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**ALAS, COMETH THE STRONG DELUSION
THAT WE SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE...
UNLESS WE WAKE UP AND REPENT**
by Paula Leanues

This issue was not going to be political in any way. It was to be mainly about the truth in God's Word. Currently, there is enough politically-charged arguing out there, and it's just going to heat up until election day, November 4. We need repentance, individually, before we repent as a nation, and holiness must replace every empty, worldly pursuit and false idol in our hearts. This is what I should be writing about, because politics and holiness are normally at opposite ends of the spiritual spectrum. And yet this morning I had Psalm 2 on my mind, which can be applied to both the political and spiritual climates in the United States, and which today is my motivation for writing:

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast

away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall have them in derision. (Psalm 2:1-4)

The kings of the earth absolutely have set themselves against the One True God. When I look at our own country, I see we are not doing much better. In fact, we are failing in morality at every turn and are in a position to take a drastic turn for the worse.

The year 2008 has been a time of testing for God's people, spiritually, morally and politically, and the question to us, before Jesus returns, is clear: *Whose side are we really on?* How will we discern the Antichrist has arrived if we cannot even discern the demons and corruption in overnight-made celebrities who come on a flashy platform and promise us the world?

Can we not forget the Word says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world"? (1 John 2:15) Or how about Matthew 6:19: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal"? Somehow, the land of the free, with its once Divinely inspired framework, has found itself in a star-studded fantasy, its inhabitants worshiping materialism, listening to lying preachers, and hanging on the every word of shallow-tongued politicians and celebrities. Our Christian founders and Christian spiritual leaders of the past would not recognize our current America.

First, we recently experienced a tattoo-clad, dressed-in-black, charlatan, Todd Bentley, in Florida, claiming to come in Jesus' name while actually channeling demons. Finally his own sins found him out, and he's plummeting headlong into the vast wasteland of would-be evangelists because of, among other things, his "unhealthy relationship with a woman on his staff" (none dare call it adultery). Some of his former followers are now confessing to their lapse in judgment (none dare call it their easy deceivableness or sin). How many who call themselves Christians were swept up in that catatonia-inducing wave of deception? Too many. Mr. Bentley knew how to put on a show, mesmerize people with Hindu and rock music, and give everyone the warm fuzzies. They all said, "This must be God!" They fell at his feet and said, "We're not worthy!"

Second, all year, and increasingly so now, we have the constant, grating, force-feeding of the daily Obama-thon in the media, which is turning the minds of otherwise intelligent beings to *Obamush* as a sudden desire overtakes them to run out and vote for this politician barely out of diapers, regardless of his moral (or lack of) stand on *anything*. He is loved because he says the word "change" a lot. He is loved because he is black. He is loved because he is charismatic (with shades of Clinton-esque doublespeak). Mostly, he is loved because he knows how to host a pep rally better than any undefeated football team and its cheerleaders. All his followers fall at his feet (literally – some women have fainted at the sight of him) and say, "We're not worthy!"

How many of Obama's catatonic followers claim Christianity? Too many again. Having a pop culture president is more important to them than having a president with a moral base who may even take a stand to defend this country against Islamic fascists who vow to destroy us. When a presidential candidate can bring a "thrill" going "up the leg" of a news commentator and women faint in his presence, what is really happening in our country? What has become of a once great country when its citizens so easily fall prey to the hoopla surrounding an inexperienced, most immoral and wicked socialist, and even *consider* putting him in the White House?

The latest poll of black voters says 94% will vote for Obama. A good

percentage of those same voters claim Christianity. What is the real reason Obama is their candidate? What is the real reason anyone who claims Christianity says Obama is their candidate? Making history by making a black man Commander in Chief is not a good answer. I am all in favor of putting a black man in that position – if that man would defend the country; would not negotiate with terrorists; doesn't support gay "marriage"; doesn't want to kill babies; doesn't want to tax us into poverty (King Solomon, anyone? Rehoboam?); and is willing to uphold the Christian standards that made this country great.

How is it Obama's adamant approval of late-term abortions gets by his "Christian" supporters when God says, "Thou shalt not kill"? How is it his approval of gay "marriage" gets by the "Christian" whose Bible says homosexuality is an "abomination?" The last time I checked, the Son of God is Jesus, the Christ, Redeemer of mankind, and hence the term "Christian" comes from "Christ." There is no conscience toward the One whose name we take if we can sanction the things that Barack Obama stands for. And that is the test right there.

We are deceived if we stand for anything less than holiness – in our spiritual leaders, in our government, our politicians, and first and foremost, in ourselves. I am not accountable for your beliefs and deeds, and you are not accountable for mine. But we are all accountable to God for our own.

Considering the telling nature of recent events and Christians with disappearing consciences, I ask, is He that sits in the heavens now laughing at us as a society? Is He mocking us (are we "in derision") because we have refused to live apart from sin, and in fact, rush to embrace every form of sin? Has He actually, finally, given us over to our many and varied lusts? Romans 1 (it is worth studying in depth) tells us that not only are we without excuse when we say there is no God, but (I paraphrase) when we turn from Him completely and believe imaginings (lies), and worship things, animals, unholy and unhealthy lifestyles, etc., God will "give us up" to our "vile affections." He says, in effect, you made your bed – lie in it. It appears by all logical and spiritual discernment that droves of our nation's citizens, professing themselves to be wise, have become fools in God's eyes (Romans 1:22) and have been given up to "uncleanness" through the lusts of their own hearts (v. 24).

When homosexuality, that God calls an "abomination" (Leviticus 18:22), is accepted as a normal, alternate lifestyle, and its perverse adherents are allowed to hold a piece of paper saying they are "married," a nation has truly turned its direction from heading towards life to heading towards death. Two of the same sex cannot procreate. Without the intervention of medical quacks, life would completely die out in a homosexual society. This is no small matter. Having been turned over to our lusts, we are now open to believe all kinds of lies. *And this causes vacuous masses to get on bandwagons of further deception.* Godly discernment is out with the trash – and we are the ones who chose to have it this way. In the Day of the Lord, when the Antichrist's appearance is upon us, God will send us strong delusion, that we should believe a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:11). This can only happen once we have made the bed that we now lie in – and God sees we want to live our lives without Him – and He has given us up and turned us over.

Where is the Church in all this? I come to my third, and most important, point. We live in a time when false prophets and prosperity peddlers already have been running rampant in our country for decades. As Bentley, they come in the name

of Christ. In fact, their very existence opened a door to deception so that Bentley could enjoy the popularity that he did. The past few years especially have seen an upturn in their parading about as roaring lions seeking whom they may devour. Doors to deception fly open when false prophets like Kim Clement, deceived themselves, trample on the truth of the Word of God by claiming to be God's mouthpiece, and a false gospel of "Jesus had buckets of money and so should you!" overshadows the simple and real Gospel that Jesus died, conquered death and hell, rose again, bore our sins and sicknesses, and we are free from the law of sin and death if we confess our sin and believe on Him.

If there is a door open in an individual's own life – pride, covetousness, lust, etc. – they will walk right through it and meet the deception that awaits them. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to guard our hearts with all diligence, which we are guilty of not doing. Jesus said the Kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:21) – basically, in our hearts – so are we guarding this with all diligence? Not if we follow the depraved, shallow and deceitful who are sensations in the eyes of the ungodly world. I speak of corrupt political leaders, morally void Hollywood celebrities, and false spiritual leaders alike. Many Christians – those who call themselves Christians – are guilty of following all three.

The Church losing its way in the past several decades has caused confusion in this nation. God's leaders are held to a higher accountability than those who are taught by them – but even so, that doesn't excuse those who follow false leaders. I don't doubt many in the Word of Faith movement of the past several decades were called by God to preach, teach, evangelize, heal the sick and set people free. But what did most of them do with that call, but veer off from the simple truth of God's Word and turn the Kingdom of God into a circus? Were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John celebrity Christians filling large stadiums and charging \$100 per ticket? Did Paul insist on having his own private jet, several luxury automobiles, million dollar mansion, and vacation homes? Did John the Baptist preach a gospel of mammon, lie to and swindle the poor to give to the rich? Did Elijah charge money for prophecies!? Absolutely not.

When God's leaders stray from His truth, and they preach phony gospels to their own gain, the nation they are called to minister to suffers. Christians receive half-truths, if that, and their biblical instruction for living is stifled, drowned out by soft preaching. If the unsaved are not hearing the truth preached anymore by truly anointed servants, there is no opportunity for conviction; without conviction, the lost will stay lost. A nation will not repent. The exact opposite of God's intention of freedom takes effect, and sin digs its claws in and reigns.

It seems I pick on Kim Clement a lot, but he is one of the best examples of a false prophet out there today – he has even settled himself in the Hollywood area to further tout his stardom. Not even Juanita Bynum with her stage shows of hype and screaming gibberish that's supposed to pass for speaking in tongues surpasses him in blasphemy (if there were degrees of blasphemy). (Note: I fully believe in speaking in tongues – when inspired by the Holy Spirit.) Mr. Clement takes home the Best False Prophet Award, because he is taking God's people away. His followers are loyal and will defend him regardless of how many failed prophecies he tries to sweep under the rug or must remove from his website.

If you read any of his so-called prophecies on his website (I had to "sign up" to be able to do this – the downside of being a spy), you will not only see many grammatical and spelling errors, but you will see a whole lot of rambling per "prophecy" that is very distinguishable from the actual words we read in scripture. Jesus did not ramble. The Law was straightforward. The Gospel was

straightforward. Kim Clement is a phony.

One prophecy he gave this year caused a stir and can be found all over the internet. It is his prediction from March 29 that Obama will be president. Here is what he said (in part – it would take too long to repeat it all): “I will change everything. For they have unfairly spoken against an African man and I'm not talking about Jeremiah Wright. I'm talking about Obama. For God said even though you may think this or that, there is an element of righteousness inside of him to reach out for Jesus. Therefore I will sway it next week says the Spirit of God and I will cause My man, My power to exalt in the White House what is necessary to declare victory. For this time I shall rise up and I shall make known who I am in a way that I have never done it in this nation, says the Lord.”

Well, first of all, with B.O.'s anti-God voting record, there is no one who speaks against his form of morality that is speaking “unfairly.” We're speaking facts. Second, the only men in scripture we read about that God would call “My man” were truly holy men chosen by God to do His work – not men who believed in killing babies, not men who worshipped any other god or idol (money, fame, power), not men who would receive illegal campaign donations from terrorists. It remains to be seen whether or not Barack Hussein Obama is going to the White House (if John McCain wins, how fast will Mr. Clement remove this prophecy from his website?).

It is worth noting that many false prophets today, Mr. Clement included, speak of “change.” God is going to do something new and a great “change” is coming. Usually they promise wealth and prosperity or some other great thing. One would think to listen to these “prophets” that God is constantly changing, but in Malachi 3:6, we're told, “For I am the LORD, I change not...” Todd Bentley's personal angel (spirit guide) was called “Winds of Change” (how cute). Obama's campaign theme is “Change.” Is it me, or is there just something spiritually weird about all this “change”? Is there a connection between certain spiritual phonies and a certain current campaign for president?

Jesus takes what is, restores what is, and makes all things new. So yes – spiritual changes for the good happen every day. These changes brewing, however, in the spirit world – what may be brought to fruition in the material world – are not for our good. We can see how deluded we already are when masses of people calling themselves Christians run after worldly and sometimes demonic stage shows in the name of God, and when they rally around a candidate who stands for nothing that God Himself stands for.

If the Obamanation takes the high office in January, it does not mean that Kim Clement is a true prophet. It means that America has entered a state of judgment, and we can expect, based on how God has responded to sin throughout Bible history, more terrorism, more droughts in areas, stronger hurricanes and other natural disasters, earthquakes, economic devastation, and an increase in crime like we have never seen before. Our vulnerable country will most likely be invaded, as the new president will not be interested in defending it against our enemies.

Every Arab nation's leader is thrilled with the prospect of an Obama presidency, and he has received illegal campaign donations from Islamic terrorist sources overseas. If we choose him as our next president, we really have been turned over by God, and we will get what we deserve.

My only answer is to pray. Will God spare us for 100 righteous people? 50 righteous people? 40? 30? I am praying daily concerning the upcoming election and a sparing of our country. I am praying that many will wake up from their

Obamatized stupor and see what is really at stake this year. I am praying ultimately that the Church will repent, individually and as a whole, and stop falling prey to, and following, every smooth-talking fool and whim of the evil surrounding world. I understand it may just be buying more time for us, but time is something the Church in America needs in order to find its way back to being the Church again...if we will.

IN GOD'S IMAGE **by Pastor Jackson Morro**

As we watch television these days, we see an abundance of educational nature shows. We see an increasing number of these shows focusing on the lives of the higher apes, such as orangutans, gorillas, chimps. We often hear the phrase describing these apes as “our nearest relatives.” These shows often try to explain how humans evolved from these apes. One explanation tries to tell how a certain group of chimps with certain genetic predispositions got separated from the general chimp population by crossing over a mountain in Africa and then, in isolation from other chimps, developed these special genetic characteristics and became human after thousands and thousands of years.

Coupled with this “explanation” of how man developed is a very subtle philosophy that denies the basic truth of man’s creation: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... and God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.’” (Genesis 1:26-27) There is more at issue than simply how man’s physical body came into being. The debate of evolution vs. creation is the debate over the very dignity and destiny of humans.

The Word of God states God’s manner of creating humans: “Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7) Humans were created separate and distinct from other created beings, and God gave man something no other created being on earth had - a spirit in the image and likeness of God which could fellowship with God and be creative in the world that God had given them. Man is clearly not a product of evolutionary process. As one person so aptly stated, “If you put a bunch of monkeys in a cage for three million years, at the end you’ll still have just a lot of monkeys. You won’t have human beings.”

The real issue at stake in the evolution vs. creation debate is the moral, spiritual and philosophical debate over the dignity and destiny of mankind. Evolutionists adhere to an atheistic secular humanism that denies man’s spiritual destiny. Evolutionists, at bottom, deny the Bible claim that humans are created in the image and likeness of God, but rather state that humans “happened by chance” from the image and likeness of monkeys. Humans, in fact, then became clever monkeys with less hair and no tails. Humans have no immortal spirit, do not continue to exist after physical death, and consequently, true freedom and liberation come by embracing and accepting this present world and living only for this present life.

Ironically, such a humanistic evolutionist view does not liberate man; rather it devalues humans from the noble destiny God plans for them. On the contrary,

such philosophies as Communism which has led to countless purges and political murders has been the result of humanistic secular liberation thinking. (“We have to kill some people in order to save and reform society.”) Again, this “liberation” is simply part of the satanic trickery that is preparing the kingdom of Antichrist. This kingdom will be fallen mankind’s ultimate rebellion and rejection of God the Creator.

Outwardly, this humanistic evolution tries to present itself as a positive good, most notably in the disguise of “good stewardship” for planet earth and the environment. Who, so their reasoning goes, can argue against taking good care of the resources of planet earth? This certainly sounds good to all people, even Christians. However, a careful, discerning look at the conclusions these humanists and evolutionists come to, reveals the critical issues: rejection of God and devaluation of the human being who is created in the image and likeness of God. This world is filled with people of unconverted heart who are embracing the conclusions of the humanistic evolutionists’ view and they don’t even realize they are pawns in the hands of satan and spiritual powers who want to reject God and strike back at God by destroying the masterpiece of God’s creation: human beings (Ephesians 6:12).

A case in point is the fact that humanistic evolution, calling for good stewardship of the environment, leads ultimately to the crusade to enact laws to monitor the development and prevent the killing of certain animals such as whales. Yet, on the other hand, the same humanistic evolutionist view will approve the aborting of infants in the womb as an acceptable method of “birth control” so that people will not “ruin” their lives by an unexpected, unwanted pregnancy. Clearly, we see a rebellion against God’s mandate to man to “rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28) We also see the devaluation of human life, created in the image and likeness of God and a rejection of God’s commandment that thou shall not murder. (For an in-depth treatment of the abortion issue, write for the book *The Real Tragedy* available free from this ministry: Christ’s Chapel, PO Box 3182, Fall River, MA 02722)

A second case in point is that those who embrace the humanist evolutionist view often give religious expression to their views through forms of religion that are, in essence, nature worship or witchcraft and thinly disguised occultism, things clearly condemned by God as leading man into darkness, destruction and damnation (Deuteronomy 18:9-14). The worship of “Mother Earth” or “Mother Nature,” both closely linked with witchcraft and the occult in primitive societies is currently reappearing in modern times on an ever-increasing scale.

The discerning Christian mind, which is sensitive to and led by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, sees that the spiritual root of the humanistic evolutionist view is a satan-led rejection of God’s authority and man’s dignity that is as old as the devil’s first encounter with mankind in Genesis, Chapter 3, in the temptation of Adam and Eve.

THE DEVALUATION OF HUMANITY

God clearly intends human beings to be the masterpiece of His creation. In Psalm 8:4-6, we read, “What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty! Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet.” Humans are created in the image and likeness of God. When humanity fell into

sin and needed redemption, the Second Person of the Godhead, the Eternal Word, became human (Jesus Christ) in order to become Savior of the human race (John 1:1,14). Humans who are redeemed through Jesus Christ are destined to rule and reign with God forever (Revelation 22:3-5).

The humanistic evolutionist devaluation of man has two major consequences:

First, such a view rejects man's responsibility to obey and worship the One True Living God of this universe. If man is just the result of a large number of genetic accidents, then man does not have to worship or obey a Supreme Authority. This goes back to the very first temptation that satan whispered to Eve in the Garden of Eden, "And the serpent said to the woman, 'You surely shall not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" (Genesis 3:4-5) Modern humanistic evolutionism, at its spiritual heart, is the first temptation of satan in the Bible dressed up in "academic scientific respectability."

Secondly, if there is no Creator to obey, and man is just a product of a large number of genetic accidents, and man is, really, just a very intelligent monkey, then it becomes morally acceptable to "monkey around." Morality then does not become a question of "revealed truth" from a God who is holy, but morality becomes "what seems to work" or "what we can get by with." For example, if animal nature is sexually "promiscuous," then humans can be promiscuous without eternal, spiritual consequences (or the obvious physical consequences of venereal disease and the breakdown of the social fabric). Perhaps, so the thinking goes, our own human institutions would be better served by observing nature and simply getting into harmony with nature's way of doing things for our "morality." Then honesty, integrity, and all virtue loses any absolute character and morality becomes an issue of "what works" and "what we can get by with."

In conclusion, this is nothing new. Again, the discerning Christian, led by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, sees that the current devaluation of man is, at its root, a spiritual issue - unconverted hearts are being deceived by demonic powers who want to prepare the way for Antichrist and the Antichrist system, which will be Satan's ultimate (and final) attempt to reject God and overthrow God by controlling, striking back at, and if necessary, attempting to destroy, the masterpiece of God's creation: mankind.

THE OLD COVENANT AND THE NEW COVENANT

**Taken from study articles found in The KJV Life In The Spirit Study Bible,
edited by Donald Stamps**

*(Note: excellent study Bible can be ordered through www.christianbook.com,
www.amazon.com and other sellers)*

Hebrews 8-10 describes numerous aspects of the old covenant, such as the worship regulations and sacrificial ritual in the tabernacle; it discusses the various rooms and furniture of this OT worship center. The author's purpose is twofold: 1) to contrast the high priest's service in the earthly sanctuary under the old covenant with Christ's ministry as high priest in the heavenly sanctuary under the new covenant; 2) to show how these various aspects in the old covenant foreshadow or prefigure the ministry of Christ, the one who inaugurated the new

covenant. This article summarizes the relationship between these two covenants.

1) Under the old covenant, salvation and a right relationship with God came through a faith expressed by obedience to His law and its sacrificial system. Sacrifices in the OT had three main purposes: a) They taught God's people the gravity of sin. Sin separated sinners from a holy God, and they could be reconciled to God and find forgiveness only through the shedding of blood (Exodus 12:3-14; Leviticus 16; 17:11; Hebrews 9:22; Leviticus 1:2-3; 4:3; 9:8). b) They provided a way for Israel to come to God through faith, obedience and love (Hebrews 4:16; 7:25; 10:1). c) They pointed forward to or foreshadowed (Hebrews 8:5; 10:1) Christ's perfect sacrifice for the sins of the human race (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Exodus 12:3-14; Leviticus 16; Galatians 3:19).

2) Jeremiah prophesied that in the future (from his place in history) God would establish a new covenant, a better one, with His people (see Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-12). The new covenant would be far superior because:

a) It would be internalized as heart reality: "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Hebrews 8:10). God's holiness and righteousness are internalized in the believer by the Holy Spirit, imparting a new heart and nature wherewith to passionately love and joyfully obey God.

b) The new covenant would be personal: "for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest" (Hebrews 8:11). Knowing God is both a community experience and a personal knowing by each individual member of the covenant community. Christ, as our high priest with his blood makes possible direct access into the Most Holy Place of God's presence (Hebrews 4:16; 7:25; 10:19-22; 12:22-24).

c) The new covenant would thoroughly deal with sin: "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more (Hebrews 8:12). New covenant believers know fully the reality of God's forgiveness through a cleansed conscience (Hebrews 9:14). Whereas the blood of bulls and goats could only cover one's sins, the blood of Christ enables sin to be blotted out so that God remembers it no more.

3) Jesus is the one who initiates and establishes the new covenant or new testament (both ideas are present in the Greek word *diatheke*), and His heavenly ministry is far superior to the ministry of OT earthly priests. The new covenant is an agreement, promise, last will and testament, and a statement of intention to bestow divine grace and blessing on those who respond to God in sincere repentance and faith. Specifically, it is a covenant of promise for those who through faith accept Christ as God's Son, receive His promises, and commit themselves personally to Him and to the obligations of the new covenant.

a) Jesus Christ's position as mediator of the new covenant (Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24) is based on His sacrificial death (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Hebrews 9:14-15; 10:29; 12:24). The promises and obligations of this new covenant are embodied in the entire NT. Its purpose is (i) to save from guilt and condemnation all those who believe in Christ and commit their lives to the truths and obligations of His covenant (Hebrews 9:16-17; Mark 14:24; 1 Corinthians 11:24), and (ii) to form them into a people who are God's very own (Hebrews 8:10; Ezekiel 11:19-

20; 1 Peter 2:9).

b) Jesus' sacrifice of Himself is clearly a superior sacrifice to the animal sacrifices of the old covenant. Because Jesus was, as stated in Hebrews 7:26, "holy" (i.e., without moral defect), "harmless" (i.e., blameless, innocent, untouched by evil), "undefiled" (i.e., pure), and "separate from sinners" (i.e., sinless), He was the perfect substitutionary sacrifice for sin – the just for the unjust.

The purpose of Jesus' death was "to put away sin" (Hebrews 9:26; 1 John 3:5), removing it entirely, not just covering over sin as did the blood of the old covenant animal sacrifices. The power of Jesus' death makes possible the annulling of sin's power, the removal of sin's defilement, and complete forgiveness, reconciliation with God and sanctification of life (Hebrews 10:10, 15-17); Leviticus 9:8). Moreover, Jesus' death was the voluntary "sacrifice of himself" as the Son of God (Hebrews 1:3; 9:26), infinitely superior to the involuntary sacrifice of an old covenant animal. Jesus' sacrifice for sins was "once" (ephapax), signifying that it was both complete and permanently valid, with no need to ever be repeated. This decisive character of Jesus' sacrifice for sin is a hallmark of the book of Hebrews (7:27; 9:12,26,28; 10:10).

c) The new covenant can be called the new covenant of the Spirit, for it is the Holy Spirit who ministers life and power to those who accept God's covenant (2 Corinthians 3:1-6; John 17:3).

4) All who participate in the new covenant through Jesus Christ receive its blessings and salvation as they persevere in faith and obedience (Hebrews 3:6). The faithless are excluded from its blessings (Hebrews 3:18).

5) Hebrews reveals that the first covenant was imperfect and incomplete, a temporary provision by God until such time that God's perfect provision in His Son would be given (Hebrews 8:6-7). The new covenant was thus not an afterthought in God's mind that became necessary because of the failure of the first. Rather, the new covenant was always necessary and in God's plan even before earthly history (Ephesians 1:4). With the coming of Jesus and the establishing of the new covenant, the old covenant became obsolete (Hebrews 8:13). This does not make the OT Scripture obsolete, however; only the old covenant that was based on the Mosaic Law and its sacrificial system. Much of the OT revelation points toward Christ and, as God's inspired Word, contains much invaluable revelation that is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

REQUEST FOR CHRISTIAN MATERIALS IN INDIA

Brother Pradhan from India runs a ministry which ministers to Christians who are saved having come from a Hindu and Buddhist background, as well as has other outreaches. If anyone has Christian DVDs, CDs or tapes available to send, their ministry would much appreciate it! Address Below:

Ananda Prakash Pradhan

AN INVITATION TO HOLINESS
by Pastor Jackson Morro

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:3-7; Isaiah 43:10-21;
Isaiah 62:12; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Of the many sides and levels of meaning of the Gospel, the most important, of course, will always be that God gave His only begotten Son, so that through Him, Jesus, we might be saved from our sins and be given the gift of eternal life (Matthew 1:21; John 3:16).

Another important meaning, however, is that through sending His Son, God is offering man an invitation to holiness. So often, we misunderstand the true nature of holiness and believe it consists of man conforming to a certain number of religious actions that please God. Holiness, however, is actually a participation in God's own life (1 Peter 1:14-16; 2 Peter 1:3-4), a participation that can only come as a free gift from Him when we hunger for it.

God's own holiness means 1) He is not bound by the limitations of creation; 2) He can never be touched by sin and death, which can never enter His presence; and 3) the same holiness that repels sin is also moved with compassionate love to redeem that which is bound by sin and death.

God's invitation to holiness is His invitation to us to walk in His very nature and life. Holiness is "the best deal" going for mankind.

NOTES FROM YOU

Hello Paula,

...That Lakeland "revival" seems to be a big deal out there, I even have a few pen pals who have been to it, and have been healed. I have a degree in Theology, I speak in tongues, praise and pray in the Spirit, and believe the surrendered obedient believer can do, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all the things Jesus did. There is no limit to what God can do through us to reveal His glory. Bless His Holy Name.

But from the first time I heard of this revival, my spirit was uneasy, even cautious, although I cannot be at Lakeland, nor would I go if I were out...

Pastor Morro is a very strong and insightful man of God. I read everything you have sent me of his, and I completely 100% agree with him here, the 7-point reasons he listed are perfect teaching, and while I was reading, the Truth was clear to me.

This is why we need to study the scriptures, to know what we believe, and not be taken in by emotion or demonstration of a form of godliness with lying wonders. I know everyone has responsibilities out there, and can't spend hours and hours each day studying the scriptures. But for 11 years now, all I have done is rightly divide the Word, memorize and pray for a world I will never see again.

I thank God for people who know Jesus, and stand up for the Truth...

God bless you always.
Still, Lawrence

* * *

I find it interesting that you talk about the false revival in Lakeland and then in another article quote from William Branham, another guy who was less than Biblical in his theology. What's up with that?

Michael
Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

Hi Michael -

Yes, William Branham strayed quite a bit towards the end of his ministry. However it happened - the enemy got in because there was a vulnerability in his life, or because of fatigue, etc. - of course I do not know all the details - but I believe there is a very plausible explanation regarding his call.

First, I do believe God sent him as a preacher and a prophet - that was his call in life, and he fulfilled it faithfully during the bulk of his ministry.

However... there is no question he allowed "funky" doctrines ("other doctrines") to creep into his ministry towards the end. Some say because God called Branham to preach, he should never have attempted to "teach" which he insisted on towards the end. Gordon Lindsay and others warned him not to begin teaching, because that was not part of his call. He disobeyed the warnings of his friends, and God, and began teaching anyway. This is where his ministry fell apart and he began preaching false things. God's anointing was not on the teaching.

I do not believe this discounts the good he did as a preacher and a prophet. That is where his anointing was.

There are many like him not only in scripture, but as we've seen in fairly recent years. Whatever it is that the minister lets get in - pride, money, etc. - can turn a minister, and the ministry, sour. Jim Bakker is a perfect relatively modern example. "Google" Alexander Dowie, and you will find a similar thing happened in his ministry (because of his own pride) as happened to Branham's.

So the question is - do we scrap all the years of faithfulness that come out of a ministry? If we judge according to what happens when we are judged, I do not believe so. All the good stands and lasts for eternity. It's the errors and disobedience that are burned up as wood, hay, stubble. All God has to work with are fallible human beings.

Regarding Lakeland, I believe the article by Pastor Jackson Morro gives the best biblical answers as to why it is a corruption from its very beginning.
http://www.faithontheearth.com/summer2008.htm#counterfeit_revival_at_lakeland_florida

Have a blessed day.

In Him,
Paula

* * *

Greetings to you in the precious and lovely name of Jesus Christ “The Soon Coming King.”

My name is Esuraj.E. I was a follower of the lord guru Sree Raghavendra Swamy and I belonged to Hinduism. I used to smoke, drink, and other things. A group of people came to this village to conduct a prayer meeting. I was against them because they told about the words like “Jesus” and “Alleluia” which I never liked to hear, and I shouted to them (Since I was a great believer in lord guru Sree Raghavendra Swamy, and we have a temple for the lord guru Sree Raghavendra Swamy here in this Kovur Village). One of the men in Jesus came to me and said, “Be calm” and prayed for me by keeping his hands over me, and I said “Please leave this place,” and they left this village. I thought I did a good thing because Christians are always making others convert to their religion, when compared to Islam (Muslims) and Hinduism (Hindus).

I FOUND A LIVING GOD

After sometime whenever I was alone and silent, I used to hear the word “Jesus, Jesus...” and I shook my head and forgot, and I left off to go somewhere. This happened MANY TIMES. I made some research on Jesus. I found that Jesus is a Jew, He was born in a Jewish land, and He came for all and died for all. Even sometimes whenever I am alone and silence is around me, something speaks to me, in course of time and I slowly disliked things like smoking, drinking and others.

DAY BY DAY MY LIFE CHANGED

10 packets of cigarettes turned to 5 packets of cigarettes.

5 packets of cigarettes turned to 2 packets of cigarettes.

2 packets of cigarettes turned to 1 packet of cigarettes.

1 packet of cigarettes turned to zero packets of cigarettes.

And this is a great thing in my life. Something made me love those who are very needy, helpless, shelter-less on the roadside, streets, pavements, etc., and I would go to them and help them by what I am able to. I learned and experienced in my life that the word “Jesus” is a mighty powerful and living word for all those who want to see TRUTH and LIFE. During holidays and Sundays and free time is my God-given life to help those who are poor, needy, helpless, shelter-less and also pass the good news that Jesus is the LORD GOD OF THE WHOLE WORLD. I used to visit the government schools, colleges, market places, streets, roads, hospitals and give some messages, preach and spread the good news of Jesus and help the poor and needy.

The people of this village, Sree Raghavendra Nagar, dislike me, even my friends, neighbors. They hate me because they say I serve and worship a foreign God of the foreign people and that too He is a man (JESUS), but I am absolutely right that I serve an Eternal God WHO is love, mercy, truth and life. Whatever the people say, I am happy with Jesus.

I pray for you that you will hear the voice of the LORD and may provide me the support, love, strength and encouragement in the service that I do for the Lord Jesus and His children.

May the peace, love and mercy of the Lord Jesus be with you until HE RETURNS.

Yours together in HIS love,
Esuraj.E
63, Sree Raghavendra Nagar
Kovur Village
Tamil Nadu – 602101
INDIA

* * *

Thanks, Paula, for your response. I can say that I agree with you on the Lakeland fiasco. I could see no good in this from the beginning. Todd Bentley claims his change of appearance was to attract and draw those who look as he does. The Word tells us that we are to be in the World but not of the World. It would seem that Todd and his followers have forgotten this.

I have been in the Pentecostal movement for only a few years (about 6) but have done a great deal of study on the history of the movement. When I become affiliated with something I want to know the root of such.

I too believe without doubt that the gifts of the Spirit are for today. I can testify to the healing power of Jesus Christ in my own life. I can offer testimony to the healing of others as my wife and I have laid hands on and come into agreement with those who desired to be healed...

My wife says I have the memory of an elephant and the more I heard about the Lakeland fiasco the more it sounded like something I had read in the history of the Pentecostal Holiness movement so when I went back to my history books there it was. I agree that the Fire Baptized movement in Holiness circles did start out as something good as was shown in the Iowa Association. Along came Irwin, one who it seems could not make it as a lawyer so he became a preacher, and found that like P.T. Barnum, people will buy into a good show. People are emotional nature creatures and many will seek out places and things that can gratify those emotions. Bentley, as did Irwin, found that the more emotion he put into his "show" the more people came and the more people wanted. Bentley has carried this to an extreme form in the acts which he so proudly speaks of. His kicking the poor old woman in the face is but one example. He also claims to have jumped up and down on a person's body in order to pull tumors from the body. I can find no place in the Word where Jesus or any of the early Apostles did any such nonsense as this.

We are also warned of manifestation of angels and the worship of angels. This too as I mentioned was part of Irwin's mystic move.

I am sure that if this movement is not of God, and in my Spirit I can find nothing of God in it, then we will see the same results come to this as occurred with Irwin. It will end in a manner which Bentley will not be pleased.

My prayer is that those who have fallen for this "spirit of emotionalism and false teaching" will not carry it back into their home churches. Only two that we know of in our congregations have been taken in by this. When we told them that we would pray a hedge of protection around them and that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes and ears so that they will not be seduced by this beguiling spirit, they found our statement "funny" and said that they would pray that our eyes be opened to the truth. Unfortunately it seems that they go with closed minds to anything other than this being a real move of God. The enemy is constantly at work to pull believers into his snare. The Word says that such as this will become

the norm rather than the exception in the last days. I can believe that we are in the last days and that we are going to be seeing more and more work of the enemy. May we who believe put on the whole armor of God so that we cannot be snared by the deceiver nor wounded by the fiery darts of the evil one.

Again thanks for your reply
Blessings,
Dallas

Paula, I would also like to direct you to a brand new blog which I feel you will find spiritually strengthening and refreshing. Will He Find Faith On Earth
<http://willhefindfaith.blogspot.com>

QUOTABLES REGARDING AMERICA

“Here in the United States we live like kings compared to millions of other lands. Our greatest danger is not even moral, bad as that is, but spiritual. Prophets, as I have said and written so often, are God’s emergency men for crisis hours. They thrive on perplexity, override adversity, defeat calamity, bring the new wine of the Kingdom to burst the withered wineskins of orthodoxy, and birth revival. Let no Christian’s heart fail him because it seems that the enemy has come in like a flood, that the voice of the prophet is not heard in the land. God has His men hidden. They will come forth without price tags, with nothing to sell, nothing to propagate but holiness unto the Lord.”

- Leonard Ravenhill, *America Is Too Young to Die*

“The fact is, God’s ways are absolutely unchangeable when it comes to his dealings with sinful nations. There is no shadow of turning in his ways; he works the same way in every generation – because he is just. In short, he will deal with our generation in the same way he has dealt with every other generation that sinned as we are sinning.”

- David Wilkerson, *America’s Last Call*

“I have a question for you: What ails our American society? How can our whole nation party, dance, drink and be saturated with entertainment, while thousands of babies are being aborted? What kind of disease has so blinded our nation that the president could veto a bill outlawing doctors from sucking out the brains of babies just weeks before they’re born? What horrible sickness allows our society to continue merrily in its sordid pleasure-seeking, while the elderly are being assisted in suicide? America is under siege by an army of abortionists, pornographers, drug pushers, murderers of the elderly, coming at us from all corners of the earth. And yet, only a few prophetic voices can be heard!”

- David Wilkerson, *America’s Last Call*

“We know of Sodom’s terrible end – and scripture shows us that America is fast becoming another Sodom. In ancient Sodom, homosexuals came out of their

closets and became activists, casting a demonic spell over an entire generation of men and boys. They grew politically powerful, controlling everything. And Sodom became the world's gay capital – a society so vile, wicked and crazed with violence that its sins thundered throughout the heavens, filling God's holy environment with a hellish cry.”

- David Wilkerson, *America's Last Call*

“At this time in America's history, many Christians have become liberal and loose in their moral values. They indulge in behavior that just a few years ago would have made them blush.”

- David Wilkerson, *America's Last Call*

“Today God sees prosperity and abundance pulling his bride away from him. She's growing more and more earthbound – richer, more comfortable, less mindful of Christ. And now the Lord must move quickly to wean her back to himself.”

- David Wilkerson, *America's Last Call*