

What Is Refreshing Evangelism?

Primarily it is a "time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" by way of including the majority of "ALL Scripture" (II Timothy 3:16,17) that is excluded in most of the preaching and teaching of the Bible today. What we of an earlier generation of preachers learned from Andrew Blackwood's book *PREACHING FROM THE BIBLE*, must out of necessity today because of the common practices of the Bible Baptists and other fundamentalists, be modified to say *PREACHING ALL OF THE BIBLE*. Because of the slick cover of their boast of "literalism" on the Bible, we overlook the extremely selective nature of their preaching. (1) They preach the opposite of the ALL of the Bible, what you might call a PARTIAL preaching and teaching of the Bible; (2) they add words like "rapture" and millennium to the Bible along with philosophical concepts that support them; (3) they continue their present work with the same bad attitude which allowed them to take control of the SBC, the condemned attitude of I Corinthians 14:36 that "the word of God came to them only, or that they word of God came out of their group".

Something better in the way of ALL scripture each month, and in a positive and "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" method must be offered to contemporary Christianity, especially to southern baptists to the extent that they have survived this decadent literalism. What we are talking about is a revival of the southern baptist heritage of all scripture Bible teaching and

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preaching from our famous founders of the past, men like B.H. Carroll, George W. Truett, and R. G. Lee.

How do we do that? The answer begins with a refreshing revival on II Timothy 3:16 and 17. As you read it below, try to look at it in a different perspective of your current practices--

"ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all God works." (II Timothy 3:16,17)

1-1. The ALL Bible should be covered at least every year, and about the only way Carroll, Lee, and Truett could do that was with a doctrinal approach.

Yes, that oh dirty word of "doctrine" which we don't hear much more about since Herschell Ford's SIMPLE SERMONS ON GREAT CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES; or the little study course book THESE THINGS WE BELIEVE. After all did you notice what is first on the itemized list of II Timothy 3:16 and 17 of how to honor "ALL scripture"--yes, it is profitable "FOR DOCTRINE". You can go through all scripture each month without even mentioning that you are covering the 10 major doctrines of the Bible--God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible as the Word of God, salvation, faith, gospel, assembly, Falling Away and the Day of the LORD and Lord. In order for it to be more refreshing for you, get the words dry doctrine out of your head, and think instead ALL THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE.

1-2. God the Father.

In this day of an overwhelming amount of living in idolatry because of the neglect of church members and other Christians, you can not hear or think too much about the great God the Father Who is sitting up there above the clouds in power and glory. One neglected Scripture that can do something about this is I Corinthians 13:23-27 {and maybe you can help figure out why fundamentalists flinch at the straight reading of this scripture, perhaps because either (1)

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immediately after the mentioning in 23 of Christ' second coming--"Christ's at His coming"--comes the end of this old earth; or (2) their limited Christology from neglect of ALL scripture does not allow for God to be all and all after the end; or (3) both.

"Christ the firstfruits, afterwards those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power: for He must reign until he has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under his feet. But when He says "all things are put under Him", it is evident that He put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." (I Corinthians 15:23-27)

1-3: Any American, religious or not, who makes an idol out of anything by giving it first place in life before God IS WORTHLESS.

Yes, this is Scripture, and surely you have not noticed it because of the selective nature of Bible preaching and study. For example how long has it been since you read the historical books of the Bible like II Kings, and it is more often since you have heard the historical books taught or read in your church. You may be among the many who have never read them, and this only begs the issue of refreshing evangelism being on the total in context Word of God. The historical books like Kings are great history and will be more enjoyable to read than most history that you already enjoy. Isaiah, the queen of prophets and the official court historian, some of whose passages and predictions you have enjoyed in the past, also wrote many of these historical books like Kings.

Notice the simplicity and cutting edge, example by history, of how Isaiah in II Kings declares all to be worthless, of course in the sight of God and not in the sight of the world as the world has it own well-defined set of values like the American dream, success, and the gospel of wealth and prosperity.

"They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless." (II Kings 17:12)

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As part of your time of refreshing you may want to read II Kings 17 which is on the final deportation of the northern kingdom of Israel into Assyria. **{By the way, you will be interested to know that the nation of Syria that you hear so much about in the news today, and which will become more important as the world scene changes into the final battle of Armageddon, with the capital at the same town of Damascus, was once the northern kingdom of Israel. You can also read about this in chapter 17.}**

Many of you have participated in the free online Bible studies on "Jeremiah and Prophecy", and you know that the prime national sin of Judah and Jerusalem, the southern kingdom of Israel, was idolatry. God told them right up front in Jeremiah 2:13:

"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and have hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:13)

Surely you can see as substitutes for God today **{idols}**, broken cisterns of success, prosperity and wealth, the pursuit of the American dream before pursuit of God, even self-centeredness can be an idol.

Anyway you can read in chapter 17 of II Kings exactly what happened to the northern kingdom before the same thing happened to Judah and Jerusalem.

1-4: The Wishful Thinking of a Millennium and a Rapture before the Second Coming are part of that last great event in the Bible, just before Armageddon, called the Falling Away (II Thessalonians).

Another thing that will be part of the Refreshing Evangelism series will be some answers to Bible search questions submitted on www.biblecombibleman.com, the official website of SunGrist_Bible; and one of those recent questions was "why do so many people believe in pre-millenniumism?"

1. The famous or infamous falling away of the Bible, sometimes called by a few authors the great apostasy, is not start 30 years ago with the splitting into 3 denominations of the larger Protestant denominations of the Southern Baptist convention with the takeover of control by fundamentalists of the millennium

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and rapture persuasion. It started years ago with a Roman Catholic priest and teacher in Ireland, name Darby, and later a divorced lawyer name Scoffield, also pastor of the First Congregationalists church of Dallas, championed the theories of millinnumism and a rapture before the second coming in a correspondence course that reached into the backwoods of the Bible belt, and beyond that up to today those who would make money off anything have profited with the NOTES of the Scoffield Reference Bible and with the backing in Memphis of a Scoffield Reference Bible society.

2. Did you think that we would ease into the last 40-80 years **{period of the first great falling away of God's as recorded in the book of Hebrews}** of this old earth, that period of the last falling away and great apostasy, without any religious leaders or denominations slipping away from the major doctrines of the Bible. {See the 5 stages of the falling away in II Timothy 4:3,4.} Granted that the falling away is first of all a grassroots movement of Christians and church members falling away from the sound doctrine and practices centered around God {yes, becoming worthless like the original people of God, largely through idolatry and through substitute broken cisterns}, Christ, and the Bible. However, the falling away was not able to happen without church leadership.

3. This question is almost like asking why is sin so popular, or how could several million Frenchmen be wrong? Yes, unsound doctrine is a sin. {Please read the session from the Life and Letters of Paul series, also free and online at www.biblecombibleman.com, called "The Demonic Veil of the Rapture".}

4. Popular Preachers of Prosperity, especially on TV, are going to tell you what your want to hear. {See the online Jeremiah Bible session called "Popular Preachers of Prosperity, and also read in the NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES commentary to appear shortly in paperback on amazon.com. Or you can download free of charge on www.biblecombibleman.com the Appendix to NDT.}

5. And most important of all is the fact that this millennium and rapture is what Christians WANT to believe as an escape from the events of the falling away and the last tribulation. Purpose driven WANTS, as in the words of the 2nd stage of the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:3,4 "out of their own desires shall they heap up teachers with itching ears", have become increasingly popular as we dive deeper and deeper into the falling away in this nation.

6. Why do you think Daniel, near the end of the book, identifies the falling away as the time "when the power of the holy people is completely shattered"; and how

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could this happen if the holy people of the churches and denominations were already raptured off the earth? Let your favorite fundamentalists answer it, not the same as conservative, preacher smoke that in his pipe, and then hear the song and dance, going everywhere but scripture!

1-5: “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry {“make full proof of your ministry”}.” (II Timothy 4:5)

This is refreshing evangelism!