

STRAIGHTWAY

And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].

CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP

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Wherefore God Gave Them Up

Dr. H. T. Spence

Having entered into the year of 2014, there is much to be thankful for as providence continues to preserve God's saints amidst the worst season of human history. These desperate days of moral and spiritual decline are bringing us closer to the Tribulation Period of Judgment from God. There is, however, another judgment we are witnessing:

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God (1 Pet. 4:17).

It is clear that a judgment upon

the Church will begin before God's judgment upon the world.

Our burden for the first article of *Straightway* draws our attention to the judgment of the world at this time in history; a second article will soberly draw us to the judgment God is now sending to the institutional Church bringing it to its end. May the Lord help us as we prayerfully enter into these two end-time judgments from heaven upon humanity on earth.

The Present Judgment of God Upon America

One of the passages of Scripture that rises in condemnation of our

This edition includes two more articles

**I Will Spew Thee Out of My Mouth
Dictatorship Versus Biblical Authority and Preaching in the End Time**

time in history is Romans 1, the presentation of one of seven New Testament apostasies. This passage concerns the apostasy of the natural man through immorality. Though individuals may be found in various sins of fornication (the general term for all sexual acts of uncleanness), a line can be crossed where one goes beyond the acts of fornication and enters into a state of those sins, making a supreme ruling choice to never leave that state of sin. Only God knows when this line is crossed and when He has given an individual up to the state and power of that sin.

The acts of fornication are mentioned in several passages of Scripture. One of the classic contexts is found in 1 Corinthians 6:9:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor

adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.

This is a day where man boldly attempts to excuse his growing perverted sins. Some societal leaders declare that such behavior is due to genetic flaws, or the side effects of animal behaviorism from our evolutionary past, or poor education, or family background, or even the alignment of the stars and planets at our birth. These leaders refuse to acknowledge God, the fall of man from original goodness, and his own personal birth pollution in sin.

First Corinthians 6:9 strongly declares that no such person can be a Christian with these forms of wickedness still part of his life. The phrase “them that defile themselves with mankind” (1 Tim. 1:10) is the description of sodomites; Jude in his brief epistle declares this sin as “going after strange flesh” (v. 7). These words of 1 Corinthians 6:9 were very confrontational from Paul to a city like Corinth. Paul continues, “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11). Among the people of the church of Corinth there had been a radical change from these various forms of evil lifestyle.

Though God has delivered and radically changed lives from such sins, a growing number in our society are giving and have fully given themselves

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over to the depth of these sins. God knows that no matter what He does, these people will never turn from such fornicating sins. The power of *pride* has congealed their wills in defiance against God and in the perseverance of these sins. Such sins are the worst in the natural pride of man, for they are sins of “self-gratification.”

In Church history these sins are often called “brutal lusts” or “unholy indulgences.” To quickly note the terms mentioned in the list of 1 Corinthians 6:9, the first sin mentioned is *fornication*. It is a term that we generally think of as a sin between two unmarried persons or two persons not married to each other. However, the Greek word here covers the gamut of all sexual uncleanness. The second term *adultery* is sexual perversion against the marriage union. *Effeminate* is the term that identifies a man possessing characteristics of a woman. Until recent attempts by modernistic liberal teachers to reinterpret Scripture to fit their immoral programs, this word has been interpreted as referring to men who are womanlike. It is a word aptly applied to sodomites. This word *effeminate* comes between “adulterers” and “abusers of themselves with mankind,” both of which refer to sins of immorality. It has always been interpreted throughout Church history as sodomy (coming from the sins found in the city of Sodom in Genesis 19) and is contemporarily

called homosexuality.

When Paul, writing to the Romans from the deeply immoral city of Corinth, presented the sins of the Gentile world, he gave a classic presentation of sodomites in Romans chapter 1. In this passage of Scripture, three vivid steps or stages are presented of God’s judgment of giving up either a person or a nation. These steps need to be carefully viewed in the light of where the United States is at this time in its deep plight of immorality. We must acknowledge at the outset of this presentation that the United States has entered the third and final stage of God’s giving us up. But how did we come this far? Historically, how did the unfolding take place?

First Stage: God Gave Them Up to Uncleanness

This first stage is recorded in Romans 1:24, 25:

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves; who changed the truth of God into a [Gr., *the*] lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

This is not a judgment upon a nation for its violence against another nation. This is a spiritual judgment, and such judgments are the sorest kind. This stage is when God Himself gives up an individual, a people, a nation to

the most brutish and unnatural lusts of the body. He leaves them alone unto themselves. In past seasons of our country, God through great mercy called and wooed us back. However, as in the medical world, if the patient will not submit to the methods prescribed but willfully seeks his own harm, the physician cannot be blamed. Likewise, God cannot be blamed for our condition.

This principle is also seen in 2 Chronicles 36:15, 16:

And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, *till there was no remedy.*

Although the Lord permitted Babylon to take Judah down into captivity, in Romans 1 God is finally giving up a people. Unto what were they given?

We believe the first giving up of our country took place in the 1960s, the most demoralizing decade in our country's history. In 1961, when John F. Kennedy took the presidency, a new youth movement commenced in America. That same year the Berlin Wall was erected, escalating the "Cold War" and contributing to a mood of despair and a hopeless tomorrow to the youth. In that same year the race riots began all across America. We

also will acknowledge the influence of the Vietnam War, especially through Lyndon Johnson, who took the place of John F. Kennedy. Kennedy's assassination only added grief to the youth of America as older man Lyndon Johnson took office. The youth came to a belief of "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." A similar spirit had taken over after World War I, when the 1920s brought risqué sexual liberation before the Great Depression economically was sent by Providence to humble America.

The 1960s was a decade of decadence, plunging the youth into the abyss of deep immorality. Many powers fed these visceral fires of lusts. The powers of rock music deepened in this decade with a greater emphasis upon the manipulation of the mind (Bob Dylan and Joan Baez) as well as the introduction of the occult. The free love movement brought forth unbridled lusts in fornication; the hippy movement focused on a freedom of sin and sexuality, throwing away all restraints of morality. This period witnessed an escalating rise of sexually transmitted diseases. The illicit drug movement profoundly chemically-induced a whole generation with mind-escaping imaginations. It was the decade in our country of anarchy, of riots, and of a cultural revolution led by the influential powers of the rock group called the Beatles, particularly through the leadership of John

Lennon. Western civilization was introduced to Eastern religions with their lies and worship of the creature rather than the true Creator.

The 1960s was also a decade when Neo-Evangelicalism rose with great influential force in American churches destroying historic Christian faith. The churches had no power to quell the tide of this judgment from God, for they were part of the problem.

Yes, it was this season in our history when God gave us up as a country to uncleanness and vile affections “through the lusts of their own hearts.” We must candidly acknowledge that what was witnessed through the 1960s was America’s true heart. It was the debauched decade of the lusts of hearts given over to the “dishonoring” of their own bodies between themselves. A whole generation was given up to the great slavery of their own lusts. Oh, the uncleanness and the moral impurities that enslaved our country! Why did such vileness take over our country with such force? God gave us up to it!

Second Stage: God Gave Them Up unto Vile Affections

The second stage is found in Romans 1:26, 27:

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men,

leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

I believe we witnessed this giving over by God in the early days of President Obama’s administration, when the floodgates were opened to make lawful such inverted sins. The first stage of “giving up” by God was in the realm of the *perverted* sin of fornication. In contrast, this second stage is in the context of the *inverted* sin of fornication. Loosing himself from God, man sinks into degradation beyond all words. “God gave them up,” all because they gave up God. Man only realizes his dignity when he realizes his God.

In this stage men are given over unto “vile affections,” or passions of dishonor. Romans 1:26, 27 is a clear description of sodomy, of homosexuality, of lesbianism, and all evil, inverted forms of that realm of darkness. Paul calls it, “that which is against nature.” The degradation of sexuality is what Paul here notes as one of the results of heathenism—the loss of God in the life of man. The word *affection* here concerns “inordinate affection” (Col. 3:5) and “lust” or “intense, burning lust” (1 Thess. 4:5). These affections or burnings are the morally diseased condition out of which lusts spring. These individuals are given over to a *condition* and not merely to an evil

desire. We read here that men “burned in their lust one toward another”; the statement here is literally “burned out,” “to set on fire,” and even “to inflame with anger or lust” in such passions.

With the president’s own involvement in such perversion reaching back to his early years in Chicago, this present administration has unleashed “executive orders” encouraging this sin nationally, oppressively forwarding the legalization of same-sex marriages. These actions from the leader of our nation are evidence that God has been giving our nation over to the “strange flesh” of the end time. The Bible warned of days such as Lot’s (Luke 17:28); these wicked powers are beginning to beat on the doors of our homes, schools, and churches. Laws of our land no longer protect us from open depravity. Even the courts have been given over by God to such vile persuasions of freedom. Certain judgments await such people who have denied the Author of nature. God will have His vengeance by payment in full from such individuals and nations. This vengeance of God will be found within their bodies and souls, and is “meet” or proper for them to receive.

Third Stage: God Gave Them Over To a Reprobate Mind

The third stage of the descent is inevitable:

And even as they did not like to

retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (1:28).

I believe this has taken place in the past three years. Now insanity rules the leadership, the courts, the schools, the businesses, the music, the art world, the economy, and every part of the government. Our country is in the final judgment; it must, apart from a miraculous delay of providence, go under overthrowing itself. Such a people had some kind of God-consciousness at one point; now they have turned away from Him. The word *knowledge* here is the Greek word *epignosei*, meaning a “full, experiential knowledge.” They rejected God, and they rejected Him for every part of their lives. Therefore, God will reject them and give them over to a reprobate thought life. Our nation’s leadership hates God: it refuses to acknowledge God *in* anything or *for* anything. Because of this and the evils of the first two judgments, God now has given them over to a mind void of judgment. At this time in our country, we cannot expect leadership to think rightly and rationally; God has now made them incapable of sane judgment.

We as a nation first have been given up to our own hearts’ lusts, then to our vile affections, and finally, to a mind void of judgment. Sin itself has no rationality to it; therefore, when God gives a person or an entire nation over to such sins, insanity controls all its judgments.

Conclusion

Romans 1 does not conclude with these three judgments. The chapter continues with three final verses concerning wickednesses that fill up such a people and nation. Those whom God has given “up,” and “over to,” are given the final judgment by God: they are “being filled with all” forms of wickedness. This “being filled” in the Greek is with a perfect passive participle explaining that this filling is to completion—“filled to the brim.” Note what Paul says they overflow with:

Unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers [they speak into the ear secretly], backbiters [to talk back, whether secretly or openly], haters of God, despiteful [insolent], proud [arrogant in thought and conduct], boasters [to appear above others], inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers [ever promising but ever breaking their word], without natural affection, implacable [their will is sealed and unchangeable], unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them (1:29–32).

No doubt we have wondered how such things that we are witnessing in our American society have come

about. How can such executive laws be passed? And there are more to come. Greater than that observation, why are such actions not being stopped? Because a sovereign God has given us up to uncleanness; He has given us up to vile affections; and He has given us over to a reprobate mind. When God goes this far, there is no recovery; there will be no return to former days. Until God finally seals His judgment upon a person or a nation, there is hope; but once God sets his seals upon them, He has given them up and over. We are witnessing providence dislocating the brakes of laws and hindrances; the speed of our descent into the abyss of calamitous destruction is accelerating at a shocking velocity. What that final destruction is, only God knows. But we are sealed to become a nation of only a dim memory.

The average American does not know how severe these judgments of God have become in our country. Any restraint by the remaining conservatism of our country is merely a hand trying to keep back a tidal wave of destruction. The only reason we have not totally collapsed into ruins is the mercy of God for His remnant. Will we as true Christians experience the full collapse of this country before the secret coming of Christ for the Elect, or will we go through it as a prelude to the coming Tribulation Period? America, as we have known it, must die. And its

death will be the worst in history, for we have had the greatest light of biblical truth through many stirrings of awakenings and revivals. But alas, those days are both gone and despised by the present generation, yea, even the present generation of the institutional Church. To be a “true” Christian today makes us a prey for the government and for

the nominal church. To be a “true” Christian makes one an enemy to society and to the new age of man to come.

In the next article we must turn from God’s judgments *already* upon our nation to God’s judgment upon the institutional Church.



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I Will Spew Thee Out of My Mouth

Dr. H. T. Spence

Our last article addressed our country's being given over by God to its own self-destruction. This article presents God's sobering judgment upon the institutional Church. Judgment upon the Church is different from the judgment of a country. Upon a country, God simply gives it over to what its people are; with the Church, Christ Himself judges it by spewing it out of His mouth. Note the most sobering words of Revelation 3:16: "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Where is the institutional Church in this spewing out, and what does it involve?

The Laodicean Church Age

The seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 are a natural sequence given by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. We believe these churches represent an unfolding of a prophetic time which falls between the sixty-ninth and seventieth weeks of Daniel 9:24–27. The sixty-ninth week was resolved with the first coming and rejection of Jesus as the Christ by the Jews. The seventieth week is yet to be known to the Jews. The time between these last two weeks has been the history of the Church, an understanding not addressed in the Old Testament. We believe this particular history is unfolded (in a secondary sense) in

Revelation 2 and 3. This period of the Church concludes with Laodicea, the church age that we believe began around the turn of the twentieth century. Laodicea represents the last posture of the Church before it disappears from biblical history. What happens in this last church age, and how will Christ deal with it?

The end-time church age is one void of spirituality. Today there is a great lack of heart in public Christianity; this deficit is more and more being filled with a mental and intellectual vain verbosity. Even the conservatism of Neo-Christianity is given to intellectual apologetics rather than the wooing and convictions of the Holy Spirit to the heart. Evangelism today is simply a prayer prayed and a momentary decision made. Modern evangelism has accommodated worldly living as a part of this "decision for Christ." The lack of *true* heart conversions is reminiscent of the days of the Flood when only Noah and his family were saved.

One of the overwhelming problems about Christianity today is the contemporary church itself. Because the contemporary church has eliminated a biblical view of Christ, a person making a profession of faith becomes only a part of the Church and not the body of Christ. Such a church is very worldly,

or if it is conservative, it is very carnal. Their message provides no hope for the people to ever live victorious in life, in heart, or in mind. In these churches holiness is only viewed as something progressively out there in the future, with no specific goal of ever attaining it. In fact, pulpits condemn such hope of holiness of heart and life. However, the Scriptures make it very clear: “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth [holiness], despiseth not man, but God” (1 Thess. 4:7, 8).

One of the great causes of lukewarmness in the Laodicean church age today is self-deception:

Because thou sayest I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked (Rev. 3:17).

Pride is a master trait of the End-time Church. Laodicean churches believe they can change the world, the very world that crucified the Lord. They denounce as “pessimists” those who show from Scripture that “evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse,” and that the “love of many is waxing cold.” Though they boast of being rich outwardly, Christ sees them as spiritually poor. They also believe they have “need of nothing”; there is a vacancy of any true sense of need. Oh, the millions attending churches today who are

blindly going to Hell. Yes, these churches do not know that they are wretched! Of all the seven churches, Laodicea is the worst; it is even worse than the Roman Catholicism of Thyatira’s church age. The end of the church ages is drenched in lukewarmness and absent of the presence of Christ.

I Will Spew Thee out of My Mouth

The judgment of this church age is the spewing of it out of the mouth of Christ. It is peremptory; it is dictatorially declared by the Amen of history that it will happen; this prophecy is unconditional. Like the giving up of a nation or a person (Romans 1), this is declared as an irreconcilable rejection.

Just as the Jewish nation rejected Christ at His first coming, so the Church has rejected Christ on the eve of His second coming. Just as God rejected the Jewish nation at Christ’s first coming, He will reject the Church at His second coming. The Church located on earth has become repugnant to Christ, and He is about to vomit the institutional Church out of His mouth.

This spewing comes from the mouth of Christ; the mouth of Christ has always been identified with the Word of Christ. There are multitudes of publications and periodicals that flood the earth today in the guise of Christianity: the works of liberalism and modernism, the existentialism of Neo-Orthodoxy

and Charismatism, and the apostasies of Roman Catholicism, Lutheranism, Methodism, Anglicanism, Presbyterianism, Baptist, the cults, and others. All of these declare they have the Word of God in their possession. Simultaneously we are witnessing Christ “spewing out” of His mouth this apostate church age.

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:25–29).

We are at an unprecedented time of the sifting and shaking of churches, ministries, and individuals. This is far from the great workings of God during the Philadelphia church age, the age of revivals and awakenings. Though God commends and keeps His true Church, He is now destroying the institutional Church. The church of today has attacked the Word of God, the mouth of God, with her false hermeneutical tactics;

the multiplicity of Bible versions has brought massive confusion to the laity. This church age has rejected the mouth of Christ; therefore, Christ rejects them by spewing them out.

The Ministries of Our Times

How often we have heard founders of godly ministries declare before they die, “If this institution ever leaves the principles of God, may He burn every building down to the ground; may He shut the school or church down.” This was a noble prayer and certainly an evidence of a founder’s heart that it would be better for his school to come to naught rather than to compromise, but it does not seem that God is fulfilling these desires in the manner past founders prayed. Nevertheless, God is answering these prayers in another way, though its present generation may not realize it.

Some months ago Doug Phillips, the founder and president of Vision Forum, resigned due to his confession of being “inappropriately romantic and affectionate” with another woman. Although Vision Forum has had many traits that are respectable, so does the Devil at times in his deception. Vision Forum has been endeavoring to combat problems in the American family; however, it has approached it through biblical heresy rather than truth. Doug Phillips is a strong adherent to Christian Reconstructionism, which he believes needs to be brought

into the context of the family. He has built his theology upon the old postmillennialism of R. J. Rushdoony. His views have been against the local church, the local Christian school, and the pastor's authority in the Christian life and home. Mr. Phillips strongly believed in home-schooling families to what he called "exercise dominion" through a 200-year plan, believing it would bring about a so-called multi-generational faithfulness and what he calls a "biblical patriarchy." Application of this view has been exemplified in recent years through the Duggar family's television reality show *19 Kids and Counting* as well as movies presented by Kirk Cameron, the so-called Christian activist who was closely associated with Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Phillips believed, as many before him, that a Reconstructionist philosophy could bring America back to Christian culture. However, it must be said that a strictly Christian culture has never existed in our country and therefore cannot be "rebuilt." Christians have always lived in pagan cultures, and this includes the United States. God has not called us to build some type of Christian culture out of our society. We are simply called upon to preach the gospel and live a consistent Christian life before the world. As Christians and members of a local, Bible-believing church, we are not commanded to make this world "a better place to live" for our posterity, or to "bring

in the Kingdom," or to establish some concept of a Christian-utopian society for succeeding generations. This is not our purpose for being on the earth at this time in history. No man, apart from Christ, can make the world a better place to live. Yet, a true Christian by his influence should make it harder to sin.

It should also be noted that attempting to place unregenerate people, political leaders, and society under the requirement of God's Law is not biblical. God did not give the Commandments to anyone but Israel. It was His covenant to them alone. He did not want us to create a culture for God's glory to pervade the inhabitants of the earth. Although Roman Catholics and Protestants have tried to do so, it has been the product of a false Christianity. Vision Forum has equally been caught up in this false Christianity.

Similar to Bill Gothard's work, Vision Forum has never taken a stand against the contemporary views of Christianity; it takes no stand against the Charismatic movement or any other part of apostasy. To any true Christian, this should be of great concern. We must ever remember that a delusion is not the absence of truth; it is the addition of error. We must ever be careful of the theology that becomes the fuel to drive such ministries as Vision Forum.

In Vision Forum there has been

great emphasis upon the father-daughter relationships. We must remember that the “other woman” with whom Doug Phillips was involved over several years was someone’s daughter. It is interesting to note that in the Patriarchal Community, there is greater sympathy towards the cheating husband than the cheating wife. The sympathy to the husband’s temptation is often tolerated; yet, when the wife sins it is believed she “let herself go” or she was inadequately submissive to her husband. Vision Forum’s warped views have driven it into biblical heresy. While recently viewing some of the videos of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips’ speaking excitedly of their home and marriage, it was sad to realize that his improprieties were secretly continuing at that time. The product demonstrated in the videos was not the product of truth in the home.

Evangelical Christians tend to be Evidentialists rather than Biblicists. Rather than searching out the doctrinal heart of a ministry or movement, they tend to be drawn only to its outward or superficial product. Even God told the prophet Samuel in 1 Samuel 16 that man *does* look on the outward appearance. Vision Forum has invested much time and money on the outward appearance endeavoring to perfect it to the neglect of a transformed heart. It has given us a quick commercialized product of the outward man, but

it has not invested in the spiritual heart of a family. Though such sins could come upon any of us, some theologies tend to promote practices that contribute to deeds of unfaithfulness. If truth was ever in this ministry, we now have witnessed its spewing out from the mouth of God.

There has also been the recent tragedy of Bill Gothard’s ministry (Institute in Basic Life Principles) and its deep-seated immoralities being made public. These sins of infidelity in its hierarchy go all the way back to 1980. Though the Board of that ministry tried to deal with this overwhelming fornication even back then, the craftiness of Mr. Gothard made it uncomfortable for the Board to deal with it. His ministry, like Vision Forum’s, was one based on the flesh and sowed to the flesh professing biblical solutions for America’s problems. In the absence of true “heart” theology, he left people with simply outward principles working through the power of the flesh to bring about a plastered Christian product. Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh” (John 3:6). And now, the personal improprieties of Bill Gothard (at 79 years of age) have finally surfaced.

It is estimated that over 20,000 pastors have been influenced by this man over the years. We are now witnessing the corruption after years of sowing to the flesh. Though many respected Mr. Gothard for

not marrying, the immoral problems he has had over these years prove it would have been better for him to have married rather than to have “burned” (1 Cor. 7:9). His ministry was also built upon ecumenicity and toleration of the Neo-Christianity, even with its contemporary music.

Like Vision Forum, Gothard’s ministry, too, had a number of good things that mesmerized families toward its delusion. Can what seems to be a good thing actually be good when in the context of heresy? Does not the evil affect the good? (Hag. 2:11–14). A true new birth only can come from a true seed: “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:23). We are also told in Deuteronomy 22:9, “Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.” This is what has happened in these professing conservative ministries. Professing the Word of God, the mouth of God, they have been spewed out before all.

More and more we see the dismantling of the apostate ministries with their open sins. World Vision recently announced their acceptance of same-sex married staff members among its 1,100 employees. Within just a day or two, it had lost over \$800,000 in contributions. Therefore, the \$1 billion-professing Christian

organization quickly reversed its ruling, stating it had made a mistake. Apart from its obvious lack of any biblical and moral compass, this incident further indicates the powers pressing upon the institutional Church to give in to the aggressive political correctness of fornication and that which is against the moral righteousness of historic Christianity.

Homosexuality has become a part of the fabric of the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy; a minimum of forty percent of its priests are estimated to be sodomites. Pope Benedict XVI’s involvement in these immoral powers is becoming more and more evident. It is interesting to note that the oldest lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transsexual (LGBT) magazine (*The Advocate*) has selected Pope Francis as its person of the year. They have found him to be their strongest supporter for their cause. Perhaps they hope he will influence the Roman Catholic judges on the U. S. Supreme Court to legalize such marriages. Truly, the gates of Hell have prevailed against the institutional Church! Only the true Elect-remnant Church will be spared from such a death. These revelations of immorality are equally prevalent in other Charismatic and Evangelical associations. It seems the Church world cares very little about the appearance of these sins in its characterless leadership.

God has also permitted the open collapse of Crystal Cathedral

birthed by the apostasy of Robert Schuller. This ministry's signature properties were purchased by the Roman Catholic Church for \$57 million dollars. The upheaval of this ministry was a public sham; now the Catholic Church openly flaunts its takeover with Romanist symbolism, investing about \$100 million for renovations.

We are also witnessing men becoming bolder and bolder against the standards of God's Word. With seared consciences they claim that "the Bible does not condemn these things." As a result, God is giving them over to open sins of smoking, drinking, and R-rated movies in their churches. As God has given our world over to the uncleanness through the lust of their hearts, then given the world over to vile affections, and finally given the world over to a reprobate mind, Christ is also spewing out the professing Church, making it a public shame and disgrace. Contemporary Christianity has become a joke, an institution impotent against sin and the invading powers of the world. Yes, we are witnessing the spewing out of His mouth the very religion that was named after Christ.

The Spewing Out of Fundamentalism

So many changes are now taking place among ministries that believe conservative Christianity must acclimate to the contemporary.

Note our observations in *The Rise and Fall of Historic Christian Fundamentalism* in its chapter "The Fundamental Schools: The Final Collapse":

Even to maintain a student body, the schools are pressured to believe that the standards must now change. Instead of cutting back on the student population, there is a broadening acceptance of poorer quality of students. The economic philosophy is the more students, the more revenue. Schools console themselves believing that the liberal arts Christian school must provide a diversity of culture, including the world's culture. This leads to an increasing plethora of worldly, neo-Christianity music styles that should truly vex a conscientious Christian. Spiritual dorm supervisors and monitors are rare to find: thus, prayer meetings are often conducted from a "neo" perspective amidst a hypocritical façade trying to keep up the Christian imagery (p. 217).

Once citadels of Fundamentalism with militant and magnificent leadership, these ministries have now sheathed their swords and become the models for crossing over into Neo-Evangelicalism. Rather than the Holy Spirit, intercollegiate sports has now become the exciting "spirit" of their campuses. As schools change from year to year, their administrators try to inject a little Christian rhetoric to promote these programs hoping to somehow Christianize their growing secularism.

Every year these schools continue silent attacks against the Word of God and its principles. They craftily reason away their changes; they become more serpentine in their hermeneutics of Scripture seeking to justify their changes. Even to accommodate the world more, the names of schools are being changed. Such schools know that their former name is a blight and a stigma for the Christian in an emerging-church generation. Now the graduate can speak of his alma mater without any implication that it was a Christian school.

Conclusion

As God the Creator is giving this world up and over to themselves and to a reprobate mind, Christ is also now giving the institutional Church up and over to itself. The Church has rejected the Word of God to this generation, and Christ is now rejecting it by leaving the Church, spewing it out of His mouth. This Church generation while professing a “form of godliness” is denying, resisting, and rejecting the power of it. As there is no hope for this country, there is no hope for the institutional Church. The only hope is for the Remnant and the workings of God among His Elect. All others will fall away unto the powers of this End-time apostasy.

As we see the growing number of Charismatic and Evangelical national media ministers with compromised

marriages and ministries, the words of Christ rise in declaring their willful ignorance: “And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” On a large scale the institutional Churches have rejected Christ, they have rejected the Chief Cornerstone, and they have rejected the very Word of God. They have consulted with and built upon self-interpretations of Scripture. We are now witnessing Christ spewing them out of His mouth. Although this Church attempts to define their lukewarmness as “Christian love,” “meekness,” “moderation,” or “kindheartedness,” whatever false term is used, it still has nauseated Christ. And once the vomiting begins there is no return from His judgment!

Judgment has commenced at the House of God. Christ is giving men over to their hearts’ desires. We have witnessed this judgment in the birth of Liberalism and Modernism, then Neo-Orthodoxy and Situationalism, and then Neo-Evangelicalism and Neo-Pentecostalism (producing the Charismatic movement). Furthermore, in the last twenty years, we have witnessed the public erosion and falling away of Fundamentalism, including the surrogate ministries presenting themselves as conservative Christianity. Immorality has become more and more prominent in ministries given to visceral, professing “Christian” music. In the light of Christ’s abhorrence of the condition

of the Church, we are witnessing the vomiting of the institutional Church out of Christ's mouth.

While Christ's nausea with the institutional Church will continue to reveal the great abomination of public Christianity, the true Christian must ever be vigilant in his communion with Christ. It is most

imperative to ever live for Christ with *biblical* passion, living by the standards of His Word in separation from this world, and loving and desiring the principles of His Word to govern our lives. Within the Word of Christ—the mouth of Christ—is where we want to reside in this End-time Church age. S

NEW PUBLICATION BY DR. H. T. SPENCE

The Ascent of the Christian Life

A devotional taken from Psalms 120-134

Our spiritual lives should be lives of ascent. Certainly the pinnacle of our spiritual walk is not something which is achieved all at once. Our spiritual experiences with the Lord can be described as different degrees, as a series of steps, as varying stages of growth. The Christian life is to be a continual advancing, a continual going forward and going upward. We should never be standing still; if we remain stationary in one experience or become stranded at one stage, we will find that our spiritual lives suffer and become frustrated. Failing to grow onward, we could eventually go back on God.

These Songs of Degrees, also called the “Psalms of Ascent,” present a spiritual journey of the soul's growing hunger and intensifying desire for Christ. In this writing we present a simplistic ascent of the redeemed soul through the teachings of the New Testament set in types and shadows from the Psalms of Degrees. [159 pages]

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Dictatorship Versus Biblical Authority and Preaching in the End time

Dr. H. T. Spence

God's true men throughout history often have been labeled a "dictator." Accused of being a dictator, John Wesley made the casual statement, "I have no problem with a dictator if he is a good one." In the light of the Laodicean church age, given to doing that which is right in its own eyes, such a statement certainly is not understood. Wesley was *not* declaring that he himself was a dictator; he simply was declaring he believed a dictator for leadership was not improper if such an individual was a good one.

Note the *World Book Dictionary's* definition of a dictator: "A person exercising absolute authority, especially a person who, without having any claim through inheritance or free popular election, seizes control of a government. In Roman history, an official given absolute authority over the state in times of emergency." However, the dictionary concludes with a final definition: "a person who says or reads words aloud to another who writes them down." Perhaps many, including this writer, would fall into the last category in the light of the many letters "dictated" to his secretary.

It is one thing to believe in an honorable dictator and another thing to declare oneself personally to be a dictator. Recently, a visiting pastor at Foundations declared in his message to us that he was a "benevolent dictator." The congregation smiled, and several laughed, because we understood what he meant. No one was ready to verbally stone him for his words; no blogs were written to attack him.

In the light of this dictionary definition, I believe in *the dictatorship of God*: He is a Person Who "exercises absolute authority" and Who "without having any claim through inheritance or free popular election seizes control" of all the universe. He was never appointed to this position; He was never elected to this position. Yet He not only created the universe but also has absolute control over it. I believe in a dictator if He is a "good" One. I believe God is a good dictator; His nature, character, and His infinite heart make Him such. There are many gods who dictate their religion to the people. Baal was such a god; he was

an “oppressive god.” The people “chose” him; they elected him to be their dictatorial god. That was their choice; they elected him to be so. But I do not believe, by any means, Baal was a good dictator. There is a clear distinction between *Adonai*, the Master, the Lord God, and Baal, the oppressive lord. But “God is great and God is good”; at least, that is what we tell our children. He is not oppressive. I choose Him to be my God, the Dictator of my life. Yes, I believe in a dictator if He is a good One.

Also in the light of the dictionary definition, I believe in the dictatorship of a father over children. The child does not choose this dictator; there is no election in the home for this dictator. But God appoints the father. The Book of Proverbs is the call of a father to a son: “My son, give me thine heart.” This is not God asking for the heart; this is a father asking. The father in this book is controlling, strongly rebuking, calling, chastening, even to the point he declares, “Train up a child in the way he should go.” The father is to “dictate” the way of the child. There are bad fathers; there are molesting fathers; there are evil fathers; but I will not give up God’s appointment of fathers. I had a “dictatorial” father growing up, but he was a good one, and I have no problem with that.

Now some simpleton may quote Matthew 23:8, “But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.” Hermeneutic principles warn us of taking any text out of context. The simpleton will tend to do that in order to prove his point. The *context* here is the attack against the scribes and Pharisees who endeavored to project themselves (or the Greek, “to seat” themselves) in Moses’ seat, or to be equal with Moses in authority. Therefore, I must be careful not to deny “master” and “father” for they are used in many other passages where they are commended. For example, in Proverbs master and father are used equally to refer to God the Father and Christ the Son. A father begets a son, and a master is over servants. He is not God to that child but certainly a representative of God. Yet, a father cannot impart life as the Father in heaven can, and a man is not to be master over soul as well as body. The rabbi is in the context of the teacher who declares truth and the way one must live, and at times very strongly; nevertheless, he himself is not the absolute dictator of life as God would be.

Along with natural fathers there are spiritual fathers: Elijah was a father to Elisha (2 Kings 2:12) as well as a master to him (2 Kings 2:3). Though Elijah was a very strong man in his preaching, in his manner, and in his controlling words, Elisha never viewed Elijah as an “absolute” dictator. He viewed him clearly as his father and master after he had left his natural father in 1 Kings 19. Even the apostle Paul called Timothy “my own son in the faith,” and he dictated to him what he was to do and what he was to preach.

Only those who hate authority in their lives make excuses for not needing it. They even twist Scripture to be freed from any God-appointed authority in their lives. Yes, there are bad fathers, but not all are bad. Therefore, we dare not do away with fathers who dictate to their children what must be done. I have observed that many sons who had a passive father never came to understand and appreciate a dictatorial father in the proper context, but chose to live independent of such a privilege. Yes, I believe in good fathers who are dictators, in the biblical sense.

Dare we project the dictator in the context of a mother? A mother was not appointed by some election of her children, but was God-appointed. Yea, the child is to live by the “law” of his mother (Prov. 1:8). I am never to forsake the law of my mother, “her law.” First Timothy 5:14 declares that the wife/mother is to “guide the house,” or the Greek is *oikodespotein*, to be the “despot” of the house. Dare we investigate what this word *house despot* means? Vine, in his word studies, gives the definition of *despotes* as “one who has absolute ownership and uncontrolled power.” When carefully read, Proverbs 31 exemplifies the wife/mother who rules that home while that husband is away, representing him with uncontrolled power. Yes, I had a dictatorial mother, but she was a good one. I have no problem with this.

Certainly Elijah controlled the life of Elisha, and Joshua was controlled by Moses. But Elisha and Joshua both chose willingly to be under such men who dictated to them how to live, what to be, and gave dictatorial words even for their future. So many other examples can be given in the natural context of such “good” dictators.

But above them all, when Christ comes to earth and sets up His kingdom, He will “rule with a rod of iron” (Rev. 19:15). Not one thing will be done on this earth in the Millennium without His

declaration. He will be the *dictator*, a perfect one. The statement is an important, true statement: “I have no problem with a dictator, if he is a good dictator.”

Is it appropriate to call the papacy a dictatorship? Remember the definition is, “A person exercising absolute authority, especially a person who, *without having any claim through inheritance or free popular election*, seizes control of a government.” The Pope has a claim through inheritance that he calls “Apostolic Succession.” *And* he is appointed by popular election called a conclave. He is *not* self-proclaimed. In the light of this, I cannot call him “a dictator,” for he has come to it through the appointed channels of the Roman Catholic Church. *Now*, if we are talking about what the Pope is presented to be “theologically,” then we are adamantly opposed to his Pontifex Maximus, his papal infallibility, his being the “Vicar” of Christ, and so forth. Yes, the Pope controls the people; yes, he controls their lives (through the local priests); *but* he has been *given* this authority of absoluteness, and would not fall under the proper definition of a dictator. We must be careful in how we use terminology for which we do not know its true definition.

There are those who attack honorable pastors and teachers, believing they *all* are dictators; they suggest we should accept governmentally the so-called “Body Ministry” of the plurality of elders. We believe this is not biblical. Of course, there are those who have their “own interpretation” of Scripture in order to do away with pastors. By doing so, they endeavor to preserve their own independence of and accountability to any authority. I have always found that such people are even independent of Christ’s authority over them. They do not live according to the standards and principles of Christ. They tend to be worldly and deny biblical separation. *They* are the “Christ” of themselves, and *they* dictate the truth and how it is to be interpreted.

Yes, there are bad pastors, there are bad teachers. There are bad and evil students and parishioners. Even false Christs and false prophets shall arise (Matt. 24:24), but does this mean we are to do away with the true Christ and the true prophets? My heart goes out to anyone who had a bad father, or a bad mother, or a bad teacher, or a bad pastor. But God forbid because we experienced such an individual that we do away with these biblically-appointed positions. A child may not be able to leave a bad father, mother,

teacher, or pastor. But when he grows up, he can make the choice to leave a bad teacher and a bad pastor for good ones. No one has a gun pointing at him forcing him to be under what he believes to be the bad. Sad it would be, if for the rest of his life he never wanted a teacher or a pastor. I have met married men who refused to have children because they hated the concept of father in the light of their own bad father. But why not remedy the problem by accepting Christ and His guiding Word into the life to become what one did not have? The same would hold true with having a bad pastor.

In Ephesians 4:11, 12, a pastor is an appointed gift from the Lord; and Paul goes on to declare the reason for a pastor: “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive,” and it continues on. This is what a pastor is to do for a local body of people as a gift from the Lord. If he does not do this, then he is a pastor in title only. He may have to become strong and specific in his preaching and teaching when some in the flock are being “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men.” Yes, he may have to get strong in the preaching and admonition. But this is part of preaching the Word according to 2 Timothy 4:2–4, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” Such words will not be accepted by the lukewarm, Laodicean professing Christian. They will hate these words and create interpretations to do away with them. They will hate the light, and they will hate the man who sheds light on their sins and failures.

As for men who have been called dictators, such as Bill Gothard, Jack Hyles, Robert Schuller, the blame needs to be upon the people and the Boards for permitting them. Our founder, when he left the controlling leadership of the denomination, still

wanted a Board over him. Therefore, he created two: the Board of Trustees (over the properties and the natural dealings of the ministry, including being over him), and the Board of Elders and Deacons (over the ministry's spiritual direction). A founder naturally needs a greater authority to establish a ministry. On the other hand, I have chosen as a second-generation leader to draw from other appointed authorities within the ministry already established.

A person is not a dictator simply because he has authority and uses that authority. How often people will ask me, "Pastor, what am I to do in this matter to please the Lord?" If we had a problem physically, we would ask a doctor; and if he answered our inquiry, we would not view him as a dictator because we have given him the authority to tell us.

However, there may be times when a pastor or teacher must declare what he believes to be a "Thus saith the Lord" and His Word, knowing those words will be contrary to the soul and way of living of an individual. If that person believes that to be dictatorial, then he needs to go where he will have no problem in doing what he wants to do. A true shepherd of the Lord is ever conscious of his accountability one day to the Chief Shepherd as to whether he was a hireling or a truly appointed under-shepherd of the Lord. Paul was very strong in writing to Timothy and Titus of what they were to preach in the churches they pastored. They were accountable to that which was committed unto them as well as for the souls placed in their charge.

There have been proud young men who have tried to debate Hebrews 13:7 and 17, believing it was not in the Bible. But surprisingly, those verses are still in the Bible. In these passages the problem is not those that rule over them, for the writer only gave commendation for such rulers. The exhortation is given by the writer to the reader: "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." And, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit [yield the stubborn self-will] yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Such obstinate ones do not realize the unprofitable end they will have. Their pride blinds

them to such needed sight. Their “self” has taken the place of the Word of God in their lives; they hate counsel; they hate authority. Their attack is upon that Word or that one who reveals through the Word what they are.

For those of us who are called by God to be preachers, teachers, ministers, and pastors, for the sake of our calling, and for the sake of the people and the students, it will be imperative to exercise the rights appointed in that calling by God’s Word in the accountability of the souls laid to our charge. If we do not warn the righteous and the wicked, their blood (not their souls) will be upon our hands. There will be those whose obstinacy despises any correction from the Lord’s Word through his men, but we must still somehow deal with their foolishness: “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Tim. 2:25, 26).

God’s true people will know a true shepherd: “And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers” (John 10:5). To simply call someone a dictator with words does not make him a dictator, just as calling Jesus “Beelzebub” does not make Him so. It is not the words that we use in attacking a man that ultimately declare what a man is; the truth of the matter will be found in the man’s character and the life he has lived.

Finally, one of the precious passages that should control the under-shepherd is 1 Peter 5:2 and 3, “Feed the flock of God [tending, feeding, guarding] which is among you, taking the oversight thereof [the charge of oversight, of looking carefully], not by constraint [Gr., not having to be forced to take your responsibility], but willingly; not for filthy lucre [money], but of a ready mind. Neither as being lords [Gr., the intensified form of *kurios*] over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.” Possessing this spirit and heart, the man of God must take charge of that which has been committed to him: “These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee” (Titus 2:15).

A final postscript needs to be observed from Numbers 16 when Korah and the sons of Reuben “rose up before Moses, with

certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?" Those who hate authority speak the same words today but perhaps with a contemporary twist to them. This was the cry for the "plurality of elders" in the camp, believing that Moses had become a dictator. Though the people had not chosen him, God had chosen him. Yet, it is very clear that Moses was not of their spirit, for he was the meekest man on the face of the earth. The story of Numbers 16 will continue to unfold how God vindicated Moses and was against the philosophy and theology of Korah. He was overthrown by the God of heaven Who was against such evil accusations. Though God may not do this in every situation of the rising of present-day Korahs, it is still a biblical principle of God's appointment of authority.

This age is out to destroy any God-called individual who is in a position of authority. Such an age has a way of beating down and intimidating the servant of the Lord in whatever appointed authority he is given by the Lord, including his preaching and implementing of that Word. May the Lord speak to His "angels," His messengers who are to be found in His Right Hand, that they might deliver to the End-time Church that which must be declared.

Foundations Calendar

Special Events Spring/Summer 2014



Annual Recitals, April 11

Annual Bible Conference, April 13–20

Drama, May 9

Baccalaureate & Graduation Day, May 11

Foundations Day, June 1

Men's Prayer Conference, June 5–7

Summer Camp, June 17–21

Foundations Marriage Conference, July 26

Ladies Prayer Fellowship, August 8, 9

FBC Radio Station — www.fbcradio.org

Fortieth Annual Bible Conference

Foundations Bible College & Theological Seminary

“The Name Which Is Above Every Name”
(Philippians 2:9)

Palm Sunday: April 13th

9:30 AM – Film

10:30 AM – Preaching: “The Name Which Is Above Every Name”
(Philippians 2:9) – Dr. H. T. Spence

6:00 PM – Preaching: “The Name Before Whom Every Knee
Should Bow” (Philippians 2:10) – Dr. H. T. Spence

Monday: April 14th

8:30 AM – Film

10:00 AM – Preaching: “The Name: The Last Adam”
(1 Corinthians 15:45) – Dr. Dennis Lowry

7:00 PM – Preaching: “The Name: The Apostle”
(Hebrews 3:1) – Dr. Douglas Wilson

Tuesday: April 15th

8:30 AM – Film

10:00 AM – Preaching: “The Name: Our Great High Priest”
(Hebrews 3:1; 7:1) – Dr. Douglas Wilson

7:00 PM – Preaching: “The Name: The Bishop of Our Souls”
(1 Peter 2:25) – Dr. Dennis Lowry

Wednesday: April 16th

8:30 AM – Preaching: “The Name: The Seed of the Woman”
(Genesis 3:15) – Pastor Garry Huff

10:00 AM – Preaching: “The Name: The Seed of Abraham”
(Galatians 3:16, 19) – Pastor Daniel Peede

7:00 PM – Preaching: “The Name: The Seed of David”
(2 Timothy 2:8) – Pastor Garry Huff

Thursday: April 17th

- 8:30 AM – Preaching: “The Name: The True Vine”
(John 15:1) – Pastor Daniel Peede
- 10:00 AM – Preaching: “The Name: The Lamb of God”
(John 1:29, 36) – Pastor Garry Huff
- 3:00 PM – Meeting of the Board of Trustees
- 7:00 PM – Preaching: “The Name: The Redeemer”
(Isaiah 59:20; 60:16) – Pastor Daniel Peede

Friday: April 18th

- 8:30 AM – Preaching: “The Name: The Good Shepherd”
(John 10:11, 14) – Dr. H. T. Spence
- 10:00 AM – TBA
- 12:00 PM – Lunch for All Our Congregation and Guests
- 7:00 PM – Film: *Flame in the Wind*

Resurrection Sunday: April 20th

- 6:30 AM – Sunrise Service: “The Name: The Resurrection and the Life”
(John 11:25) – Mr. Samuel Wilson
- 9:15 AM – Film
- 10:30 AM – Preaching: “The Name: The Great Shepherd”
(Hebrews 13) – Dr. H. T. Spence
- 6:00 PM – Preaching: “The Name: The Chief Shepherd”
(1 Peter 5) – Dr. H. T. Spence



*The bookstore,
located in the French Divinity Hall
of Anvil House, will be open daily,
Monday through Friday,
after the 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM,
& 7:00 PM services.*

The Student Center will be open between services.