probable place that the world is now in the history of eschatology of the Bible: near the end of the 40-80 year Falling Away of churches from the Bible, God, and Christ¹⁰⁵, just before the release of

¹⁰⁵Can you imagine a church and salvation without God, Christ, and the Bible. Yes, just look around you! Also remember what happened in 5 out of 7, or approximately 70% of the seven churches of Asia Minor, most of which were established by none less than the Apostle Paul. None the less, there were a few in each church that were overcomers, and the kingdom had to start somewhere!

Satan as the Spirit is withdrawn from earth {time of the little season of Daniel and Revelation}, just before the final Megiddo battle the world and the middle east is warming up to right now {with Israel already surrounded¹⁰⁶ by Muslims and Iran that want to destroy it, the stage is set from these last events of the history of this old world}.

1. The "times of trouble" from which God's people are delivered in the OT is the equivalent of final tribulation¹⁰⁷ in the NT. It is the time of the gathering of the elect, living and dead, and the Second Coming with all to follow.

THE END {same as One Day}

"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people {Daniel's people}, and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:1-2)

2. "END" in the Bible--as end of time and "end of the age", or end time--is an open door to understanding the time sequence of the One Day. You already know that just before that great ending of the One Day, the sun shall be darkened and the moon turned to blood; and from the signs and visions of Revelation that this is the end termination of the universe, with many lesser signs leading up to it. {You know the trumpets and seals and angels, and bowls of Revelation.} END, like the end of a movie or a story, can keep you straight on the God-given sequence of last history. Fundamentalists, especially, it can straighten you out if you will

¹⁰⁶What with the Muslims in Gaza that want to destroy Israel, Isballah to the north and Jordon and Syria to the east and north, and Iran inspiring and instigating them, the stage is set for the END. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰⁷Jesus taught in Matthew 24 and Mark 13 of a great tribulation that first century Christians would go though and then He taught of a final tribulation that all the world, including Christians would go through at the END, the first caused by persecuion but the latter primarily from the world shaking to pieces.

look for the many places in the Bible where it is found, with those 2 words, and synonyms.

3. The sequence of "Last Days" of Acts 2:16-21 from the first sermon of Peter and the quote from Joel can not only get us straight but keep us straight, never forgetting that END is the equivalent of One Day.

(1). The last days started with the Coming of the Holy Spirit on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension.

(2). Also at the start of the last days was the beginning of sorrows from Jesus in Matthew 24, the equivalent of "blood, fire, and vapor of smoke" from Peter and Joel.

(3). You will find the oft statements in the OT and NT to the "groaning like a woman in travail of birth" and the "shaking" or "shakings" of the earth lead into the finale of darkened sun and moon. {You know the details and evolution of such in the seals, trumpets, etc. of Revelation.}

(4). That "great and awesome day of the Lord" is the end One day of the Last Days.

13-4: Christ in Matthew 24 {also Mark 13} gives a broad outline of from present in the first century to the END One Day.

1. "Beginning of sorrows"¹⁰⁸ with 6 signs: wars, and rumors of wars, famines, with pestilences and earthquakes in various places {not only describes today but also the history of mankind going back to the first century}

NOTE: Get it into your Bible head, that since the beginning of sorrows in the first century, these same beginnings have continued and are ordained by the permissive will of God to continue until the end of the last days. Someone culture has attempted to create a world without sorrows to at the same time

¹⁰⁸The beginning of sorrows is appropriately called the beginning of birth pangs in the Amplified Version.

create a all benevolence Santa Claus like God that rains out only good; however the real guarantee from Jesus is of SORROWS and increasing sorrows on all the people of the earth.

2. Great Tribulation of the first century, primarily on the Jews with the destruction against Jerusalem and the temple. Since Daniel God's people were given only a short reprieve after Restoration, and to be saved after the life, death, and teachings of Christ.

NOTE: You know that it is Daniel 12:11 that gives the Jews only 1290 days after the destruction of the temple until the day of abomination}, abomination because the Jewish salvation in mass becomes after that day, an abomination to God for all the years of forsaking and rebellion¹⁰⁹.

3. Once again from Jesus and Matthew 24, there are four signs of the sweep from Great Tribulation to the END, same as the signs between the GREAT and the FINAL tribulation: false Christs and false prophets will arise and deceive many {many, even educators, while they do not claim Christhood by that name, do claim a sort of salvation for mankind}; the falling away is introduced here by Jesus for elaboration by Paul with the words, "because lawlessness will abound, the love of ay will grow cold" (24:12); and the gospel of the kingdom is preached to every nation; and endurance or perseverance of a few overcomers until the end.

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved." (Matthew 24:13)

NOTE: You see again Jesus has gone all the way "to the end" in the sweep between the Great Tribulation and the final tribulation.

4. Starting with Matthew 24:xx, Jesus elaborates on the signs of both tribulations, the Great and the Final. One might think of the Great tribulation as primarily on the Jews which ended by and large their entrance by nation and in mass into the kingdom of God, and the final tribulation which terminates the same for all the Gentile nations.

¹⁰⁹In other words, God would hardly have committed them that grace except He needed a place, nation and time for His Son to be born.

5. Signs immediately before the One last day of the LORD:
6. Second coming of Christ with mourning on the part of the majority left on earth.
7. The gathering by angels of the dead and living elect.
8. THE EXACT TIME IS NOT KNOWN!

Chapter 14: The Hideous Assault of Mormonism on Truth and American Heritage. Even as "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free", from Jesus and along with the Constitution and Declaration of Independence part of the foundational heritage of this nation, so also hideous lies, half truth, deceptions, appearance over righteous judgment can put individuals and a nation out of freedom and into bondage. Yes, you are impressed with Mormonism about the appearance of evangelism {nice looking young men in nice suits traveling across the nation and the world seeming for a good cause¹¹⁰}, with the impressions they make on you as family oriented¹¹¹ because of their large families, and their large prosperous looking churches and temples that they build across the country. Americans if you have bought this malarkey, of course never having read their 4 Bibles, especially that hideous "The Doctrine and the Covenants" Bible that you have never read, you are duped against truth and freedom and in favor of untruth and bondage.

14-1: National and respected religious leaders have warned Christians and other Americana for years, even as the Bible has done for over two thousand years, about a risk of national and individual departure from the truth.

1. Perhaps you recall Peter Marshall, a famous Presbyterian minister, from the book or movie named A MAN CALLED PETER, or from the years that he was Chaplain of the Senate, or even the books from his wife Cathryn Marshall; well we are indebted to him for saying "If we stand for nothing we fall for any anything."

¹¹⁰In reality, and you know, 90% of Americans do not want them in their home, which in a way is unfortunate since you have not quizzed them about the other 3 Bibles in which they believe and let them for appearance sake, as on TV, focus their attention and yours on the regular King James Version of the Bible, only 25% of the books they claim to be Word of God. Even their KJV has notes in each verse so any reader does not miss the real meaning from THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

¹¹¹Most of you do not know about their oppression of women and children. You only hear about the many wives and abuse of children mainly from the poorer Mormons; however even the prosperous, even to the extent they practice their faith, believe that the wife or wives salvation itself is not an individual choice but depends on their husbands, and as for their children while the world sees the 'Appearance' of normal American youth, make them captive to such hideous lies and distortions of truth in their four Bibles.

2. Dr R.G. Lee, former beloved pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church and President of the Southern Baptist Convention and more noted for his scholarly orations like "Payday Someday", warned years ago before the devastating split of the Southern Baptists into 3 conventions or denominations, that:

a. Communism, Mohammedanism, and materialism, and Mormonism are "isms" that should be "wasms"; and

b. In his book of published sermons entitled BREAD FROM BELLEVUE OVEN presented to America in "The Menace of Mediocrity", the fact that we have been noticing more and more in churches, denominations, and other national leadership that "Wrens make prey where eagles dare not perch."

3. According to the Bible, Christianity and the whole world are now well into the Falling Away. You can hardly deny the reality presently that we are in the 5 stages of the Falling Away--intolerance¹¹² or lack of endurance for sound doctrine, Christian and church member motivated more out of personal desires and wants than driven by the Spirit of Christ, heaping into the pulpits and other offices "teachers with itching ears", then in the fourth stage the very tragic "turning away from truth", and then where the nation loses control by being "turned into fables" (II Timothy 3:3,4)

14-2: The hideous assault of Mormonism on women's rights and truth.

1. A little group of us were assembled around an F-16 being modified by civil service at the depot in Ogden, Utah {the depot at Hill Air Force Base}, under the direction of a few Logistics Engineers out of General Dynamics, Fort Worth, Texas. Suddenly the representative from Denmark said, "I think when you die, you just die." And most of us were shocked, being more aware of the propaganda of Mormonism than the realities of their 4 Bibles and practices, when a young

¹¹²Have you noticed as American go further and further into an extremism of toleration directly proportional to indifference and complacency, or not wanting rocks thrown at their own glass house, at the same time they are falling further and further into intolerance for sound truths and sound doctrine.

lady who was an experienced electrician and civil service worker there at the Dept, "Oh, I wish I could believe that!" So terrified was she by the male intimidation against women for their salvation apart from them, that she preferred to forget about a heaven or a hell. {Her husband was one of those card carrying Mormons that can get into the temple, and practice many such unchristian practices and beliefs as baptism from the dead, the sealing of a marriage, and men climbing their way up to becoming "gods". She also complained because her 2 sons, both afraid of water, had to be baptized 50 times each in this temple for 50 dead people.¹¹³

2. One can not help be enamored with the beauty of Utah {in reality only approximately 50% are Mormons}, the area of Ogden and the Salt Lake valley, and the magnitude of temple square with the Tabernacle where most see Mormonism as a good sounding organ and choir and tremendous, and the more secluded temples closed and hidden from all the public except the card carrying Mormons; and all this beauty and history of Utah, Mormonism has tried to use for their advantage by a distortion of truth. If you take the tour of temple square, you will see a monument of early Mormon pioneers surrounded by sea gulls {if you go to the Salt Lake, you know about the sea gulls} and then you can read in the wording at the bottom how early Mormons prayed for rescue from locusts and the Sea Gulls came to the state in answer to the prayer and faith of Mormonism.

TRUTH: Read any history of Utah and you will find that when Peter Skeine Ogden first explored Utah, in his journal he recorded that the locusts and sea gulls were already there!

Question: What do Mormons and Mormonism have in common?

Answer: The both believe in making truth and re-writing history

¹¹³The public understanding now is that this practice of baptism for the dead has been discontinued. This is possible since, many of us can recall back in the 70s how as they were under assault for no blacks in the priesthood, the President immediately had a revelation of truth that changed that practice. Does this not remind one of the present candidate, a definite victim of Mormonism--its faith and practices--who changes so often on intellectual honesty, appearance, and truth.

An Assault on Truth is an Assault on the American Heritage and Integrity.

Earlier in this series Mormonism was identified as a hideous assault on truth. Let me apologize if a wealthy Mormon was discriminated against, Mormons, or Mormonism; because of all the assaults on the American heritage and integrity, surely Mormonism is ranked only about number ten. Americans, by and large, and although moderate and keep quiet, were not in Election 2012 willing to buy either wealth or Mormonism as dominate in the American way of life; and we will never know the convictions of over one-half of the American public that failed to vote. For the sake of intellectual honesty and truth, it would be nice to think that the 60% who voted for the most Christian President this nation has ever seen were representative of the 50% who did not vote. At least, we are persuaded that in spite of Bummer Bomber, Witch Mitch, Gubber Inquest, and Mr. Success, Americans saw or felt their way through the propaganda of wealth and an appearance of righteousness. {Contrary to the thought patterns of many Americans today, Jesus Himself said, "JUDGE not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (Mark x:xx)}

The propaganda campaign of Mormonism to impress the American public, and become accepted as part o the American way of life is only a clear personification of all Americans who continue by extremes of toleration, intolerance toward sound doctrine, and neglect to make similar assaults on truth with more regard for appearance than of righteous judgment. You know what is meant, the young clean cut youth with suits on that roam the nation¹¹⁴ to impress, the Mormon Tabernacle choir which tries to convince you that they are as much Christian as any other church, BYU and the BYU graduates that like the failed candidate for

¹¹⁴It is a credit to the majority of Americans that while impressed to the point almost of accepting them as Christians, they still do not want them in their homes to hear so much unsound doctrine, and perhaps can see that thanks to the three other non-Christian Bibles they accept, their beliefs are not Christian. Early American Christianity had the courage and conviction to call them a cult. {By the way, almost as bad, in fact worse is the cult of believers in the Gospel of Prosperity and weath and success that is so prevalent, and as part of the Falling Away, in Christian churches of today!}

President have wormed their way to the top of American life, while riding on the back of the old classical Gospel of Wealth and corollary of success.

14-3: Based on the righteous standard of judgment in the Christian Bible¹¹⁵, number 1 in the contemporary assaults on truth in America would have to be the failure of churches to recognize that they are in the Falling Away; and we must go through a long list of departures from “sound doctrine” {“For the time will come {has come} when they will not endure sound doctrine..(II Timothy 4:3,4)}.

1. In an earlier eBook from SunGrist_Bible and Jerry McMichael, it was noted for the public WHAT CHURCHES DON'T WANT YOU TO HEAR, namely that they are and have to be leaders in the falling away. What other way can it be as they are basically the only ones who have anything about God, Christ, and the Bible to fall away from?¹¹⁶

2. The buying of the fundamentalists in the Bible belt of America of the correspondence course and notes of Scofield has lead to such fictions based on fiction as the “rapture” and the “millennium”, a philosophy and theology born out of hell that is far more hideous than Satan's delivery of golden plates to Joseph Smith to start their 4 Bibles and Mormonism.¹¹⁷ You see, these beliefs have lead

¹¹⁵Just to put up another 3 Bibles--Book of Mormon, The Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price--that claim to be Christian and the Word from God is within itself an assault on truth and the American heritage. And this does not even address the notes Joseph Smith added inside the normal KJV Bible to keep his people faithful to the doctrines of the other 3 Bibles. Can't you see it and judge righteous judgments, this is isogesis to the ultimate; and once again is only typical and secondary to other assaults on the truth like the Church of Christ officials claiming to be the only Christian church, or similarly from the Roman Catholic heirarchy who does not even apologize for telling you both the proper understanding of the Bible but also adding official decess that are to be accepted on the same level as any other Word of God.

¹¹⁶Mistakenly about 1968, before the advent of the Falling Away reached American shores, we were encouraged by non-denominational and community church movements--they satisfied American carvings for the extreme tolerance {or indifference} of the American Democratic faith--however know hopefully it is obvious that all churches have so fallen away from sound doctrine, that there is just a low common denominator of unsound doctrine. In other words, like Peter Marshall said ages ago, Americans have come to believe so little about the Bible, and to know it, that the standing with courage and conviction for nothing has led into the falling for the anything of the falling away.

¹¹⁷Anytime you have substitutes, like also in the Bible and beliefs of Muslims, you have a lack of respect for the real

to such unsound doctrine as failure to believe and accept the doctrine of the Falling Away {most of the whole book of Hebrews, the part that is not dedicated to Jesus as our great high priest and the priesthood of believers is about the Falling away}, primarily because that is what they "want" to believe {church members motivated more by personal desires and wants than the Spirit of Christ is stage 2 of the Falling Away} in order to kid themselves that Christians will neither be in the Falling away, the short time of the release of Satan from bondage, and, or the final tribulation.

3. While Americans were sleeping, the old Gospel of Wealth and corollary of success had a revival in the churches of the Gospel of Prosperity. On the list of "false prophets" of the last days, of the itching ears teachers with unsound falling away doctrines, would have to include the things expert from Houston, the purpose driven expert from California, and all those "success" authors and believers who invaded Bible belt churches to prove that if you had enough faith you would be rich or wealthy. {You know the foolish who tell their listeners that to have faith and in 2 years they can have a gold mine or oil well in their yard.}

14-4: All these national sins¹¹⁸ of America indicate a drift away from proper regard and respect for THE BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD. Since it is the only lasting, absolute, source of objective truth from the Living God, and a standard for righteous judgments, these sins of America also indicate a drift away from the Bible as the authoritative Word of God.¹¹⁹

4. The fundamentalist and Bible Baptists, while they were taking control over 20 years ago of the SBC, brought short of a weird literalism and inerrancy false

God and the real Bible. I know this is a lot more conviction than most of you can take; but get other it, and consider a real Bible perspective of courage and conviction.

¹¹⁸See "National Sin versus National Righteousness" as a free download on the www.biblecombibleman.com website. And while you are browsing the Bible of the website, you may want to do a search on TRUTH.

¹¹⁹While studying Bible at Ouachita Baptist, I asked the professor--a wise former chaplain and pastor--if I could write a research paper on Baptist Distinctives, to which he replied {and get this it was in the early 60's} is there any such thing anymore. And he was right, what was true then is even more true now that the once largest Protestant denomination in the world, the SBC, has drifted far away from the number one distinctive of Baptist, ALL the Bible

doctrine to America, that neglected ALL SCRIPTURE in favor of specialization on only a few Scriptures, especially in the buying of the Scofield notes. If their leaders today were really honest with you, they would admit that what truly caused their splitting of the SBC into 3 denominations, and the continued warfare today, was more a literalism and inerrancy of the Scofield Bible notes on eschatology.¹²⁰ Consider, for example one of the signs¹²¹ of American revival according to Falwell near the end of his life {no doubt the number one leader of Bible Baptists and fundamentalism}, that the books of fiction based on fiction of LeHaye--one of the major sources with Scofield notes on the fictions of "rapture" and "millennialism"--are fiction books, although they have taken the place in American minds of "truth" and Bible.

It has been hard on southern Baptist like myself raised from RAs and up in the former Bible traditions of the convention to adjust these obvious casualties on truth of the SBC. It took years, even pastoring and somethings an active member of such churches, to adjust to this 40 year change in the spirit and practices of southern Baptist churches. Just 3 quick examples, remembering that this are only typical of the falling away in all churches: (1) the running off of the pastor at FBC Cloudcroft {and later the fine, sound doctrine pastor of the church of Christ in the same village}, once approximately 1969 and once again in approximately 1995, the latter where they ran off a faithful pastor of 18 years in order to fulfill their own purpose driven wants of deaconship without sound doctrine; (2) the FBC of Alamogordo which literally disintegrated under the

as the authoritative, sufficient, divine in origin, high fidelity in communication, and self-interpretive Word of God. The results of this last election gave Americans hope that good guys, not wealthy or abusive, can win; and along with that perhaps a refreshing confidence in the American people, and maybe even hope of refreshing revival and evangelism of the Bible in southern baptist churches.

¹²⁰The reader is referred back to the previous Bible study session in this series on Refreshing Evangelism to number 16, "Even so come Quickly Lord Jesus" for a thorough discussion of the sound versus the unsound doctrines of last things, called eschatology.

¹²¹Falwell, one of the 3 founders of the moral majority with Tin LeHaye and the pastor at Atlanta, told the 3 signs of current revival in America {really the signs of unsound doctrine and the turning away from truth, and of the need for Refreshing Evangelism}: Ted Haggart as the leader of evangelism in America as President of the National Evangelistic Association, the purpose driven books, and the left behind books of LeHaye. Wow, what a state of affairs in the falling away American church are in when the very trends of unsound doctrine and the turning away from truth are advocated as the signs of revival in America. Just the recognition of the truth of these true realities would be welcome, refreshing evangelism in this nation!

leadership of a fundamentalism pastor; (3) the terrible changes in the spirit of worship and the sound doctrine practices of the Lexington Park Baptist Church where I once served as youth pastor and then came back to flight test work at Pax River, and to teach a Sunday school class. {There were even movements to discontinue evening worship and Wednesday night prayer meeting, which during my 4 years at Pax river were good occasions for evangelism with the fellow sailors on the base.} Also it was so hard to make the adjustment from youth to now while looking at a nice church building, to consider that they were already victims of the falling away: without sound doctrine, motivated by wants, ministries dominated by the heaping up of teachers with itching ears, victims of turning away from truth, and turning into fables. You know when you look at those beautiful and sturdy looking church buildings, especially neat, it is hard to believe how much Falling Away has happened in them. However as Gains Dobbins taught, the church is the people and not the building; and anytime like with 5 out of 7 of the churches of Asia Minor the people, like society at large, have become victims of the falling; then the church itself is in the falling away from God, Christ, and the Bible process. The building and even denomination look good, but like the churches of Asia Minor are lukewarm and dead.

14-5: It is particular hard for we Christian Americans trained in science such as physics, and the scientific method which seeks out all truth, to adjust to all these current assaults on reality and truth. {There is just so much money that can long prevent the strong delusions of untruth, lies, hypocrisies, half-truth, and deception.} Long ago in American education such as sociology and American studies there was the jealousy in liberal arts to pick up the scientific method, and it succeeded to a certain extent {even secular psychology had VARITIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE before relativity in science and truth, and evolution--you know if you keep telling youth long enough and hard enough that they came from monkeys, they will start acting like one}.

Henry Stelle Commager maintained in THE AMERICAN MIND, that the beginning of the twentieth century was the "watershed of American thought" as Americans

turned from conservatism and absolutes to liberalism and relativity {the worse byproduct of relativity in thought is that it leads to distortions of absolutes as we saw in the other candidate of Election 2012.

14-6: Those of us before the Falling Away of the 1960s who found a youthful passion in the twin fields of Christian evidences and Christian apologetics are doubly disturbed by certain assaults on truth in American society. Even of evangelism of the same period before it became obvious that refreshing evangelism was necessary.

1. What Christian evidences and apologetics does for TRUTH.
2. What Refreshing evangelism over current practices of evangelism in the Falling Away does for TRUTH and reality.

Chapter 15: "What is Truth?"

"What is truth?" is the attitude, approach, and sarcastic question of the sceptic and unbeliever. It is an attitude that comes of the human pride with rebellion against God and His Jesus. Pilate was made famous by Jesus death and resurrection in that he as the Roman governor made the final decision for crucifixion {don't you know a special place is reserved in hell for Pilate}, "the he {Pilate} delivered Him to them to be crucified." (John 19:16a) We are indebted to him today for the asking of the doubters question of, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) And most generally when you hear these 3 words today, as important as they are, who from one who either has rejected Jesus {the equivalent of crucifying Him} or has failed to make any commitment, they think!

Like with the Apostle Paul before the Jewish ruling body the Sanhedrin, and before Governor Felix and King Agrippa, we might consider. these questions and answers as the first century beginnings of Christian apologetics or evidences. They are not very sincere questions and are self-serving, but both Jesus and Paul following the example of Jesus to always bear witness, answered these questions.

15-1: First century Christian Apologetics via the question and answer method of Jesus and Paul. {It will be maintained that apologetics and evidences is getting at absolute truth and refreshing evangelism on the same!}

1. Jesus had given the answer already in Acts 18:37, in fact after a previous question from Pilate, "Are you a king then?"

"...Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.'" (John 18:37)

NOTE: When preachers still spoke with courage of conviction, Dr R. G. Lee said of Christian Scientists {one of the leading purveyors of all the answers

on truth today}, that "they are not Christian and that they are not scientific."

2. It is only for those apologetic although reluctant to "cast their pearls before the feet of swine"--swine in the sight of God like Pilate, Felix, and Agrippa--to realize that there can always be the hope that those doubting swine's or the less dogmatic even agnostics may be among the everyone's "who is of the truth" and will hear the voice of Jesus as the words are read to them or quoted to them, perhaps even paraphrased. A great characteristic of truth is that it can be expressed in many different words, and the source is not so critical, as "out of the mouth of babes can come wisdom".

3. If Jesus was the first Christian apologist {He wanted the whole world to hear and believe that He was the Son of God and the Lord of Salvation}, then we would have to consider the Apostle John in the writing of the Gospel of John, the second apologist, then Peter in his first and sermons the third, then Paul the most famous apologist of them all.

15-2: Some American Apologetics {also prophets of the Christian evidences, a sub division of Apologetics which concentrates on the more pragmatic approaches to prove that the Bible is the Word of God and that Jesus of Nazareth is the king, the Son Of God.}

1. Mosma in THE EVIDENCE OF GOD IN AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE.

2. Bernard Ramm, former head of graduate studies in religion at Baylor before the fundamentalists ran him off, author of PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES and THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF SCIENCE AND SCRIPTURE.

3. Dr Ray Summers, also professor of Bible at Baylor, a Christian scholar apologist of real Bible eschatology in his books WORTHY IS THE LAMB and THE LIFE BEYOND.

4. Dr. McDowell, the counterpart of Summers at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in his book THE MEANING AND MESSAGE OF REVELATION.

NOTE: Would you not as a Christian wish to get the real meaning and message of eschatology from one in whom you can have confidence!

5. Irwin Linton and Simon Greenleaf, lawyer and professor of law, in respectively *A LAWYER EXAMINES THE BIBLE* and *THE TESTOMONY OF THE EVANGELISTS*.

6. Dr R.A. Millikan, the Nobel prize winning physicist for proving there is a discrete particle called the electron, in his lectures and book entitled *THE EVIDENCE OF GOD IN AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE*.

7. C. S. Lewis, former prof of literature at Cambridge, with too many books of apologetics and evidences to name like *PLAIN CHRISTIANITY*.

8. Then there is Elton Trueblood, the professor and Quaker, who combined the two approaches of apologetics and evidences, respectively first in his book used in many class rooms, *PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION*, and then in the more popular in the public book *YOUR OTHER VOCATION*.

9. McLendon Days *THE WONDER OF THE WORD* which offers many of the classical proofs of Christian evidences for the Bible as the Word of God.

You must be able to get out of the theoretical on truth to the concrete in order to realize the bottom line of ultimate truth. You must even go more practical than the philosophical of Elton Trueblood in *THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION* and *YOUR OTHER VOCATION*, even the parts on "intellectual honesty", and more practical than the scientific approach of R. A. Millikan in "Evolution in Science and Religion." You go far beyond the thoughts for discussion only, with justification and rationalizations of life as it has been lived, like Pilate said to Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) And right now, before we get into the bottom line of the Bible on all Bible, focusing on the bottom line of the Bible on truth, we must note how in the previous verse to 18:38 usage of truth by Jesus Himself, and the philosophical usage of truth by Pilate as a common intellectual excuse, is the exact

difference we will seek from the Bible in I John as the bottom line of real, ultimate, practical, and bottom line truth. What did Jesus say about truth before Pilate said, "What is truth?"

15-3: "What Is Truth?"

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews, but now My kingdom is not from here.'" (John 18:36)

"Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Are you a king then?' (18:37a)

"Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.'" (18:37b)

While we could bog down with many pages right here on all these kingdom and king aspects of truth from Jesus, also dwelling a long time on the fact that the very mission of Jesus to earth from heaven and God the Father was to "bear witness to the truth"--so full of implications to be the supreme witness from God of truth itself--in order to focus on this bottom practical line of truth before diving into I John, we concentrate on the aspect of truth from Jesus of "Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice."

15-4: "Everyone who is of the Truth Hears My Voice." (John 18:37)

This is highly practical for then and for today; and from the Master Teacher Jesus: (1) some who hear Jesus and the words of Jesus are “of the truth” and some who hear the words of Jesus are not “of the truth”; (2) here truth is a condition of inward character or the inward man or woman more than teachings and doctrine that are heard and taught; and (3) you can tell the people who have experienced the inward change of “of the truth” by the extent to which they hear the voice of Jesus. Even as of the 11 evidences of perished truth in the Judah of Jeremiah, and the beginnings of perishing truth {see “Truth in the Temple Message of Jeremiah 7” }, start going backwards in the Temple Message of Jeremiah 7 after the announcement that “truth has perished and been cut off from the nation” (Jeremiah 7:28), with the nation of God’s people that “would not obey Me or incline their ear”, so those on earth during the time of Jesus who would not obey those words of God from Jesus, nor even show some inclination toward God and Jesus, self-identified themselves, even as today in churches and church members, as not “of the truth”.

There is no reality in Bible today apart from admitting frankly that: (1) Many members in the churches of America have never experienced the 9 month new birth to the extent of placing themselves in the important category of “of the truth”; (2) the continuing faith has never been realized by them of both the Gospel of John in the stated gist of John 20:30-31--“and that believing you may have life through His name”, and then in the bottom line on believing along with truth of I John 5:13, “that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God”; and (3) while the common American Democratic Faith and the contemporary and collective American Conscience demand of all Americans that the majority is always right, in church, in truth, or otherwise, the clear teachings of Jesus and the Bible is that while the majority go the easy way that leads to destruction, it is only the minority of any nation or time that go the narrow way of the minority that leads to eternal life, to the

king and the kingdom of which Jesus spoke practically earlier to Pilate as part of truth; and (4) even as many is more than a few, and the majority over the minority, as Jesus taught in Matthew 24:12 as He taught in all truth that “because sin would abound” in the final days of the Falling Away just before the end and the Second Coming, “the love of many would wax cold”, so all less and less church members during the Falling Away--that is what the Falling Away is, a falling away from God and Jesus of church members near the end, synonymous with the great apostasy--will be Christians “of the truth”; and more and more will be not “of the truth”. {Please see [“Categories of Christians”](#) on the www.biblecombibleman.com website of SunGrist_Bible.}

15-5: Some Bottom Lines on Truth from the Apostle John in I John.

1. We can only sample quickly truth in I John.

Even as yet we have not fully fathomed “truth” in Jeremiah in our Truth Subset and in the larger “Bible Studies in Jeremiah and Prophecy”; even as we must still do much more research on truth in the Gospel of John, like the references from Pilate and Jesus, and much more in the Gospel of John; and then add more from the many places the word is used in the whole Bible; so now, we can only touch on all the places the word “truth” is used in I John. However it is hoped that enough of it will be comprehend from I John to see how bottom line, ultimate, and practical this truth of I John from the Apostle John is.

2. John is the Bottom Line Apostle of the Bible.

You might call the Apostle John the bottom line and realistic Apostle of the Bible. Not only did the Apostle John, from the human side, have the last words of the Bible to say on “truth” as on all other Bible subjects; but as John wrote near the end of the first century, (1)

behind him was the early days of loving and leaning personally on the breast of Christ, (2) functions as the only and last living real Apostle of Jesus; (3) well over 50 years of pastoring at one of the leading first century churches, the church at Ephesus; (4) the ability to read and utilize in person and in the pulpit all the other Scriptures already written by other Apostles like Paul; and (5) much personal experience with the splits in Christian fellowship of the first century with the root causes **{he also bottom lines deals with this in I John as well as II and III John}**, the superficial and sentimental attempts to subvert the way of Christ and Christianity with many distortions of sound doctrine, and the many false claims to be disciples of Christ based on alternate ways.

15-6: Ultimate Reality and Truth in I John.

Brace yourself for bluntness and stark reality when you start to look at I John. John does not mince words or try to appease any side. Of course, you can do that when you are an Apostle of Jesus Christ, the only last and living Apostle, and when in addition to all the pastoral and Christianity wide counseling and advising experience, are under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for the writing of the final words of the Bible which is a guidebook for living, which is “profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16,17)

1. Above while Jesus made the more positive approach to those “of the truth”, in short those who heard and heeded the words of Jesus as serious, the Apostle John right up front in the little epistle of I John declares that “the truth is not in” anyone who says that he is not a sinner, that there is absolutely no sin in his life: in short that claims a righteousness in his life which he does not have. (I John 1:8)

2. It is more blunt and worse than that: (1) we deceive ourselves

when we deny that we are sinners; and (2) “we make Him {Jesus} a liar” (I John 1:10a)--have you every thought that you are calling Jesus a liar every time you think or say that there is no sin in your life **{and shortly in I John 3:6 we will come to the difference between sinning and a habitual sin which is a no-no}**; and (3) Jesus word, like truth, is not in us (I John 1:10b).

“...and His word is not in us.” (I John 1:10a)

3. The church member who claims to be Christian {the favorite false claim today is to use the buzz words of “born again”} and habitually fails to keep the commandments {teachings and doctrines} of Jesus: (1) is a liar {certainly you will come to see in the Bible that the lie, liar, and lying is the opposite of truth} (I John 2:4b); and (2) “and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:4c).

NOTE: Certainly it does not take many more Scriptures to come to see somewhat the difference between the first stage of the Falling where church members start to backsliding, “they will not endure sound doctrine” (II Timothy 4:3,4) where sound teaching and doctrine start to perish in churches and among church members and then final “turning way from truth finalizes the falling away” of the fourth stage of the Falling Away. Lack of sound doctrine is more a teaching, thought process, and brain sort of thing; but by the time the fourth stage of the Falling Away arises in a church or individual life, the “truth is not in him”. And, of course, the number one excuse of we are in the majority and therefore right will not hold up against any sound doctrine of the Bible and of Jesus!

4. Those “of the truth” in churches, first century and now, have a special anointing from the Holy Spirit, alias the real 9 month new birth, which helps them with certainty to “know all {spiritual} things”, and which is all things for ultimate reality; and to know also that there is no compromise with truth, “no lie is of the truth” (I John 2:21). The big lie is that Jesus is not the Christ, whether that lie is by mouth or by a false profession where both bitter and sweet come out of the life style of a professed believer.

5. Love like truth and with truth must pass from the theoretical and professed to the concrete as “whosoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him” (I John 3:17), replaces love “in deed and in truth” {love becomes unrealistic and a non-reality} with love in only “word or in tongue” (I John 3:18).

6. Here is a supreme way that you can know that you are among the saved Christians: (1) if you know that “you are of the truth” (I John 3:19); (2) if our hearts are assured with confidence before Him in prayer even as our own inward spirit automatically cries “Abba” for Father, sincerely and naturally (I John 3:19b); (3) that even when the unpredictable conscience based on the American Conscience condemns us, since God is greater than both our personal conscience and the American Conscience, we can have confidence directly from our personal relationship and prayers with God.

7. The way to know any human spirit that is “of truth” and of God and those human spirits in the church and otherwise not “of truth”, the same as “the spirit of truth versus the spirit of error” is by those spirits in the church that will listen to us.

“they are of the world. Therefore they speak as of he world, and the world hears them.

We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us.” (I John 4:5,6)

Granted this got complicated as indicated in the rest of I John, as some church members went out from the fellowship of those in fellowship with the Apostles, as some messengers sent from the Apostles were rejected by some church fellowships; and as splits continued like today, where it was difficult to tell who was right and who was wrong, where the spirit of error and the spirit of truth were. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT IT IS THOSE WHO CONTINUE IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE APOSTLES, AND WHO "LEARN CHRIST FROM THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS", WHO ARE "OF TRUTH"; AND FURTHER THAT YOU HAVE TO GO AS MUCH BY THEIR ATTITUDES AND SPIRITS {"TEST EVERY SPIRIT"} AS BY THEIR PROFESSED DOCTRINES. For example, like taught in II Timothy 3:1-8 if any group in your church habitually demonstrates follies or bad habits like "love of self, love of money", pride, boasting, and so on; and as taught in this Scripture "do not associate with them".

You see, you really can tell who takes seriously the teachings of the Bible and who does not. An obvious clue is, "Is a leader in your church, pastor or otherwise, always seriously listened to by the world, because the world knows their own? Do those most experienced in the truth of the Word listen to them and heed them, and those most matured in the battles of the Christian life, like John, listen to them! You see, unlike the ways of the world, a position of status does not determine right and wrong on who is "of the truth" and who is not "of the truth".

8. Above all, Jesus is Truth, the Holy Spirit is Truth, just like God is truth and love. The Holy Spirit, often like in I John just called "the Spirit" or sometimes the Anointed One, IS Truth, or personifies like Jesus truth.

“And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.” (I John 5:6b)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” (John 16:13)

NOTE: Not only will so many Pentecostals enamored with mumbling tongues that are not really languages in the Bible never know when the Holy Spirit has been withdrawn from earth {see II Thessalonians}, but they never bet to truth because they are still look for the Holy Spirit to come into their lives, a falsely called second baptism, when He already came historically on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension and already individually come into any church member life with real “of the truth” salvation!

RETURN TO:

- 1. The "Truth Subset" or**
- 2. "Bible Studies in Jeremiah and Prophecy".**