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IN THIS ISSUE

PAUL'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
By Christopher Dart

POINT OF NO RETURN
By Paula Leanes

DEFEATING THE LAST ENEMY
By Pastor Jackson Morro

A NOTE ABOUT FAMILY AND THE END TIMES

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH
Taken from study articles found in *The KJV Life In The Spirit Study Bible*, edited
By Donald Stamps

AN URGENT MESSAGE
by Pastor David Wilkerson

A PASTOR'S RESPONSE TO "AN URGENT MESSAGE"
by Pastor David Wilkerson

SATAN'S TRIAD AND THE GREAT TRIBULATION
by Oral Roberts
(Chapter from 1969 book, *God's Timetable for the End of Time*)

TRUE SIGNS AND WONDERS
By Nancy Williams

GOD IS NOT PLEASED
By Pastor Wayne Wilson

LETTER TO GOD FROM EVERYONE WHO VOTED FOR OBAMA!

NOTE FROM CHRISTOPHER DART

QUOTABLES

PAUL'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
By Christopher Dart

Have you ever endured a trial in anxiety with a feeling of being forsaken by God? Have you felt that had someone or some group of people had not acted so selfishly, you would not have to experience such hardships? After all the fretting and angst, had you ever thought how perfectly God's plan worked and you should have rather given Him praise and thanksgiving for putting you on the winning side?

Right now, the media is misinterpreting the Bible on many fronts. Many people believe if something is published in Newsweek, The New York Times, or the Washington Post, it is the undisputable truth.

As this is occurring, we have the tendency to let our blood boil when, for instance, the media portrays homosexuality as something God condones and has sanctioned. I suggest we waste not our sorrows.

Please consider scriptural prophecy:

Many times we read in scripture of what must occur before the son of perdition is revealed. Again, recall Jesus' words, to wit: Rejoice and be exceeding glad for your redemption draweth nigh.

The more things appear to go awry, the farther this country moves to the left, greater will be the grace of the Lord. Beloved, God is separating the sheep from the goats. We will see a true Church with true leaders, as I have said years ago. Those leaders will be those who have not been polluted by the over organized "church" and muscle bound theological cemeteries.

The leaders will be the humble, contrite, those who esteem the presence of the Lord better than all else.

God is refining His Church. Your present anguish has come from that process. Praise ye the Lord.

POINT OF NO RETURN
By Paula Leanues

The "change" might have come, but there isn't much left to "hope" for. The rocky course of the United States has taken us over a vast cliff called Recession Point, and we are all about to crash into Depression Valley. Our "leaders" collectively are a nightmare worse than anything Hollywood could concoct in a horror film. I am not a conspiracy theorist, but anyone who reads the Bible can see that devoid of any godly morals, those at the helm of our government will eventually steer us toward our own demise. They are pigeons in Satan's game that compels them to destroy a once God-fearing nation.

They believe they are doing us good. That's the deception they're in. Satan is their great Deceiver.

We know the news is not good. It's in all the papers. It's on every news channel. It's all over our conversations. How many really understand, biblically, what is happening to our world?

The following is my personal belief, based on scripture, and it is nothing that hasn't been said before. You may disagree even as a Christian. But I don't see that this country is going to recover from its current hole. We have gone our own way spiritually and morally, apart from God, and now we suffer economically and in other facets of life – droughts, war, violent crime. We have insulted God to the maximum I believe one nation can.

There may be moments of release here and there, a few stock numbers going up for a time, unemployment or housing numbers seemingly taking a brief favorable turn, but overall, America has seen its best days. The inevitable turn is downward, unless we repent as a nation for our sins, throw out the self-serving oppressors we call political leaders, repent for ever putting them there, and replace them with God-fearing leaders who will uphold both biblical principles and the Constitution of the United States.

I do not see that happening at this time in history.

The thing is, we can't "fix" the chastisement or outright judgment of God, unless there is a conscious, broad wave of repentance coming from the hearts of men and women.

What we have seen over the past several decades in the United States is nothing but blatant disregard for all things true and moral. We have come against life and welcomed death by allowing abortion to continue; we have worshipped in movie theaters instead of in Bible-preaching churches; and we have allowed the homosexual movement to redefine men and women into some "gender equal" human, thereby trampling on God-given traditional roles for each gender. The truth is not in us. We worship the creature more than the Creator. We have been turned over to our own lusts.

Hollywood, worshipped by all globally, is the beginning of hell for many. Its influence has reached young and old around the world. When a movie about a gay politician (*Milk*) who turned San Francisco into the Sodom that exists today wins accolades and nominations, as does another about a Nazi woman who seduces a 15-year-old boy (*The Reader*), there is nothing else a nation needs to do to show its heart.

Why should we be surprised at our moral degeneration, however, when we see what our "faith" leaders are up to? The one they call "America's Pastor," Joel Osteen, preaches fluff with rarely a mention of Jesus. His wife was recently on trial for allegedly assaulting a stewardess. T.D. Jakes, "moral leader," praised Obama during the presidential race solely because of the color of his skin, while disregarding his moral position. We have nationally known pastors in adultery scandals and *gay* adultery scandals. There are leaders of almost every denomination who claim to be gay, or say it's "OK to be gay" and still uphold the Word of God. These are the blindest of the blind. Rick Warren, pop culture pastor, is forming relationships with Melissa Etheridge (lesbian activist) and those in her camp who wrongly believe Christians are just "afraid of gays." The fact that he, along with an openly gay bishop, were given time to speak at the presidential inauguration representing the Church in January, is a travesty. They do not represent the true Church.

These are the blind leaders that have led the blind. Judgment must first begin in the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). We have seen the judgment begin, but I believe there is more to come.

Six national ministries – led by Paula White, Joyce Meyer, Creflo Dollar, Eddie Long, Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn - last year were under investigation for abusing ministry funds. Three of their leaders - Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar, and Kenneth Copeland - are on the Board of Regents for Oral Roberts University, which itself is under investigation for mismanagement of its funds. (Apparently, they handle their funds as well as the United States government.) Of course, let's not forget Juanita Bynum, gospel singer and self-proclaimed "prophetess," and her husband "Bishop" Thomas Weeks, beating each other up in a hotel parking lot a few summers back, or the latest domestic abuse scandal in gospel music, that of BeBe Winans who was arrested for allegedly battering his wife earlier this month.

In short, the Church is in disarray, and has been for some time. What we see out there are just shadows of what the Church is supposed to be, and in some cases, outright blasphemy. Certainly there are many individuals who love the Word of God and

are saddened by what we see out there. These are the ones God is calling to repair the damage that has been done. But judgment is still coming for those who have claimed to be of God, but defile His Name by standing for everything He is against.

Do we wonder why we have to deal with transgender restrooms, Campbell's soup ads that feature two lesbian parents, lawsuits by teenage lesbian girls who want to wear a tux to their prom, video games that promote rape and murder, gay "pride" parades, homosexual "marriage," and now the funding of not only America's abortions, but abortions of those in other countries? Do we wonder why we now have a president who wants to negotiate with terrorist nations, meanwhile is setting their terrorist sons free on our own soil?

So far – and it's only March 2009 – our newly elected President Obama has put the country in a very shaky position before those (terrorists) who would want to destroy the United States. He has signed an executive order allowing Palestinian "refugees" (terrorists) to resettle in the United States, called for a closing of Guantanamo Bay before putting its prisoners (terrorists) on trial, granted a first interview as president with Al Arabia TV, and withdrew all charges against those responsible for the USS Cole and 9/11 bombings. The first call he made to any head of state was to Mahmoud Abbas who is the leader of the Fatah (terrorist) Palestinian party.

His loyalty is clearly not with the United States. He has proven to be, as he referred to himself while campaigning, a "citizen of the world," before living up to any loyalty to the country that voted him into office. It is a sad fact that we have never been in a more vulnerable position before enemies who want to destroy us, and this kind of position will only grow worse with time. Our position before God has been vulnerable for decades – and this is why we are seeing the crumbling around us of a nation we once knew.

We have reached a point of no return in our country. Globally, nations are heading for economic disaster, on top of increasing natural disasters constantly taking their toll (read Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, which foretell these occurrences), and every day there is another call for a one-world government to "fix" all these problems.

A "Global New Deal" is a term that has come up several times, in addition to a one world currency. Forget the "Amero" – the proposed combined currency of the United States, Canada and Mexico. We are now being offered the "Acmetal," which would be the world currency if globalists have their way. The idea was recently introduced by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who explained, according to World Net Daily, that "the name 'acmetal' comes from the Greek word 'acme,' meaning 'peak' or 'best,' and 'capital.'"

The world government foretold in scripture is upon us. It is God's judgment upon a world turned against His ways. The United States now has a president who is gladly going full steam ahead (with bailout after bailout using funds that do not exist) in the direction of a financial collapse of his own country, for our eventual reliance upon this new world government.

If this world cannot repent as a whole, and our country will not repent and see revival, we are still responsible for our own repentance and walk before God. We need to have a pure heart before God to be able to stand to the end, and we need to stay close to Him more than ever, because the distress that is coming upon this earth is something humans have never seen before on such a wide scale.

Jesus said in Mark 13:19, "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."

Those days are upon us.

DEFEATING THE LAST ENEMY **By Pastor Jackson Morro**

We are going to look an enemy in the face and win. We are going to be victorious over this enemy. The Bible calls it the *last* enemy.

As Christians, we are going to face the reality and event of death. We are going to settle the issue of death once and for all. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57:

54But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

55"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

57but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Earlier in this chapter, Paul stated in v. 26 that the last enemy to be defeated is death. But Paul also gave us that powerful and comforting promise from 1 Corinthians 15:22: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."

When we experience death, for the Christian, it's really the beginning of the full experience of eternal life.

The evangelist Billy Graham once stated that death has very impressive statistics: one out of every one person born also dies. Death is a fact—you will face it; I will face it. We read in Hebrews 9:27, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment..." and in Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven — a time to give birth and a time to die..."

Death is something you and I will certainly face.

We learn from scripture that death entered this world through the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Their sin turned loose something called "the law of sin and death." Everywhere in this world we see sin and we also see death. Someday, your outer body and mine will cease to function.

There is, however, a second more important fact. Our Lord Jesus Christ broke the power of death and defeated death. According to Hebrews 2:14-15:

14Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

15and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

When the Son of God became man, He willingly submitted to the phenomenon of death. Jesus Christ suffered a painful, humiliating, shameful death on the cross. He allowed the evil and wicked men of this world to kill Him, but He offered His death to God the Father as an atoning sacrifice to pay the price of the punishment we should have received for our sins.

At about 3 p.m. on the original Good Friday afternoon, the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross. There was no breath or heartbeat in that body. The blood had drained out of it. The dead body was laid in a tomb. But on the following Sunday

morning, Resurrection Day, the third day after the crucifixion, something happened. The Holy Spirit, at the command of God the Father, touched the body of Jesus and transformed it so it could never be touched by death again. Jesus walked out of the tomb; He had conquered death. Previously, people feared death, were tormented by death, were slaves of death. Even today, many people still fear death. But the fact and reality is, the Resurrection conquered death. Jesus said, "Because I live, you shall live also." (John 14:19) The resurrection sets us free from slavery to death.

There is still another fact. God cares about us at the moment of death. We read in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD... Is the death of His godly ones."

PRECIOUS... The moment of our earthly death is precious to God. Jesus told us how the Father cares about every aspect of His creation and every aspect of our lives. Jesus said that God the Father keeps track of every tiny sparrow and not even one falls to the ground without the Father knowing about it. Jesus also said the Father has counted every hair on our heads. We don't even know the number of hairs on our own head! But God does. His love and concern for us is that great.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ shows that the moment of death in this life is the beginning moment of a new life in eternity. It is also a moment of total healing. We may have seen loved ones pass on and their bodies don't look so good. They may have lost limbs through amputation or may have wasted away through a disease like cancer. But that moment of death is really the first moment of "forever" with total healing and a great moment of entering directly into God the Father's loving presence. Death from this side of life is really a birthday into eternity.

The great message of Christianity is that even in the midst of death, there is brand new life. True, we may grieve. And grief can hit hard. As a pastor, I've dealt with grief often. I know how terrible grief can be. Grief can suddenly turn a life upside down. It can break families apart. Grief can cause people to do things they never would have done under ordinary circumstances. It can plummet people into depression and cause them to forego and change their life plans. Lives can be derailed by grief. I've seen grief in other peoples' lives; I've experienced grief in my own life. I've often said that if I never had to deal with grief again, it would be fine with me. But we must still never forget: right in the middle of grief and death, there is new life. All of our loved ones who have gone before us and have died in Christ are enjoying eternal life.

After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

John 14:19

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies..."

John 11:25

When I think of our passage through death, I think of the story of Luigi, the Italian immigrant who came to the United States in the 1920's. Luigi wanted to become a U.S. citizen so very much. He studied his lessons for his citizenship test and worked hard, even though he had a lot of difficulties. The great day came. Luigi went to court with several other immigrants to take the citizenship test. He combed his hair, put on his best suit, and shined his shoes. He entered the courtroom. The security guards were there; the court stenographer was there. Then the judge entered and took his seat.

The moment for Luigi's test came and he was called before the judge. Luigi was so

nervous, he suddenly blurted out to the judge in his broken English: “You honor, I wanna be an American citizen so bad. I work so hard. I study the Declaration and the Constitush. I read about Abraham Link and Thomas Jeff. But I have a so much trouble, you honor. I’m so afraid I’m not a gonna pass; I’m not a gonna pass.”

Well, everyone in the courtroom was horrified. The security guards and stenographer were flabbergasted. The other immigrants sat quietly in fear. Luigi had committed the unpardonable sin in court. A person NEVER speaks unless the judge speaks to them first. To do otherwise could be “contempt of court.”

The judge stood up. He wore a long black robe; he was tall and stern looking—about 6 feet 5 inches tall with thick white hair and a severe chiseled look in his face. He bent over and motioned for Luigi to come close to the bench. The judge smiled and whispered to Luigi in broken Italian American English: “Luigi, you don’t a worry. You a gonna pass. You a gonna pass.”

The whole point of this story is that like Luigi, we have the judge on our side. We belong to the one who conquered death and said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” We belong to the One who will be our judge. He bought us with His own blood and will make sure we enter eternal life.

When our moment comes, we need not worry. Jesus will be there for us. Jesus will be there for you. Jesus will be there for me. Although this body may cease to function, we’ll enter the first moment of forever and the smiling face of Jesus will greet us.

Do you belong to Him? The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the only way into eternal life. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Be sure you belong to Him. Repent of your sins and ask Jesus Christ to be your Lord and mean it from your heart. Then begin to live for Him every day that you have left on this earth.

Remember, Jesus said (John 11:25-26);

25...I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

26and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Believe it!

A NOTE ABOUT FAMILY AND THE END TIMES

Mark 6:4 states, “But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.”

This is true not only for prophets, but for those called to bring the Gospel and God’s Word to the world. You may have noticed it’s more difficult talking to your unbelieving relatives and close friends about salvation than it is talking to a stranger. Maybe it’s because they know your flaws better than anyone else. Whatever the reason, they are often more unreceptive than those you do not know.

In cases like this, prayer is the key. Pray that God will send someone into their lives to bring them the Truth they need to hear. Everyone wants to know that their relatives are secure and will be with Jesus after death. Not everyone has the ability to make this happen. We can plant seeds and let the Spirit of God do the rest. But we also must pray, pray, pray.

There are countless souls that have rejected Jesus and will not see Him in paradise,

but it is God's will that none should perish. If talking to someone about Jesus and salvation angers them or turns them off, then prayer is the only option.

Very soon we will all be giving an account of our lives. There is nothing more important than the spiritual status of an individual. We need to remember this, as we head into a very unsettling time on the earth.

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

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

(Note: This comes from an excellent study Bible that can be ordered through www.christianbook.com, www.amazon.com and other sellers; this article appears on page 1904. Although Christians' interpretations vary regarding the "Rapture" and end time events, this is one view worth reading. Many believe Christians will go through the Tribulation period, or through half of it. One thing is sure, however, according to scripture – God's people are not appointed to wrath, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:9. Your comments are welcomed.)

The word "rapture" is derived from the Latin word *raptu*, which means "caught away or caught up." This Latin word is equivalent to the Greek *harpaze*, translated as "caught up" in 1 Thes 4:17. This event, described here in 1 Cor 15, refers to the catching up of the church from the earth to meet the Lord in the air. It involves only the faithful of Christ's churches.

(1) Just prior to the rapture, as Christ is descending from heaven for His church, the resurrection of the "dead in Christ" will occur (1 Thes 4:16). This is not the same resurrection described in Rev 20:4, for the latter is an event occurring after Christ returns to earth, destroys the wicked and binds Satan (Rev 19:11-20:3). The resurrection in Rev 20:4 relates to the martyred dead of the tribulation and possibly to OT saints.

(2) At the same time as the dead in Christ rise, living believers will be transfigured; their bodies will be clothed with immortality (1 Cor 15:51, 53). This will happen in a very short time, "in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor 15:52).

(3) Both the resurrected believers and the transfigured believers will be caught up together to meet Christ in the air, i.e., in the atmosphere between earth and heaven.

(4) They will be visibly united with Christ (1 Thes 4:16-17), taken to His Father's house in heaven (John 14:2-3) and united with loved ones who have died (1 Thes 4:13-18).

(5) They will be removed from all distress (2 Cor 5:2, 4; Phil 3:21), from all persecution and oppression (Rev 3:10), from the entire realm of sin and from death (1 Cor 15:51-56). Christ thereby delivers them from "the wrath to come" (1 Thes 1:10; 5:9), i.e., from the great tribulation.

(6) The hope that our Savior will soon return to take us out of the world to "ever be with the Lord" (1 Thes 4:17) is the blessed hope of the redeemed (Tit 2:13) and a major source of comfort for suffering believers (1 Thes 4:17-18; 5:10).

(7) Paul uses "we" in 1 Thes 4:17 because he knows the Lord's return could have happened in his own lifetime, and he communicates this same anticipation to the Thessalonians. The Bible insists on a continual waiting with eagerness for the return of our Lord. Believers today must be ever watchful and hopeful for Christ's return to take them to Himself (cf. Rom 13:11; 1 Cor 7:29; 10:11; 15:51-52; Phil 4:5).

(8) According to this view of the rapture, professing Christians who do not have a saving relationship with Christ will be left behind (Mat 25:1; Luke 12:45), will be left with a false system of religion (Rev 17:1), and be subject to God's wrath.

(9) Following the rapture is the day of the Lord, a time that brings distress and wrath to the ungodly (1 Thes 5:2-10; 5:2). That will be followed by the second stage of Christ's coming, when He comes to destroy the ungodly and to reign on earth (Mat 24:42, 44).

AN URGENT MESSAGE
by Pastor David Wilkerson

*(Note: The following was a special message on David Wilkerson's website from March 7, 2009. Original from the internet can be found here:
<http://davidwilkersontoday.blogspot.com>.)*

I am compelled by the Holy Spirit to send out an urgent message to all on our mailing list, and to friends and to bishops we have met all over the world.

AN EARTH-SHATTERING CALAMITY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. IT IS GOING TO BE SO FRIGHTENING, WE ARE ALL GOING TO TREMBLE - EVEN THE GODLIEST AMONG US.

For ten years I have been warning about a thousand fires coming to New York City. It will engulf the whole megaplex, including areas of New Jersey and Connecticut. Major cities all across America will experience riots and blazing fires—such as we saw in Watts, Los Angeles, years ago.

There will be riots and fires in cities worldwide. There will be looting—including Times Square, New York City. What we are experiencing now is not a recession, not even a depression. We are under God's wrath. In Psalm 11 it is written,

“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (v. 3).

God is judging the raging sins of America and the nations. He is destroying the secular foundations.

The prophet Jeremiah pleaded with wicked Israel, “God is fashioning a calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh, turn back each of you from your evil way, and reform your ways and deeds. But they will say, It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart” (Jeremiah 18:11-12).

In Psalm 11:6, David warns, “Upon the wicked he will rain snares (coals of fire)...fire...burning wind...will be the portion of their cup.” Why? David answered, “Because the Lord is righteous” (v. 7). This is a righteous judgment—just as in the judgments of Sodom and in Noah's generation.

WHAT SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS DO? WHAT ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE?

First, I give you a practical word I received for my own direction. If possible lay in store a thirty-day supply of non-perishable food, toiletries and other essentials. In major cities, grocery stores are emptied in an hour at the sign of an impending disaster. As for our spiritual reaction, we have but two options. This is outlined in Psalm 11. We “flee like a bird to a mountain.” Or, as David says, “He fixed his eyes on the Lord on his throne in heaven—his eyes beholding, his eyelids testing the sons of men” (v. 4). “In the Lord I take refuge” (v. 1).

I will say to my soul: No need to run...no need to hide. This is God's righteous work. I will behold our Lord on his throne, with his eye of tender, loving kindness watching over every step I take—trusting that he will deliver his people even through floods, fires, calamities, tests, trials of all kinds.

Note: I do not know when these things will come to pass, but I know it is not far off. I have unburdened my soul to you. Do with the message as you choose.

God bless and keep you,
In Christ,

DAVID WILKERSON

A PASTOR'S RESPONSE TO "AN URGENT MESSAGE" **by Pastor David Wilkerson**

It is the task of a true prophet to warn. We have recently heard such a clear warning of perilous days just ahead of us. The prophet is like a man who comes to warn a shepherd that ravenous wolves are approaching.

It then becomes the shepherd's task to appropriately discern the warning and to guide those in his care to a place of wisdom and security. I am not a prophet. I am a local pastor. I must ask myself what I am to do in light of hearing the warning from God. What should I say to those under my pastoral care?

First, I want my people to clearly hear the word. What is it saying and what is it not saying. Some have heard of fires and looting and their hearts are filled with fear. I am to assure my people that God is always completely in control. God is sovereign. Nothing takes place outside of his notice and counsel, and all things happen for his ultimate, highest glory. Even in the most troubling of times, our God knows exactly what he is doing.

Second, I want those I serve to know two things concerning God's wrath. First, some leaders in the church have sadly fallen into the deception that there is no such thing as the wrath of God. Roman 1:18 says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth." Some act in ungodly ways, others are ungodly by their suppressing the truth of God's wrath. Some leaders reduce, ignore and even ridicule anyone who reminds them of the certainty of God's wrath. Romans 2:5 also tells us clearly that the wrath of God is toward those whose hearts are hard and impenitent. This leads to the second element of understanding God's wrath. It is never, ever, ever poured out on the children of God. In I John 2:2 "He is the propitiation for our sins." The word propitiation means "wrath quencher." What marvelous grace, what redemption! God's wrath at my rebellion and sin has been quenched on the Cross of Christ. Hard times come; rain falls even on the just but wrath does not.

Last, I am obligated to guide the flock given to me with loving-kindness and soberness. If a wolf or a storm is coming, I as a shepherd must know the conditions of my flock. Are any sitting on the fence? Warn them that this is no time for compromise or close affiliation with the world. Partying in the house of an Egyptian on the night of the Passover is definitely not a good idea. This is a time to stay close to the Chief Shepherd. This is also an opportunity for us to call out to those outside the gate. Jesus is the Door and has opened his heart. His cry is that all flee from wrath to come. More than shrinking behind a double-locked door or fleeing to a rural farm, this is a call from Jesus to move your life into the sheepfold.

When a prophet comes with a message of warning, often people want the prophet to give them specific advice about what to do in response. At times, God gives the prophet a word, but more often it is up to the shepherd, and even more so, up to every man of God to take the word into account for his own family. Just as a pastor has stewardship of the church, a man of God is to give an account of his own family. When one comes to warn that wolves are coming, it is not always his responsibility to tell them what to do. We can hear from God. Joseph heard God say to store up food for the season to come (Genesis 41). Moses heard God say to receive gifts from the Egyptians for their journey (Exodus 12). We as well can hear from God for our situation. Sheep do hear the Shepherd's voice.

Jesus—in this hour, in this storm—will not only guide his people and comfort his flock but will also give them boldness, confidence and a heart to serve those troubled by the afflictions. A prophet once came to Paul and prophesied that if he went to Jerusalem he would be bound and put in prison. The prophet was faithful to give his word; it was up to Paul to hear from God how to deal with that warning. Paul, after hearing the prophecy, still decided to go to Jerusalem—willing to risk his life for the gospel (Acts 21). Some will hear and stay in a place of safety; others will hear and go to a place to serve. Some churches are positioned in cities that will need their spiritual strength and compassion. Perhaps the wisdom of Paul in Ephesians 5:15-18 speaks most to what we need, “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”

(Note: although Faith On The Earth does not endorse some of the turns the Oral Roberts ministry took, especially overseen by his son Richard Roberts, we offer this interesting article that follows as informative and in-depth on what to expect out of the Antichrist.)

SATAN'S TRIAD AND THE GREAT TRIBULATION
by Oral Roberts
(Chapter from 1969 book, *God's Timetable for the End of Time*)

The 42 months of Tribulation shall be a period of unparalleled suffering involving all nations of the earth, and especially Israel. It is the last half of Daniel's 70th week which will follow the dispensation of the Gospel Age. This prophetic week consists of seven years following the rapture of the redeemed from the earth. The nations will be bereft of the presence, power, prayers and wholesome activities of its most righteous inhabitants. The restraining influence of the Holy Spirit will be lifted, the salt of the earth removed, leaving men to satiate their most evil appetites and demonic drives. Imagine living in a city in which God had removed His redeemed people.

This reminds me of my visit to Moscow. It was the day before Easter Sunday and I had visited the Kremlin. I also entered the mausoleum in which the dead bodies of both Lenin and Stalin were displayed before the latter was removed as a result of Russia's de-Stalinization program. I thought of the years of purposeful design in which these men were engaged in stripping the minds of the Russian children and youth of their belief in God. I had yet to meet a single person who admitted his belief in God. I thought to myself, “I've not attended church yet. I feel as though I'm surrounded with unbelief and it's my first time to be in a country so wholly without God. How strong are the

demon powers here. How restless, tense and depressed it makes one feel.”

At the American Embassy in Moscow the following impressions were shared with me:
“Russia has no place for God in her plans. She is looking to herself and herself alone. She does not ask for people to pray, to read the Bible, to call on God, or to keep spiritual perspective. It is her way to power that she is depending on. Through this she is controlling her people, making them work, bringing prosperity and goods to the world market. She is pushing her scientists to bring forth new weapons to destroy those who do not agree with her. She muzzles her churches and teachers her youth that God is a myth and Christianity is a legend. She says that in a few years, after the old die off, her youth will make Russia a country completely without God. It will be a Communist paradise in which God has no part.”

In far greater measure the Tribulation will encompass a time when God is ignored, despised, and blasphemed by the world at large. Sin will break out in epidemic proportions, and wickedness will be evidenced as never before. Lawlessness shall abound as Satan is permitted greater license and will exercise almost limitless power in the lives of men. He will be obsessed with a burning desire to eradicate all memories of Christianity and to blot God’s name from the earth. It will be a time when the abyss is opened and demons are permitted to torment men upon the earth, a time when the extreme wickedness and degeneracy of mankind and their delight in such sin will cause God to leave them to their own extremities (2 Thessalonians 2).

Revelation 13 reveals the completion of Satan’s unholy triad by introducing the False Prophet. Martin Luther once remarked that the devil was the “ape of God.” The counterfeit trinity will be composed of Satan, Antichrist, and the False Prophet. Satan, ever attempting to usurp God’s authority, will cause great wonders to be displayed before mankind through Antichrist and the False Prophet.

Realizing the strategic, political, economic, and religious position of Israel, Antichrist will be most careful to win the confidence of the Jewish people, inspire their homage and convince them that he is their Messiah. Daniel 9:27 reveals the fact that he will make a covenant with them at the beginning of the seven years of his reign. This alliance is one in which Israel makes “a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement” (Isaiah 28:15). Jesus said, “I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another come in his own name, him ye will receive” (John 5:43). Why did not the Jews accept Jesus as their Messiah? Jesus came in an entirely different manner from that in which He was expected. The Jews were expecting the “Lion” out of the tribe of Judah, and Jesus came as a “Bleeding Lamb,” slain from the foundation of the world; they looked for a financial wizard, but at one time Jesus sent Peter to fish to pay His taxes; they dreamed of a conqueror that would break the iron rule of Rome and exalt them to high positions, but Jesus cried, “My kingdom is not of this world”; and finally allowed a Roman procurator to sentence Him to a shameful death at Calvary. But Antichrist will meet the Jews’ expectations. He shall recognize their national aspirations, give them greater prestige, allow them special privileges, and more firmly establish them in Israel. If the temple is not already built, he will aid them in its erection, restore its worship, and allow them to offer daily sacrifices. Thus, at his inception of rulership, representatives of Israel will go to the council room of the Antichrist. They will agree to sign a covenant for seven years (Daniel 9:27).

Midway through the covenant, Revelation 13:3 and 4 suggest that Antichrist will be assassinated. “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed... the beast which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” It is important to note that Antichrist is also called “that man of sin, the son of perdition” (2 Thessalonians 2:3) and he is spoken of as “the beast that... was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition.” (Revelation 17:8) Suggested

here is the possibility of a twofold wonder perpetrated by Satan in the resurrection of Antichrist and the assignment of a demonic spirit from the abyss to take the seat of authority in this man of sin.

Upon the healing of his deadly wound, the world will wonder after Antichrist and will worship him saying, "Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." (Revelation 13:4, 5)

Worshiped by the masses and endowed with tremendous power, Antichrist will endeavor to conquer the very souls of men. To aid in this unholy ambition the third member of the triad of Satan will appear – the False Prophet. While Antichrist has majored in the military, political, commercial, industrial and agricultural aspects of men's lives, the False Prophet will be introduced as a religious leader, an idealistic holy man. He will apparently desire the betterment of the world, but will shortly prove to be a wolf in sheep's clothing.

A true prophet receives his call and inspiration to preach the gospel from above, but the False Prophet will obtain his call, inspiration, and power from below. He will be the consummation of all past and present false preachers, prophets and religious leaders. The powers of deception will be increased a thousandfold as the False Prophet effectively deludes the whole world with his false doctrine.

Satan will introduce the False Prophet as his representative of religion into a world to capture and control the spiritual aspirations of humanity. Knowing that religious allegiance is stronger than political support, Satan will combine the powers of the False Prophet and Antichrist to fulfill his design against any traces of Christianity.

The most deep-seated part of man's nature is that desire to worship someone or something. This religious drive is the strongest faculty in his life. Russia has experienced more than half a century of atheistic rulership, during which time there have been four massive anti-religious purges in which many clergymen were imprisoned, exiled in slave labor camps, or killed. In Communist classrooms the existence of God is denied. Soviet books, periodicals, films, and plays are designed to discredit all faiths and lead to complete atheism. Yet, despite all these programs, religious belief prevails. Why? Because the spiritual aspect of man's life is constantly crying for expression.

America is greatly indebted to the spiritual impetus provided by the pioneering of its pilgrim forefathers. Their desire to worship God with complete freedom of conscience was so intense that they willingly left their homeland and crossed the briny deep to find a new world in which they could freely exercise their religious beliefs. This ever-present desire to worship God gave them power, strength, and courage to face the dangers and hardships of the new world. And whoever rules men spiritually, truly rules their lives. The Antichrist will realize that he can best succeed as an earthly ruler when he grants his subjects an outlet for their spiritual inclinations. Unless he offers a world religion, his reign may be brief. This is precisely where the third actor of the drama of the end time will be spotlighted. He will appear as an angel of light to lead men into a new religion which will be hailed and honored. To initiate his campaign for a new world religious order and system he will inspire the world to worship Antichrist, presenting a religious basis for people's wholehearted worship of Satan's substitute. Because they loved not the truth, they will be completely receptive to the delusion. The False Prophet shall discredit the Scriptures and Christ by exalting the Antichrist as the only one living on earth who has been assassinated by the sword, yet risen from the dead. Further supportive evidence will be submitted when an image of Antichrist is erected and subsequently given life and speech! (Revelation 13:15) The False Prophet will determinedly glorify and deify the Antichrist in order to inspire and coerce the world to

pay him supreme homage.

“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him.” (Revelation 13:12) Antichrist, the first beast, maintained authority over all kindred, tongues, and nations as their political dictator. The False Prophet shall be given the same degree of power over man’s religious life and so function as man’s religious ruler. The world’s people will come to realize that their lives are overshadowed and ruled politically by Antichrist and spiritually by the False Prophet, the evil emissaries of Satan.

As a result of this totalitarian power religious freedom will disappear from the world. Existing religious establishments will be forced to worship Antichrist. The Holy Bible and other religious books will be banned, declared irrelevant, and worse, harmful. The False Prophet shall publish a new bible, presenting Antichrist as God. It may even contain gospels recording the miracles and wonders of Antichrist. Its laws will be issued by Satan and the people will be commanded to worship the unholy trinity. “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast?” (Revelation 13:4)

Forerunners of the religion of Antichrist are already in the world today. Scores of religions deny that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and in a sense are preparing the way for the Tribulation religion that shall ascribe its worship to Antichrist. All opposition shall be crushed by the new dictatorial government of Antichrist. Remaining clergymen and religious leaders will be obliged to exalt the Antichrist as God or be summarily executed. Special training will prepare puppet ministers to preach Antichrist and his new religion. This is not difficult for us to conceive. In Red China, non-cooperative pastors have been subjected to brainwashing, torture, and ignominious deaths.

This present world order has repeatedly rejected Christ. Worship days are ignored. God’s laws are despised, and men are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying its power. Yes, the world will accept Antichrist!

The False Prophet shall deceive the world by means of miracles which he shall have power to perform in that day. Yes, he will be a miracle worker. Miracles have always been the evidence of a person’s religious power. By this means faith is begotten in human hearts. When Christ was upon the earth, He proved himself to be God’s only begotten Son by mighty miracles. Jesus broke up funeral processions, robbed the grave of its victims, walked across the windswept, storm-tossed Sea of Galilee, healed the sick and afflicted, opened blinded eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the dumb to sing, and the crippled to walk. By these great miracles many people accepted Him as the Son of the living God and became new creations in Christ. But with Satanic power, the False Prophet shall perform miracles, not in order to life men out of sin into abundant living, but rather to enslave, debase and destroy them. All the power of the devil will be at his command.

He will be empowered to call down fire from the skies. Possibly this will take place in one of the world’s largest cities. Thousands will be assembled under a cloudless sky and a brilliant sun. Suddenly, with outstretched hands “he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” (Revelation 13:13, 14)

We have seen its type in the colossal image that King Nebuchadnezzar had erected in the plain of Dura (Daniel 3:1-6); where people fell down and worshiped the golden image. In all probability Antichrist’s image will be erected in Jerusalem. At the dedication of this unusual image, telecasters, radio announcers, newsmen, many officials and dignitaries will be among the thousands gathered from all parts of the world. Millions at home will view the proceedings via telstar or listen to the event via shortwave radios.

Antichrist will be present, surrounded by his illustrious celebrities. The main speaker for the auspicious occasion will be none other than the False Prophet. He is there to dedicate the image to the world's greatest humanitarian, the Antichrist. During his laudatory speech he stretches forth his hand and touches the image. Suddenly, to the amazement of all, he commands the image to speak. Never before has life been produced from an inanimate image. Scientists have tried and failed. Only life begets life.

Soviet scientists have long been engaged in research projects to bring the deceased back to life without causing irreparable brain damage. There have been successes with human beings during the interval categorized as clinical death, that is, those who have been medically dead but a few minutes. But any totalitarian power would be ecstatic if it could infuse life into an inanimate image. As the cities around the world view this event and the multitude looks on with breathless suspense, the image comes to life and begins to speak. A miracle of miracles! Never before has anything of this nature happened in the history of the world. At the command of the False Prophet he causes "that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

It is my belief that this image shall be placed in the temple in Jerusalem, rebuilt by this time. Within the temple's holy place this image will represent an absolute desecration of Israel's worship to Jehovah. This is the abomination of desolation spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24:15-22. When the Jews see the image in the temple, standing in the holy place, their eyes shall be opened to the delusions and deceit of the False Prophet and Antichrist. They shall unequivocally refuse to bow to the image, for deeply imbedded in their religious beliefs is the abhorrence of all idolatry, especially bowing to any image. A large number of Gentiles shall be made aware of the deception and will also refuse to bow. This bold defiance shall spread rapidly, causing many to reject the Antichrist, who shall spew out a reign of terror that has one minor parallel in biblical history.

Centuries ago the three Hebrew children had a choice, either to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold, or burn in his fiery furnace, essentially the same basic decision which will face the contemporaries of the dreaded Antichrist. There are two laws which men live by – the law of faith and the law of compromise. Compromise is held up as the standard to live by in this 20th century. One will either bow or he will burn. But if one compromises the Word, the truth and life in Christ, he will ultimately lose what he may gain by compromise.

The three Hebrew children proved their total commitment to God when they confronted the dictator and said, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King." (Daniel 3:16, 17) He is able. In essence, they declared that "God is able. But if He doesn't see fit to do it, we may burn in your furnace, but we will not bow to your god."

In the Great Tribulation, Antichrist will blaspheme the name of God and issue the command that all who refuse to bow to his image must die. Those who with conviction and courage turn from the idolatrous image of Antichrist to receive Christ and keep the commandments of God will have the option of recanting or face immediate execution. All the power of Satan will be released against those who yet fear God. Their lives shall be in jeopardy every moment. Those who were left behind at the Rapture, the professing but non-possessing Christians, will face a martyr's route to heaven if they stand up for Jesus Christ. Many will flee into the mountains, dens and caves of the earth, and none will remain alive without recanting and worshiping the Antichrist.

How will this be perpetrated? During the last 3 ½ years, the False Prophet, the third member of the unholy triad, "causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads." (Revelation 13:16)

This will be a universally recognized mark.

Fully necessary as the medium of exchange will be this mark, or the name of Antichrist, or his number, 666 (Revelation 13:17, 18).

The mark will be very beautiful, devised by the cunning mind of Antichrist to symbolize and secure the complete allegiance, obedience, and worship of the people. The mark, name or number will irreversibly unite the world to himself. As the terrible toll exacted from the world for being its problem solver, Antichrist and the False Prophet will force the acceptance of mark, name, or number as proof of everyone's absolute subjection to the unholy triad. Lacking complete identification with Antichrist, men will be unable to survive, for they will be positively prohibited from buying and selling.

Visualize the awesome developments during this totalitarian reign of Antichrist. Shoppers at supermarkets will be obliged to exhibit the Beast's identification at each checkout counter or else leave without being able to purchase food. Those who persist in refusing to be identified as Satan's property will face rejection on every hand. Where may they go? Leave the neighborhood, county, state, or country? Not without the ability to purchase gasoline or transportation tickets by land, sea or air. There will be no escape. The same condition shall prevail throughout the earth. An elaborate and thorough espionage system will make evasion virtually impossible. In that day even brother will turn against brother and father against son. There will be absolutely no buying or selling without the mark, name or number of the Beast.

The farmer will have his produce confiscated unless he identifies with Antichrist. Manufacturers will try to discover a neutral market for the sales of their merchandise, but exchange will be impossible without the Satanic identification.

The fires of the Great Tribulation will break upon the Jews with intense fury. Neither man nor woman will be spared. Upon refusal to worship the Antichrist, they shall be slaughtered like sheep with the exception of those fortunate enough to escape to the mountain fastnesses. In anticipation of that terrible "time of Jacob's trouble," Jesus said, "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of this house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes." (Matthew 24:16-18) Leaving properties and possessions behind, they will be fortunate indeed to flee for their lives. South of Jerusalem, in the region of Petra, are places where one could probably be hidden indefinitely.

A Jewish leader who has been through this Petra district many times, informed me that its safeholds were impenetrable and one could defy discovery without fear of arrest. The Arabs have hidden there, carrying on their terrorism against the pioneering Jews. In these caves shall many of the fleeing Jews find refuge from Antichrist's dragnet.

God has already prepared a surprise for these fugitives. Before his death at the age of 94, Williams E. Blackstone had a revelation from God that many of the fleeing Jews, awakened to their awful betrayal at the hands of Antichrist, would find refuge in the dens and caves of the mountain fastnesses around Petra. From a \$5-million trust fund Dr. Blackstone dispatched a corps of Christian workers to Petra more than a decade before Israel became a nation in 1948. They transported great cases of Hebrew Bibles, encased in copper boxes. They were sealed in hewn-out vaults in the mountainside of the Petra region against the day when, according to the Bible, the Jews will flee from Jerusalem to the Petra Mountain. In the midst of the Great tribulation, these Bibles with marked passages will be found, tracing the lineage of Christ, and the working and deceit of Antichrist will be exposed to the persecuted Israelis. These marked passages will show the Jewish people how they have been deceived, betrayed by the Antichrist, and that Jesus Christ is truly their Messiah, their only hope. Only the future will reveal the results of this unique venture of Dr. Blackstone. Undoubtedly God is mysteriously

working, even now, for the opportune moment when His Word will be a direct medium in opening the eyes of His ancient people who have been in spiritual blindness so long. That is another reason why we have distributed more than 100,000 Hebrew Bibles in the Holy Land.

Driven, humiliated, persecuted, the Jewish people at last shall realize that true peace and real security are to be found only in the Holy One of Israel, who “came unto his own and his own received him not.” God will raise up leaders among them, especially the two witnesses (Revelation 11:3-12) who will, as true prophets, have the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 19:10). In the caves and dens of the earth the Jewish people will realize that they have rejected their own beloved Messiah. “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as... for his only son.” (Zechariah 12:10).

Thus, despite impossible circumstances, many thousands will refuse to receive the mark of Antichrist. Instead, they will receive Jesus Christ as Lord of their future and love not their lives unto death. Far worse than financial ruin, physical deprivation, starvation, or even martyrdom, will be the judgment awaiting those who do accept the mark of the Beast. “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying... Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.” (Revelation 14:9-13)

In the midst of Tribulation horrors the Jews shall mourn for the Messiah. “Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it, it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.” God shall hear their cries, see their tears, accept their repentance and deliver them.

The 42 months of Daniel’s 70th week, when expended, will bring Antichrist’s insane reign to an abrupt, dramatic conclusion. Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, shall return with those who have earlier met Him in the Rapture. And with the brightness of His glory and in righteousness He will judge and make war, followed by the armies in heaven, facing Antichrist’s defiant armies at the last Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21). The victory shall be complete – the total triumph over Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the kings of the earth and their armies which gathered together to make war against Christ.

And because they shall accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Messiah, the Jews will be intimately identified with Christ in the millennium. The reins of world government will be in the benevolent control of the Messiah who will rule the earth in peace and righteousness from Jerusalem, the world capital. With the removal of the treacherous trinity by Christ enthroned, righteousness shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

TRUE SIGNS AND WONDERS

By Nancy Williams

I have been meditating and studying the Scriptures about signs and wonders. True signs and wonders were not intended to be "an event" that one travels to see. True

signs and wonders are fruit of walking in the Spirit and doing the work of the Lord.

Mark 16:17-20 explains: "And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well. ... And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied [it]."

I will say it again: "True signs and wonders are fruit of walking in the Spirit and doing the work of the Lord." Jesus knew that His followers would encounter many things in their ministry that would have to be dealt with immediately. I have personally encountered a few serious demonic manifestations in others that had to be addressed immediately. I told the demon to shut up and come out! It did! (At the name of Jesus every knee must bow.) There was no fanfare, but the person was set free.

I have prayed for many people who have been healed, and I personally have experienced healings in my body. People have told me that I have the gift of healing and the gift of faith. I want to say, "Maybe, but mostly, I have Jesus and the baptism of the Holy Spirit." I think many people do not understand that when we have Jesus and are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we have all that He has given us to do the works that He did on earth, and greater! John 14:12-14 NIV: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

I will add to my resume that I have been a Christian for 56 years, and I have learned well 2 Corinthians 4:7 (AMP): "However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves."

When Jesus gave His charge in Matthew 28 to "Go into all the world and make disciples in all the nations" (paraphrased), He prevented any argument by "showing them his badge," so to speak. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." He is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named" (Eph. 1:21). Parts of the church have been pretty good about telling people they need to be saved, but for the most part, the last part of the Matthew 28 charge has been left out: "and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

It is no wonder that we are in the mess we are in. We get people saved so they won't go to hell and send them out into the world like sheep among wolves before they are baptized in the Holy Spirit and trained for service. It is no wonder that people so easily turn to their "natural" inclinations.

Steve Crosby made some good points in his article, "Babies and Bathwater: Lakeland and Beyond": They [deceived and gullible Christians] don't know the Scriptures. They have no discernment. Their senses have not been trained (through exercise) to discern both good and evil. They receive a revelation and think they are now experts. They lust for supernatural power. They are hungry for celebrity and one-upmanship. They substitute experiences with angels for the worship and presence of God.

Why? Because, for the most part, Christians have not been taught and do not practice 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING the word of truth" [emphasis mine]. Jesus said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34)—not chase after signs, wonders, and angels—and "He

[Jesus] must increase, but I [me] must decrease” (John 3:30).

Hebrews 5:12-14: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

New disciples can be trained in all of these points above and how to bring glory to Jesus Christ by being holy in all of their conduct (1 Peter 1:15), but it must first start in the pulpit. I think it has been proven that the social, seeker-friendly gospel works for growing big churches, but it does not work for maturing disciples. Let's return to the biblical pattern, and let's grow up and start making a difference in the church and the world.

It's time for the Church to move on to maturity, or few of us will be ready for the days ahead.

Forgive us, Lord!

(The following article is found on www.jesusandhisword.org.)

GOD IS NOT PLEASED **By Pastor Wayne Wilson**

This is a prophetic word. It is not a response to any article. However, it can apply. Notice how the Holy Spirit addresses each of the ministry gifts from Ephesians 4:11.

God is not pleased with those apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers who have and are leading His people astray. He is not pleased with those ministers who are ministering for gain, no matter how subtle or deceitful it is. He is not pleased that some are even brash and forthright with their gain off of the gospel. They announce it as their right and everybody's right. Their good works do not hide their misleading and misuse of the people from God's eyes; their occasional proper use of Scripture does not excuse their often misuse of Scripture. God is not pleased!

God is not pleased with those apostles who are planting structures of their own understanding and making. God is not pleased with those prophets who prophesy words, dreams, and visions of their own imagination, their own understanding, their own making. God is not pleased with those evangelists who spread man-made doctrines throughout the Church and excite people with false revivals. God is not pleased with those pastors who, week after week, feed His people with man's ideas and interpretations of Scripture rather than sanctifying them with truth. God is not pleased with teachers, especially those trained in Greek and Hebrew, who teach, point by point, man's understanding of Scripture rather than God's wisdom and revelation of Scripture.

All of these ministers are accountable and will receive their due for how they have stood in the way of God's people and hindered them from growing in Christ and being one mature body. They are being called to account, and an account they will give.

You political leaders who have been led astray by these ministers, you will also give an account. You will give an account for listening to man's counsel that promoted your cause rather than God's truth that advanced His kingdom and helped His people. God is not pleased with you professing Christians who have sat under these ministers and blindly followed them because of your selfishness, inner greed, lusts, and self interests. You people who have been deceived by these ministers, God is calling you to wake up

and follow them no longer. If you refuse to heed the call to wake up, then you will reap accordingly.

God is calling all to repentance! Rend your hearts and turn your faces toward God! Do not try to appease Him with temporary or external changes. Change your mind and your heart and follow Jesus Christ.

LETTER TO GOD FROM EVERYONE WHO VOTED FOR OBAMA

Dear GOD,

I want to thank you for life. Well, except that in America, we have come up with a better idea—choice. We really don't go for your idea that "God is Life." We really prefer that we be able to choose whether we let the next generation live or not. If it isn't real convenient at any time to allow life, one can have a person in a white coat go into their body and kill the life. If that doesn't work, we just throw the baby over on a table when it is born and let it die. Good idea, right?

I want to thank you for your Word, the Bible. Well, parts of it. We really like the parts where You promise us blessings and lots of good stuff, but really, those parts where you tell us how to live, we have decided we have better ways. For instance, that stuff you said in First Thessalonians 4:3 "...abstain from fornication." Now really, in the 21st Century? Get real! I mean, in America, we figured out that everybody does it, so it isn't any big deal. We see it in the movies all the time. Anybody with anybody as long as all the parties agree. Right?

Oh by the way, did you see what Bill Clinton showed us a few years ago? Unless it is actual penetration with the penis, it isn't really sex anyway. Our kids are doing it now on school buses and at parties and just about anywhere. You really need to get modern here, you know?

About your idea that marriage is between one man and one woman. Once again, we in America have really improved upon that concept. Where in the world did you get that idea anyway? For sure, it is absolutely so old fashioned. I mean as we see it, any two people that love each other whether they be man and man, woman and woman or man and woman, who cares, let them be married! After all, they have rights, too, you know. Sure, I know what you said in Romans chapter one. What can I say, we really have figured out a better way that is fair to everyone. Don't you think?

By the way, while I am praying here, why did you let all those bad things happen to America? After all, we are a Christian nation, well we were, but now you know, we have to give equal time to all the other religions like Islam. I mean, really, think back, those planes that flew into the World Trade Center, couldn't you stop that? Those hurricanes that hit New Orleans, and the floods in the mid-west, the fires and earthquakes in California, and the droughts in the south, why did you allow all that? And this economic crisis, why don't you want America to be prosperous? We have outstanding Americans running our finances like Barney Frank, so why couldn't you just help him a little? You could have stopped all this!

As I see it, Americans are really good people, we send food and clothes and money to foreign countries. Once a year, we give gifts to our family members and friends. We call that day Winter Holiday—oh yeah, you might be a little upset. That day used to be called Christmas. Sorry! But that just goes to show how good we are. We are just being more all inclusive. You should think about that yourself.

Well, America is about to help you out in a great way. We have now elected President Barack Obama, a communistic socialist. He doesn't really like America much, like, when the pledge of allegiance is being said he doesn't participate, or when the flag is being honored, he doesn't participate, or when the national anthem is being sung, he just looks off into the distance, but he is really going to help all Americans. He said he would spread the wealth so the rich won't have all the money. He is going to take their money they earned, and put it into the government bank account so he can better figure out who should really have it. His wife hates America, but now that her husband is going to be the President, she finally likes it enough to be proud. Isn't that nice?

You can see how well we are doing without you. If you want to take care of someone else for a while, we are doing great. We will probably quit allowing your Word to be read in public places anyway, and we will try to restrict how much your name is used in public and on the radio. After all, we do have people that don't believe in you, a few anyway, so we have to take their feelings into account, so to show how good America is, we will give them their say and do all we can to accommodate them. We have a good start. We no longer allow any of your word to be displayed in public buildings, to be read in school, and we are trying not to influence any of our youth toward believing in you. We want them to make up their own minds.

Isn't America good? I should be going, so Lord, would you please bless America?

Sincerely,

"Christian" who voted for Obama

NOTE FROM CHRISTOPHER DART

Dear Paula,

Praise the LORD! How wonderful it is that this nation has elected a man such as Obama, through sheer stupidity and moral deficiency and has chosen to be turned over to her own irresolute lusts. The nation has elected to be a nation of sin rather than one of righteousness and has shunned God's hand of blessing, ushering in the Lord's imminent return.

Rejoice in this, O dear sister, for yet, the Lord draweth nigh to bring vengeance upon those who have rejected Him and blessing to those who love Him. I believe He is also allowing His Church to be tested in the cauldron as tempered steel (think guns, heat treated steel, real guns are wheel guns, i.e.: revolvers). Beloved, what is befalling the Church is an answer to my prayer. I've been praying that God do what He must to cause the Church to seek His face first, foremost and above all, trusting in Him as the source of all blessing and not those avenues of the world as so may Christians in America have been doing.

Since most of the Church does not truly seek God, the time has come for her to be taught. I've prayed for them to be convicted but I can't change their will. If they insist on sleep above the Lord, they will learn, as sailors learn to respond to General Quarters at 0317 hours. . . or die (and Christ will not lose what He has saved).

I've asked God to make my life the aroma of Christ to convince men to seek His face and also become the aroma of Christ. The majority have chosen the ways of the World.

I've asked the Lord to cause men to trust in Him using you, me and other Christians who love Him to cause Christians to turn to Him first and above all, without having to bring disaster upon us. The Church has chosen to follow its religious programs, plugging in for a "Christian battery charge" on Sunday and forsake the LORD for the week.

Christ loves His Church. He will bring her back.

His blessing and protection is upon those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Bless God and walk in the Spirit,

Christopher

QUOTABLES

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have."

- Thomas Jefferson

"Our position is to GIVE THANKS in all things, to believe and confess God's Word in every situation, and to keep praising Jesus! Anyone can sing praise 'after' the trial is over, but the full anointing joy comes when we praise Jesus while IN the storm. This world is not our home, and we learn to trust and grow in grace through the hard times, knowing we are *not alone*, and victorious in the end."

- Lawrence P. Medici (friend of the editor)

"To the nation dead in politics and with icicles on the pulpits and snowmen in them, Wesley brought the torch of Holy Ghost anointed preaching and the nation melted before him.

"The cultists and purveyors of false doctrines, with millions to spend on scattering their false doctrines worldwide, offer us greater challenges than Wesley or Finney had, but not greater than our God is able to deal with. Our present evangelism offers men a change of destiny; biblical regeneration offers men a new Spirit-born personality, then destiny.

"The evangelism of the last twenty-five years has been the most costly in history. High-powered methods have needed high-powered men with high salaries to get them to function. Revival never costs a penny. It is the Lord's doing and is marvelous in our eyes."

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