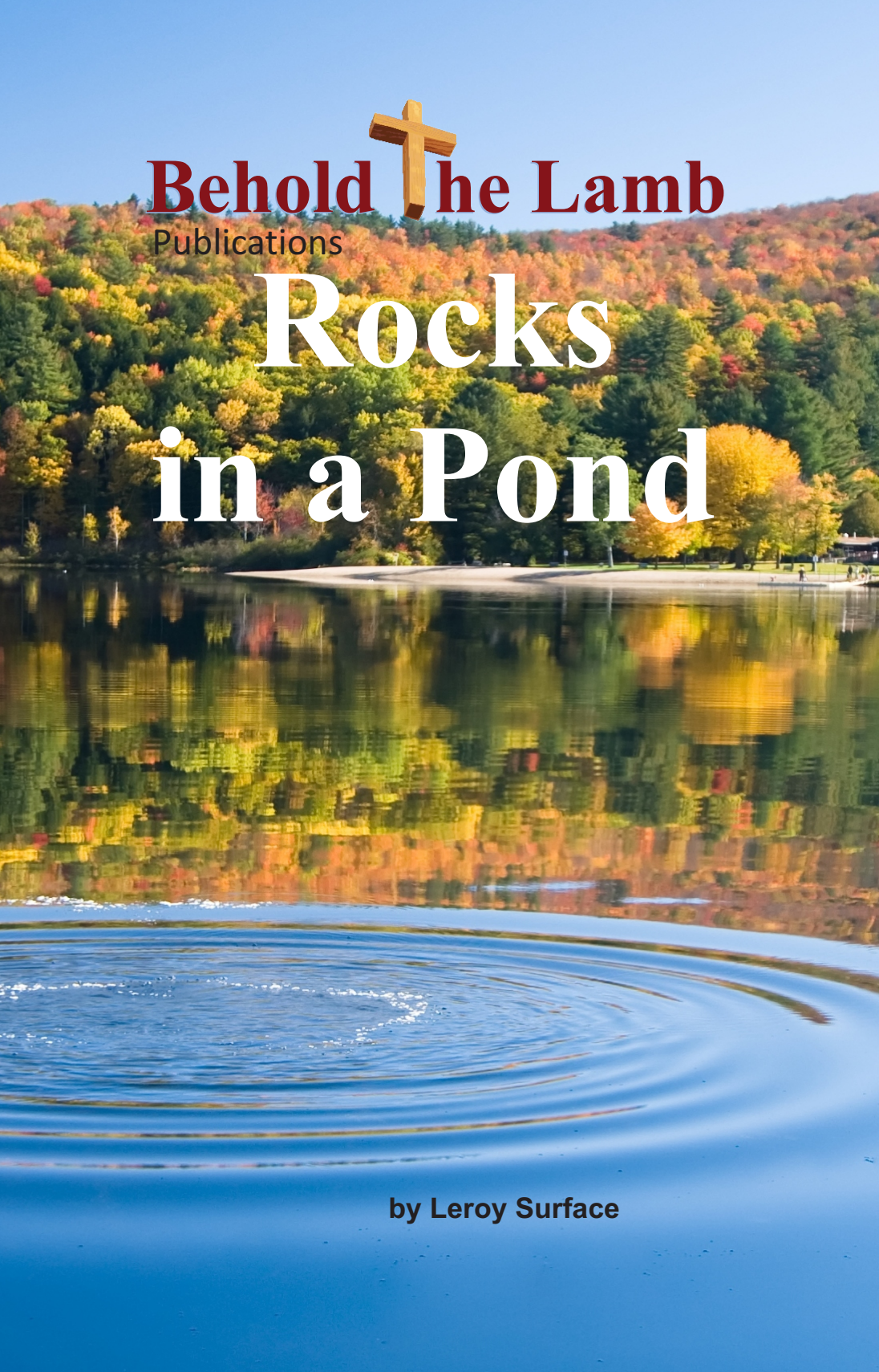




Behold  The Lamb
Publications

Rocks in a Pond

by Leroy Surface

“Rocks in a Pond”

The story behind the title

About twenty five years ago, as God was giving me understanding of *“The Cross and the Blood,”* the Spirit of God began telling me to *“say what I say.”* The first time I heard these words was in 1992: *“If you will say what I say, I will put your ministry on television, and it will cost you nothing.”* Within a month I was contacted by the owner of channel 22 in Houston Texas. Someone had given his eighty year old sister a *“Behold the Lamb”* booklet about the blood of Jesus. She contacted her brother, who wanted to interview me, and God did the rest. *“Behold the Lamb”* was seen two times weekly for eight years without charge to us.

That same year I had a dream from the Lord. In the dream, I was throwing rocks into a pond and watching the ripples as they went to the edges. As I threw one rock after the other, engrossed in the “ripples,” the Lord spoke to me, *“If you will say what I say, one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and the ripples will wash up on the shores of every nation.”* I told that dream many times over the years, but there seemed to be no possibility of such a thing happening. One day I was watching the telecast of a worldwide ministry with his panel of ministers as they were telling of how their ministry was

touching every nation. I was a little discouraged at the time, and said to God, *“This man’s message may sweep the nations like a tidal wave, but you promised me a ripple! Are you keeping your promise to me?”* The very next words from that telecast were from one of the ministers who said, *“No man can throw a rock into a*



Leroy Surface



Keith Surface

pond and the ripples not ripple their way around every obstacle to every possible shore.” The man could not possibly have known why he said such a thing, or who he said it to, but I knew from that moment that God would keep His promise if I would simply *“throw the rock into a pond.”*

The “*rock*” we throw is the message of “*The Christ.*” Peter answered Jesus’ question concerning who He is, saying, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Jesus told Peter that this understanding was a “*revelation from the Father,*” and “*...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” The “*revelation*” of “*Jesus, the Christ*” who came into the world to “*make an end of sins*” is the rock we “*throw.*”

For almost two years we have purchased a full page in Charisma Magazine, not to sell anything, but to “*give*” the truth that Jesus said will make the believer free, and they will be “*free indeed.*” Since that time our mail list has multiplied by almost five hundred percent, and we are in every state in America, as well as fifty eight foreign nations at present. Testimonies come continually from those who have been “*made free*” simply by “*believing the truth*” they read in “*Behold the Lamb.*” God promised if we would “*say what He says,*” and “*freely give*” the message we have “*freely received*” from Him, He would bring the finances to support it, without our either selling or begging. God is so faithful to do all He has promised if we will do what He has asked.

This month’s issue of “*Behold the Lamb*” is a compilation of eleven monthly messages we have published in Charisma. These are “*the rocks we throw,*” and the “*ripples*” are touching the nations. I do want to thank everyone of you who have supported this ministry with your free will offerings. You are the ones God has chosen to share in the blessing of touching the nations with the truth of Christ.

“Behold the Lamb” is sent free of charge to those who wish to receive it. If for any reason you do not wish to receive it, simply clip your name and address from the mailing envelope and send it to us in the return envelope with the words “*please remove,*” or you can email us at contact@cochurch.org. We do respect your right to privacy.

“Rocks in a Pond”

Table of Contents

How We Lost America	1
The Gift	3
The Great Shaking	5
God’s Witnesses	7
Great Tribulation	9
Say What God Says	12
Should We Keep the Feast Days?	16
America’s Five Sins	19
Pornography in the Church	21
The Only Answer	24
Why Christ Died	26

How We Lost America

With the Supreme Court decision on June 26, 2015, two things became evident. The first is that the United States of America has been fundamentally changed forever. The second is that the church has lost the nation that God had given us to keep. Jesus told his disciples *"Ye are the salt of the earth."* He continued to say, *"but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden underfoot of men."* We will understand the words of Jesus better in the months and years to come as the process of *"casting out"* a savorless church and *"treading it under foot"* begins. This can only happen when the church, like the salt that *"loses its savor,"* has lost the presence of God and the reality that the gospel of Jesus Christ brings. Many will say that God is going to judge America because of gay marriage. The truth is, however, that God has already judged America, and gay marriage is only a confirmation that we have been judged.

As Israel did three thousand years ago, the American church has committed two sins that have brought two distinct judgments from God. The first is a wrong image of God, and the second is a wrong view of the gospel. The children of Israel turned away from the invisible God to worship a *"golden calf,"* and God's righteous judgment was that He *"gave them up to uncleanness...to dishonor their own bodies between themselves"* Romans 1:24. Many in this generation of the church have *"changed the glory of Jesus Christ"* into the *"image of a corruptible man."* Instead of *"Christ the creator,"* the *"Lord from heaven"* who came to *"take away the sin of the world,"* the new image of Jesus is that of a *"natural man that could have sinned and had sinful desires just like every one of us and therefore understands when we sin."* Because of this wrong and twisted image of Christ that has issued from America's pulpits, our nation has long ago been given up by God to uncleanness.

The second sin of the church, the wrong view of the gospel, is the one that has brought America to the June 26th (2015) decree by the Supreme Court. Because the church, like Old Testament Israel

before, has *"changed the truth of God into a lie."* God's judgment was that he *"...gave them up to vile affections"* Romans 1:25-26. Jude warned that false teachers had succeeded in *"turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness."* The modern doctrine that *"we are all sinners and must sin everyday"* is not *"grace;"* it is *"lasciviousness,"* a license to continue in sin. It has *"changed the truth of God into a lie"* and filled the churches with those who continue in sin because they have never been *"born again."* Why did Christ leave eternity to become a man? What did He come into the world to do? The correct answer to this question is *"the truth"* that Jesus said *"will make you free"* from sin. Did Christ come to *"take away our sin,"* or did He come to *"take the penalty for our sin?"* One is the truth of the gospel. The other is the *"lie"* that has caused God to give our nation up to *"vile affections,"* which is where we are in America today. Gay marriage is not our *"national sin;"* it is the judgment of God because of a church that has *"lost its savor,"* and thus, has *"lost our nation."*

Decades ago I began to preach that because of the modern church's position that the children of God are, and will always be, sinners, there would come a day that homosexuality would have to be accepted in those churches. Consider what I say. If someone commits adultery, we have said *"but we are all sinners."* If two people cohabitate outside of marriage we say *"we cannot judge them."* Pornography, drunkenness, drug abuse, covetousness, and many other such things have all become acceptable in the church because of an erroneous and unscriptural interpretation of grace. Of course we say they should not do these things, but we assure them we will not judge them and neither will God. If one believes such an interpretation of grace is true, and claims such things are covered by God's love and grace, then it is hypocrisy for them to say that homosexuality and even gay marriage is not covered by the same grace. Do not think I am advocating that the church accept homosexuality or gay marriage. Absolutely not! Instead, we must once again return to presenting the simple gospel declared by the Holy Scriptures, that Jesus Christ was manifested and crucified to take away the sin that is in our heart and nature. His blood truly does cleanse the believer from all unrighteousness. True grace changes everything!

The Gift of God

As we enter the Christmas season, so many are looking for that perfect gift and preparing to wrap it in sparkling paper with a beautiful bow and place it under a Christmas tree. It is only fitting to remember that the only truly perfect gift was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. This gift is Christ the Lord, the only begotten Son of God. Christ, the creator of heaven and earth, came to earth to save His people from sin. It was Gabriel, the same angel who announced the birth of Christ to shepherds in the field, who foretold that Christ would come and what his mission would be over 500 years before. Gabriel told Daniel that Christ would “...*finish the transgression ...make an end of sins ...make reconciliation for iniquity, and ...bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24-25. So perfect was this gift, and so complete was his work, that never again would any person need to live in sin and die a sinner.

Many will say, “*I do not believe this!*” That is so unfortunate for them because it is their unbelief that dooms them to live in sin for the remainder of their lives. Jesus told some Jews who were expecting their Messiah, “*The Christ,*” to come, “...*if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins*” John 8:24. The truly sad part is, if they “*die in their sins*” they will also perish with their sins.

While the scripture speaks clearly that Christ came and died to “*take away,*” “*put away,*” “*wash from,*” “*sanctify,*” “*purge,*” “*purify,*” and “*cleanse*” from sin, the church as a whole has chosen to embrace a doctrine that is not even once stated in the scripture. It is the belief that Jesus died on the cross to take the penalty for our sins, with the conclusion being that a child of God can continue to sin without penalty. Consider the logical end of such teaching. If we can be saved and still be sinful, then it would be true that every person in America could be “*saved*” and nothing would change in our nation. Our prisons could still be full; we could still abort a million babies a year; our youth could still be destroyed by drugs; gay marriage could still be the law of the land; over fifty percent of our babies could still be born outside of marriage, and yet everyone would go to heaven when they die. The “*New Heavens and the New Earth*” would be just as corrupt as this one is, because Christ

“failed” to do what the angel Gabriel said he came to do, that is, to make an end of sin.

Some believe that Christ did not accomplish what he came into the world to do because he was *“murdered”* before He could establish His *“political system”* on earth. The truth is, the only reason Christ came to earth as a man was to die on the cross. It is *“through His death”* that we are reconciled to God Romans 5:10, Colossians 1:21-22. It is *“through his death”* that He forever destroyed Satan for the believer Hebrews 2:14. It is also *“through His death”* that He redeemed the believer from the bondage of the Law of Moses Galatians 4:5. And it is *“by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”* that we are born again as new creatures I Peter 1:3. The only way that Jesus could have failed to fulfill his mission was if he had not died on the cross!

The apostle Paul said, *“I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”* II Corinthians 11:3. I also have a fear. It is that the souls of millions of people who have trusted in a corrupted gospel will be lost in their sins and damned for eternity. This corruption of the gospel is not a recent phenomenon. Jude told of ungodly men in the first century church, who *“turned the grace of God into lasciviousness”* Jude 1:4. Unregenerate men have built on that false doctrine of grace for centuries. Almost five hundred years ago the seeds of philosophy were sown into the reformation doctrine of grace, and we are reaping the abundant harvest of that error; a generation that doesn't know it is *“lost,”* because it doesn't know what it means to be *“saved.”*

We are *“saved by grace, through faith.”* Our *“faith”* is to *“believe the record God that gave of His Son”* I John 5:10. The record we must believe was given hundreds and even thousands of years before Jesus was born to Mary. The first record is of *“the seed of the woman”* who would *“bruise the head of the serpent”* Genesis 3:15. One of the last is Gabriel's prophecy of *“The Messiah the prince”* who would *“make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness”* Daniel 9:24-25. Those who think Jesus failed in His first mission believe He will fulfill all these promises at His second coming. Jesus did not fail, however. He told the Jews, *“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* John 8:31-32. Jesus is *“The Christ”* who came into the world to

“take away the sin of the world” John 1:29, to take it out of the heart and nature of everyone who will believe the truth and trust only in Him. Oh how wonderful it is to be made free from sin to serve Christ without struggle. It is God's gift to man.

The Great Shaking

In the book of Hebrews, the apostle Paul tells of two mountains. The first was Mt Sinai, an earthly mountain that could be touched with hands, where God spoke audibly to His chosen people. *“Obey my voice and keep my covenant”* He said, *“and you will be my special people, above all people.”* Exodus 19:5-6 The mountain was on fire; the earth shook; thunders rolled; trumpets were pealing, and they heard the voice of God speaking. So fearful was the sight that the people refused to hear the voice of God, saying to Moses, *“Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”* Exodus 20:19. That generation never received the promise because they refused to hear God's voice. The earth “shook” that day, and that entire generation, with the exception of Moses, Joshua, and Caleb, were also *“shaken”* and *“moved out of the way”* Hebrews 12:27.

God's word speaks to our generation saying, *“You are come unto Mt Sion.”* Hebrews 12:22. The promise that was lost to those at Sinai is offered to those who gather to Mt Sion. Those who receive the voice that speaks at this mountain will be God's *“special people, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.”* Paul tells us about this *“Mt Sion.”* It is *“the city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem.”* In it is *“an innumerable company of angels; the general assembly and church of the firstborn.”*

“God, the judge of all” is there, along with *“the spirits of just men made perfect”* Hebrews 12:23. Among these are Able, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and all others who *“died in faith”* Hebrews 11:13-16. *“Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant”* is also there, and it is his blood that is speaking. Paul wrote that this *“blood of sprinkling ...speaketh better things than that of Abel”* Hebrews 12:24. The blood that Abel *“sprinkled”* was the animal blood of his *“more excellent sacrifice,”* Hebrews 11:4 which spoke of a covering for sins.

The blood of Jesus speaks of better things. It speaks of *“justification”* Romans 5:9 and sanctification Hebrews 13:12. It speaks of *“cleansing from all sin”* I John 1:7, *“washing from sin”* Revelation 1:5, *“redemption”* Ephesians 1:7, *“purification”* Hebrews 9:13-14, *“pardon”* Romans 3:25, *“peace”* Colossians 1:20, *“entrance”* Hebrews 10:19, *“perfected in works”* Hebrews 13:20-21, and *“made to be overcomers”* Revelation 12:11.

Jesus warned, *“Take heed what you hear”* Mark 4:24. Always remember, *“There are many voices, but only one Word of God.”* The *“voice”* of the gospel is the blood of Jesus Christ, which was *“sprinkled”* to take sin out of the heart of man, and the *“voice”* of a true prophet is always *“the testimony of Jesus”* Revelation 19:10. In Mt Sinai, the *“voice”* was God, and the people refused to hear. The *“voice”* speaking from Mt Sion is the blood of Jesus Christ. *“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”* Hebrews 12:25.

Modern day prophets warn of *“the great shaking,”* usually of mundane things like the crash of the stock market and the collapse of the American economy. These will come, but the *“prophets”* have prophesied visions of their own hearts when they call it the *“great shaking.”* Over four hundred years before Christ, the prophet Haggai prophesied, *“Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come”* Haggai 6-7. God said there would be *“one more shaking.”* The first shaking was at Sinai, and the last would be at Mount Sion. God shook the earth at Sinai. At Mount Sion, the *“sprinkling”* of the blood of Jesus *“shook both heaven and earth;”* By it Satan was *“cast out of heaven”* Revelation 12:9-11, and *“the world was turned upside down”* Acts 17:6. But false teachers entered, denying *“the speaking of the blood,”* thus *“turning the grace of God into lasciviousness”* Jude 1:4. Their *“gospel”* made Christ to *“be of no effect”* Galatians 5:4 to all who believed it, and *“the truth”* Jesus said would *“make you free”* John 8:36 was lost for centuries. The *“church”* has been weak and sinful unto this day wherever the *“speaking of the blood”* is not heard.

My friend Betty Jean Robinson wrote a beautiful prophetic song titled *“It’s Going to Rain Again.”* This I know; the *“blood of Jesus”* will speak once more as the gospel of Christ is restored to the

church. Every nation, kingdom, and religion will be “*shaken*” as the blood speaks through gospel preachers. The “*fads of religion*,” so popular in our generation, will be exposed for what they are. Those who cling to either “*law*” or “*lasciviousness*” will be shaken and removed. While many in the modern “*church*” are being shaken and removed, Hebrews 12:27 many in the heathen religions of the world will hear. The greatest harvest of souls will take place just before the return of Jesus Christ when the message which the blood speaks is heard once more. “*And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.*”

God's Witnesses

What is the proof of God's existence? Is it found in philosophy or science? Actually, God Himself said that the “*proof*” of His existence is in the existence of the little nation of Israel. “*I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: THEREFORE YE ARE MY WITNESSES, SAITH THE LORD, THAT I AM GOD.*” Isaiah 43:12 Israel was in a backslidden state, yet God reached out to them. “*Remember where I brought you from. I destroyed Egypt to deliver you. I opened the Red Sea to bring you out. I stopped the Jordan River at flood stage to bring you in. You, as long as you exist, are my witnesses, my 'proof' to the world, that I am God.*” The existence of Israel is guaranteed by God Himself: “*...all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it*” Zechariah 12:3. For most of its history, the great nations of the earth have sought to destroy Israel and its people, yet Israel still exists. Even in a backslidden state, the nation of Israel is the proof of who the true God is.

“*Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed,*” is the question He was asked as he stood on trial for his life. Jesus answered, “*I am*” Mark 14:61-62. On the strength of that confession he was condemned to death even though the court received no witnesses in His defense. They crucified Jesus as a blasphemer and a deceiver, but God

became His “*witness*” when He raised Christ from the dead and declared Him to be “*the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead*” Romans 1:4. Just before He ascended to the right hand of God, Jesus told his disciples, “*Ye shall be witnesses unto me*” Acts 1:8. The case against Jesus was reopened in the minds of the people when they heard rumors that He had risen from the dead. It was time for His faithful witnesses to take the stand to offer proof that He lives, and is in fact “*The Christ, the Son of the living God.*” The evidence they gave was of a sort that no sincere observer could deny, and the world of that generation was “*turned upside down*” by the things they saw and heard in those who believed. The “*proof*,” however, is not in an argument: it is in the “*life*” that only Christ can give. Jesus confessed before the high priest that He is “*the Christ.*” The angel Gabriel told us that Christ would come into the world to “*finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24-25. Jesus can only be “*The Christ,*” if he in fact “*finished the transgression, made an end of sin, made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in everlasting righteousness*” when he gave his life on the cross. Yet he is only proven to be “*The Christ*” if these things are accomplished in those who trust in him.

Jesus also claimed to be the “*Son of God,*” but what real proof is there that this is true? Paul tells us it is the resurrection of Jesus that declares Him to be “*the Son of God with power.*” Certainly if we can prove the resurrection, we can prove that Jesus is “*The Son of God.*” Christian apologetics say that it is a “*matter of faith*” to believe in the resurrection, but in fact, it can be “*proven*” by “*His witnesses.*” The apostle John said, “*He that believeth on the Son of God hath THE WITNESS (evidence) in himself*” 1 John 5:10. The evidence that Jesus is the Son of God is in the believer. It is the “*life*” that God has given us in Christ Jesus. “*And this is the record (evidence), that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son*” 1 John 5:11. So, what is the “*evidence*” that we believe? Is it that we say we believe? John tells us “*For whatsoever (whosoever) is born of God overcometh the world ... Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*” 1 John 5:4-5. According to the apostle John, everyone who believes Jesus is

the Son of God also “*overcomes the world,*” and “*overcoming the world*” is the proof that they believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

The children of God are not sinners and they do not continue in sin, not because they try harder, but because “*Jesus is the Christ*” who came into the world to “*make an end of sins*” Daniel 9:24-25. It is Christ who lives... it is “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” Colossians 1:27

If Jesus is in truth “*the Son of God,*” then any God who is not identified as “*the Father of Jesus Christ*” II Corinthians 1:3 is proven to be a false god. It is also evident that if Jesus is “*the Son of God,*” He must have “*destroyed the works of the devil*” I John 3:8 when He died on the cross. If He is “*the Savior,*” there must be those who are “*saved from their sins*” Matthew 1:21 through simple faith in Christ. If he is the “*Lamb of God*” which was prophesied by Abraham, Genesis 22:8, 14 He must have “*taken away the sin of the world*” John 1:29, I John 3:5 when He offered His body and blood as a sinless sacrifice. If he is “*The seed of the woman,*” Genesis 3:15 He must have “*bruised the head of the serpent*” Hebrews 2:14 through His death on the cross, exactly as God promised He would. If Jesus fulfilled in His death and resurrection everything that God promised the Messiah and redeemer would come to do, it must be that the “*believers*” are also “*possessors*” of all that was promised. Paul said to those who believe the gospel of Christ which he preached, “*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life*” Romans 6:22. Such are the “*witnesses*” that Jesus has sent into the world. “*What they are*” is the proof of “*who Jesus is.*” A weak and sinful church cannot prove the existence of God, much less are they the “*proof*” that Jesus is the savior, the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Great Tribulation

The angel Gabriel called it “*a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same*” Daniel 12:1. In Mark 13:19, Jesus speaks of the same event as a time of “*affliction,*” saying, “*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.” Gabriel said in this time there would be deliverance for those who are *“found written in the book”* (these are those who *“look upon me (Jesus) whom they have pierced”* Zechariah 12:10. Gabriel also spoke of the *“resurrection of the dead”* Daniel 12:3, which coincides with the return of Jesus Christ to destroy those who fight against Jerusalem Zechariah 12:9; 14:3-4. Gabriel was purposely vague in his description, but Jesus Christ spoke clearly about the time of *“Great Tribulation”* in Matthew 24:21-27. As we examine His words, notice that he said nothing about *“The Antichrist,”* a *“treaty with the Jews,”* a *“rebuilt temple,”* or anything that even resembles the modern *“doctrine”* of *“The Great Tribulation.”* Instead, Jesus foretold two great *“afflictions”* by which we will recognize the time that is upon us.

AFFLICTION 1. *“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened”* Matthew 24:21-22. The first *“affliction”* is the greatest slaughter of human life the world has ever seen. One third of all living will be slain by the *“locust army”* of two hundred million that is being formed as the four angels that were bound in the Euphrates River, which flows through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, are loosed Revelation 9:13-18. Even now this army is being gathered in the name of radical Islam. Two thirds of the inhabitants of Israel will be *“cut off and die”* Zechariah 13:8, and of those nations that fight against Jerusalem, only one sixth of their population will remain Ezekiel 39:2.

AFFLICTION 2. *“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect”* Matthew 24:23-24. They will seek to convince *“believers”* that Jesus Christ has returned for His saints, and, according to verse 26, they will be saying, *“He is in the desert,”* or *“He is in the secret chambers.”* Imagine the confusion of those teachers who have made themselves rich with books and movies teaching a *“secret rapture”* before the time of *“Great Tribulation.”* Rather than repent and admit they were wrong, some will do everything in an effort to

continue the deception. It is in this time of *“great affliction”* that the *“very elect”* are in danger of being deceived. It is easy for our minds to go to Jim Jones, David Koresh, and other cult leaders of our generation who were false prophets and forerunners of the *“false Christs.”* These, however, were so far out of the mainstream that they affected very few. Consider that several of the most popular *“faith ministers”* of this generation teach that we are *“The Christs”* for this generation exactly as Jesus was for His. These are the real forerunners for what is coming.

Peter said the last days would be marked by *“false teachers”* I Peter 2:1-3. We are living in the days when the *“prophets”* Jesus warned of will come by the hundreds. There were 850 prophets in Israel in the days of Elijah, all of them false. Elijah stood alone at Mount Carmel against 450 prophets of Baal, but God stood with Elijah. It is not a multitude of prophets that we need, but we desperately need men and women who *“know God”* Daniel 11:32 and bring the *“testimony of Jesus,”* that he is the Christ who came into the world to *“make an end of sin”* in everyone who trusts in him Daniel 9: 24-25. This is the true *“testimony of Jesus”* which is the *“spirit of prophecy”* Rev. 19:10.

Prophets are not ordained by churches or mentored by men: they are *“made by God.”* God said, *“If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream”* Numbers 12:6-8. As a young man, I read Leonard Ravenhill’s *“Picture of a Prophet”* and wept before God, pleading, *“please send us prophets.”* About two years ago I read it again and this time wept before God with a different plea, *“Please deliver us from those who are trying to be prophets.”*

The Pentecostal revival was destroyed after half a century by those who came teaching the people how to speak in tongues. A decade later they began teaching the people how to prophesy. Today they are teaching people how to be prophets. They do not know it, but they are bringing us to that *“great and terrible day of the Lord”* Revelation 16:14, which Jesus defined so well. On one hand we have the *“locust army”* of 200,000,000 coming, which will slay one third of all living. More to be feared is the multitude of prophets who are being raised up, not by God, but by the same ones who have destroyed every true move of God in the past. These are the identifying marks which Jesus gave us of *“Great Tribulation”* that

is coming on this generation. The first may destroy your body if you reject them, but the second will destroy your soul if you believe them. Please do not take lightly what I say.

Matthew 24:25-27: “Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

Say What God Says

In July 1969 I received a vision from the Lord. I saw a bird come from the sky and light on the head of a woman, who I knew represented the church. I heard a “voice” say to her, “*Thou art a son of God.*” I was amazed! I said, “*It happened to her just like it happened to Jesus.*” Next, I saw the woman do something that troubled me. She stood on a pedestal and began calling the multitudes to come to her. “*I am the one the spirit came upon I am the one the voice spoke to.*” As she exalted herself, I asked God, “*How can this be, when it happened to her like it happened to Jesus?*” In response, God said to me: “*It didn’t happen to her like it happened to Jesus. The Holy Ghost came upon Jesus as a dove. A voice from heaven spoke to Jesus.*” I realized I had not seen a “dove,” but only a bird. I had not heard a “voice from heaven,” but only a “voice.” The last words I heard in the vision were this exhortation: “*Always remember, as there are many birds, yet there is but one dove, so there are many ‘spirits,’ but only one Holy Ghost, and many ‘voices,’ but only one ‘Word of God’.*” As I came out of the Spirit, I heard these words from Revelation 18:2, “*Babylon is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*” Is it possible that many churches that were once the “*habitation of God through the Spirit*” Ephesians 2:22 have become a “*habitation of devils*” and a “*cage of unclean and hateful birds?*” God forgive me if I am wrong, but I fear that it is so. I have lived to see this vision fulfilled in this generation until the “*visible image*” of much of the

“church” is more like the workers of darkness than the image of Christ.

I cannot speak the things I say from a *“self-righteous spirit,”* because within a decade after receiving this vision, I was horribly backslidden in the depths of sin. After *“godly sorrow”* did its perfect work, God restored my life and ministry in March of 1980. Almost a decade later, the guilt and shame of backsliding continued to weigh so heavily upon me that I began a diligent search for the answer for the *“sin problem”* that resides in the hearts of men. God gave me the answer in the *“blood”* and *“cross”* of Jesus Christ, and in the spring of 1991, in a single moment He *“purged my conscience”* (my innermost thoughts and feelings) ^{Hebrews 9:14} from the power and presence of sin through *“the knowledge of the truth”* ^{John 8:32}. Shortly after, God began speaking to me by His Spirit to ***“Say what I say.”***

In the past, I had wearied myself, trying to raise money to stay on multiple radio stations across the nation. I told God, *“I am willing to go anywhere you send me, and say anything you say, but you will have to finance it. You know how large you want this ministry to be, so I will not be a ‘beggar for money’ to do something you are not doing.”* God answered me simply and directly: ***“If you will say what I say, I will put your ministry on television, and it will not cost you anything.”*** I told the congregation what God said, and joked, *“Probably the five o’clock news.”* In less than a month the owner of Channel 22 in Houston Texas contacted me. I had never heard of Eldred Thomas or the station he owned, but his elderly sister had read my message on the blood of Jesus, and Brother Thomas wanted that message on his station. At the stations expense, Brother Thomas gave us two broadcasts a week for eight years at no charge to us. I continued to hear this simple instruction from the Lord. He told me ***“Say what I say, and the world will hear it even if you never leave the woods you live in.”*** In a dream, He said ***“Say what I say, and one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and the ripples will wash up on the shores of the nations.”*** From that time we have never asked for money or sold a product. And unto this time, God has abundantly provided for us to *“say what He says.”*

It is a dangerous thing to tell the people *“God said,”* when God has not spoken. God said, *“The prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak*

...even that prophet shall die Deuteronomy 18:20. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul said, “...though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” Galatians 1:9. Paul received the gospel he preached “by revelation of Jesus Christ” Galatians 1:11-12. He preached what God said and nothing more, but it turned the Gentile world of that generation “upside down” Acts 17:6. The entire church world has been “cursed” by another gospel than that which the apostles preached. That “other gospel” has filled the church with sinners, who in the name of “grace” actually flaunt their sin. Many today are presuming to speak in the name of the Lord to their own damnation. They assume the titles of “prophet,” or “apostle,” presenting themselves to be some great thing, not understanding that they could be “real with God” if they would humble themselves to believe what God has actually said in His Word.

God told Isaiah, “I have put my words in your mouth ...that I may plant the heavens and lay the foundations of the earth...” Isaiah 51:16. If Isaiah would simply “say what God says,” God would do the rest. It is easy to say what God says if you know and believe what He says. You don’t have to be an apostle or prophet if you simply believe the scriptures.

Before I understood the truth of Christ, I wrestled with I John 3:9: “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God.” I tried to explain it as I had heard it. “We who are ‘born of God’ do not ‘practice sin;’ we are not ‘habitual sinners’.” The Spirit of God sharply rebuked me in the middle of my message: “Stop making excuses for what my word says.” I went home, wilted under the rebuke of God. My past experience told me I was right, but the Word of God told me I was wrong. I prayed; I did some research in the scriptures. I saw that if the apostle John had intended to say we do not “practice” sin, he would have used the Greek word “prasso” for “practice.” Instead, he used the word “poieo,” which speaks of a “single act.” I knew at that time it was impossible for me to live my life without struggling with sin, but I promised God, “I do not understand it, but I will believe it, because your Word says it.” Only then did understanding come to me. I John 3:9 is a summary of the verses above it: “And ye know that **he was manifested to take away**

our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...” 1 John 3:5-6. The wonderful secret is to “*believe the gospel*” and “*abide in Christ*.” But what is the gospel we must believe?

For hundreds of years before Jesus was born to Mary, the Jews were looking forward to the coming of their “*Messiah*,” which is in the Greek language, “*The Christ*.” The angel Gabriel brought the promise directly from God to the prophet Daniel. He gave the time frame of 490 years. At the beginning of the last seven years, one called “*The Messiah the Prince*” Daniel 9:25 would come. His reason for coming would be “*to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24. In the middle of the last seven years of the prophecy the Messiah would be “*cut off, but not for Himself*” Daniel 9:26. Christ died for us, to “*make an end of sins*” in the heart and nature of those who simply believe the truth and trust in Christ to do what he promised. The knowledge of “*The Christ*” was great in Israel and the excitement about His appearing reached a peak in the same year that Jesus was baptized and anointed *with the Holy Ghost* Luke 3:15. The high priests and the rabbis had been teaching about His coming for generations; now the time had come for Him to appear. The prophet Malachi prophesied of that very time: “*...the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap*” Malachi 3:1-2.

The people longed for the appearing of Christ, but when Jesus came in public ministry the reviews were mixed. Some received Him with great excitement, telling everyone they met, “*We have found the Christ*” John 1:41. Others, beginning with the high priests and elders of Israel, actually hated Jesus of Nazareth. Imagine the contradiction of “*loving Christ*” and “*hating Jesus*.” This was the case of Saul of Tarsus until He met Jesus on his way to Damascus. The knowledge that “*Jesus (the one he hated) is the Christ (the one he loved)*” was earthshaking and life transforming for Saul. That “*old wretched man*” of Romans 7:24 died on that Damascus Road, and a “*new man in Christ*” took his place. If you know who Christ is and what He came into the world to do, and if you believe that Jesus is the Christ,

then you know He died on the cross to “*make an end of sins*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness*” in you. Christ accomplished this work “*by himself*” Hebrews 1:3, and he does not need the efforts and struggles of men to make it a reality in you. He is “*the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1: 29. He takes sin from your heart, mind, and nature. This is what Jesus meant by “*ye shall be free indeed*” John 8:36. You find “*rest for your souls*” Matthew 11:29, as Jesus promised, if you simply **believe what God says** about why Christ came and trust in him who gave his life to perform that work in you.

“I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.” Isaiah 51:16

Should we keep the feast days?

Should a child of God observe the Jewish feast days as given in the Law of Moses? This is a question that must be answered for the sake of millions of believers who sincerely want to please God. The answer to the question can only be found in an examination of the Law and why it was given.

When God came down on Mount Sinai to speak to Israel, He gave them Ten Commandments, and the scripture says, “*...He added no more*” Deuteronomy 5:22. These “*commandments*” were a part of the covenant of promise which God had given to “*Abraham and his seed*” over four hundred years before. God had promised, if they would “*obey His voice*” and “*keep His covenant,*” they would be His “*peculiar treasure above all people,*” a “*kingdom of priest unto God,*” and a “*holy nation*” Exodus 19:5-6. When God spoke, the people refused to even listen to His voice, saying to Moses, “*Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die*” Exodus 20:19. This refusal to hear the voice of God on their part was the transgression that caused the Law of Moses to be added, a “*law*” consisting of six hundred and thirteen commandments and

ordinances they were required to obey on the penalty of death. The Ten Commandments were given with a great blessing attached, but the Law of Moses was given with dozens of curses attached. It was not a blessing upon the people, but it was a curse in itself. When Moses finished writing his “law” in a book, he told the priests to place it in the Ark of the Covenant, where it was to remain “*as a witness **against thee***” Deuteronomy 31:26. The apostle Paul, a Jew himself, said “*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them*”

Galatians 3:10.

If the children of Israel had received the voice of God at Mount Sinai, the Law of Moses would have never been added. According to the Apostle Paul, its “*end*” was determined from its beginning. The Law would be in force “*until the seed should come to whom the promise was made.*” Paul made it clear, the “*seed*” is “*Christ*” Galatians 3:16. The children of Israel would be in bondage under the Law until Christ would come to “*finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24, which He did through His death on the cross. Thus Christ “*fulfilled all things*” Matthew 5:18 when He suffered and died to “*save His people from their sin*” Matthew 1:21 and to “*redeem them that were under the Law*” Galatians 4:4.

Concerning whether a child of God should observe the Jewish feast days, we should look again to the record of the Apostle Paul. There were those among the Jews in Paul’s day who taught the Gentiles, “*Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.*” Many of the Gentile converts of Galatia believed their message and submitted to circumcision and the Law of Moses. Paul wrote to them in a letter. “***Are you so foolish?***” Galatians 3:1-3. “*...if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing*” Galatians 5:2. “***Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace***” Galatians 5:4. Paul told them, “***Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain***” Galatians 4:10-11. Again, he wrote to the Colossians, “*Let no man therefore judge you in **meat**, or in **drink**, or in respect of an **holyday**, or of the **new moon**, or of the **sabbath days**: Which are a **shadow of things to come**; but the*

body is of Christ” Colossians 2:16-17. When Christ suffered the death of the cross, the “*shadows*” passed away because the “*true light*” had come I John 2:8.

Paul’s message to the Colossians concerning circumcision and keeping the Law was “*Ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ*” Colossians 2:10-11. The idea that to be “*complete*” you should obey Jewish ordinances and observe the feast days is erroneous, and very detrimental to a child of God. If you “*abide in Christ,*” you are “*complete*” in Christ,” without the deeds of the Law.

There is no such thing found in the scriptures as a “*Jewish Church*” and a “*Gentile Church.*” The Apostle Paul said, “*For he is our peace* (between Jews and Gentiles), *who hath made both* (Jews and Gentiles) *one*, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; ***Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances*** (the Law of Moses) *for to make in himself of twain* (both Jews and Gentiles) ***one new man*** (the church), *so making peace; And that he might reconcile both* (Jews and Gentiles) *unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity* (Moses’ Law) *thereby*” Ephesians 2:14-16. By this we know there is only one true church and it is made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

Peter was an eyewitness of how God saved the uncircumcised Gentiles at the house of Cornelius. He told of how God “*purified their hearts by faith*” (the moment they believed the gospel), and added, “*We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they*” Acts 15:11. There is no question that until that time Peter had held to the Law of Moses. Peter, however, caught a glimpse of a great light which would shine even brighter after “*the revelation of Jesus Christ*” was given to Paul. Peter was the first of the apostles to see and understand that a Gentile would not be “*saved like a Jew,*” but a “*Jew*” would be “*saved like a Gentile,*” without the Law of Moses.

America's Five Sins

Revelation 9:20-21: *“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils ...neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”*

These five sins, which are the “*sins*” of America and the western nations, are given as the reason 1/3 of all living will be slain in the time of trouble that is soon coming upon the earth Revelation 9:13-15. In rejecting Jesus Christ, our nation has been “*given over*” to these sins Romans 1:28, which will bring the terrible anger of God against us. Our punishment has been determined by God Almighty and foretold in the book of Revelation almost two thousand years ago.

We love America and hope for change, but the future of our nation has been irreversibly determined in the court of God's justice. God's judgment is sure, but it is never without mercy to those who will repent and turn from their sin. God's “*mercy*” in the “*Great and Terrible Day of the LORD*” is spoken by the prophet Joel: “*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered*” Joel 2:32. The five “*sins*” that have destroyed America are listed in the scripture as follows:

1. Idolatry: In the 1892 case of “*Holy Trinity Church v United States*” the U.S. **Supreme Court** stated in their ruling that “*America is a Christian nation.*” In 1954 the United States Congress added the words “*under God*” to the pledge of allegiance. In 1963, however, the **Supreme Court** ruled against the Lord's Prayer in our public schools, thus beginning a generation's long war against Jesus Christ. Two years later, Congress changed our immigration laws with the unintended consequence that worshipers of other gods began flooding into America, and our nation became, for the first time, an idolatrous nation.

2. Murders: In 1973, our **Supreme Court** ruled in favor of abortion on demand in the case of “*Roe v Wade.*” Since that time well over fifty million babies have been “*murdered*” in their

mother's womb with the approval of our federal government. That is almost 1/6 of our total population that we have killed.

3. Sorceries: The Greek word for sorceries is "*pharmakeia*," which speaks of our "*drug culture*." Our entire nation has become addicted to drugs, both legal and illegal. We have rejected the "*God of Peace*" and become a medicated population in search of peace. At the same time "*illegal drugs*" are being legalized in many states, destroying yet another generation of America's youth.

4. Fornication: The Greek word for fornication is "*porneia*," which is defined as "*harlotry, including adultery and incest*." Derived from the word "*porneia*" is the word "*pornography*," which has infected 68% of men in the churches, and 53% of their pastors, according to a recent report in Charisma Magazine. Sadly, the **Supreme Court** in our generation has given pornography the protection of the first amendment. Over 40% of American babies are born to parents who are not married. Heterosexual couples no longer seek marriage, while at the same time homosexual couples have sought marriage and have received the "*legal right*" to marriage from our **Supreme Court**.

5. Thefts: Our prisons are filled with those who have stolen to support their drug addictions. These are not the "*thefts*" that bring the judgment of God, however, because they have been judged. It is those "*thieves*" that receive the protection of our laws that brings the anger of God against our nation. Our politicians have learned how to enrich themselves from their positions of power. Our lawyers so often manipulate our laws solely for their personal gain. Many among those who historically have been the most trusted among us, the doctors and the preachers, have used their trusted positions to tap into vast wealth. Jesus said of those preachers, "*My house shall be called the house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves*" Matthew 21:13. What can be worse than those who make merchandise of "*the souls of men*" Revelation 18:10-1.3? From the greatest to the least, our nation is filled with those who justify taking from others to enrich themselves. They will not repent of their "*thefts*."

As long as our nation continues to approve these five sins in its war against Jesus Christ, America will never become "*great again*." As long as the "*church*" continues to teach a philosophical "*gospel*"

that leaves the people in sin, our nation is doomed. There is an answer: it is the same *“Gospel of Christ”* that turned the world upside down in the first century A.D. The present condition of our nation is proof that the gospel has not been preached in a very long time. Paul told Timothy, *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* I Timothy 1:15. It is just as faithful and worthy to say the Christ came into the world *“to make an end of sins,”* Daniel 9:24 and to *“take away our sins”* I John 3:5. That is the way God has chosen to *“save sinners.”* He takes sin out of the heart and nature of everyone who knows the truth and trusts in Christ.

Romans 6:22: *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”*

Pornography in the Church

When I consider the results of several recent surveys of American churchgoers, I cannot escape the conclusion that the American church has lost its way. According to one survey, 68% of the men in America’s churches are addicted to pornography, along with 54% of their pastors. If these statistics are true, the modern *“church”* has become one of the most perverse institutions on the planet, and it becomes easy to understand why the unbelieving world is rejecting Jesus Christ. Christ is *“judged”* by what those who claim to be His people are. If, as is claimed, over 50% of American pastors use pornography, then the pulpits of America have become a fountainhead of uncleanness both in the church and our nation. We must never forget that a minister ministers what they *“are”* even more so than what they *“say.”* A minister with an unclean heart ministers uncleanness every time they speak, even if they are railing against the same uncleanness. A minister that partakes of the darkness of pornography may speak of love and grace, but what they minister is lust and unfaithfulness.

The stakes are too high for us not to be clear. Pornography is both adultery to the married person and fornication to everyone involved. Jesus said, *“Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”* Matthew 5:28. A person is what they are in their heart. If their heart is sinful, they are sinful, but if their heart is pure, they are holy. Jesus said, *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man...”* Matthew 15:19-20.

There are three great tragedies in this pornography epidemic. One is that it exists in the church at all. The second is that many of our teachers seek to deny the eternal implications for the ones involved. The Apostle Paul was clear: *“Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...shall inherit the kingdom of God”* 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Yet as a whole, the church refuses to believe such scriptures. Our doctrinal philosophy tells us this could not possibly be true. Still, I must say as Paul said, *“I tell you before (before you stand before God), as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* Galatians 5:21. The third and greatest tragedy is that rarely is the gospel preached that makes everyone who believes it (even those bound by pornography) *“free indeed”* John 8:31-36.

In 1987 in a vision from the Lord, I saw God sweeping (as with a broom) the churches of America. But in many of the churches, he was not sweeping away the unclean, he was sweeping the clean out from among the unclean. As I watched I heard the Spirit of God say, *“When I am finished, in the churches of the unclean there will be nothing left but uncleanness from the pulpit to the pew.”* Although it breaks my heart, I do believe I am seeing this vision fulfilled in this generation.

Modern Christianity is a fallen religion; fallen because it has forsaken the *“truth of God”* and believed a *“lie”* Romans 1:24-26, II Thessalonians 2:10-12. Jesus is presented as *“the great enabler”* who covers our sins before God so we can *“continue in sin”* Romans 6:1-2 without suffering the penalty of sin Romans 6:23. It is very apparent that the church which offers this philosophical salvation has lost all understanding of the *“gospel of Christ”* Romans 1:16. Christ, the

creator, came into the world to save sinners “...*from their sin*” Matthew 1:21. He came to “*make an end of sins*” Daniel 9:24. Sixty years after Christ died for us, the apostle John wrote as though it were common knowledge among the children of God: “*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...*” I John 3:5-6. With those twenty-four words, John gave the answer for the problem of sin in the heart of man:

1. Believe that Christ the creator came into the world as the man Jesus to take away our sin. **HE DID NOT TAKE YOUR PENALTY; HE DIED TO TAKE YOUR SIN AWAY.**

2. Believe that He accomplished this through His crucifixion and resurrection.

3. Trust in Christ alone. Paul warned us to “*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ*” Colossians 2:8. Trust in Christ, without the programs of religion, to do in you what he died to accomplish. Ask the Lord to give you a “*new heart*” and a “*new spirit*” Ezekiel 36:26-27.

4. Simply believe the truth and trust in Christ. Pornography and every other sin will cease in you.

Yes, we were all sinners, but notice that the apostle places our “*sin*” in the past tense. We **were** sinners, but we **are** washed, sanctified, and justified. It is commonly believed that sinners are “*justified*” without any change whatsoever. It is that kind of theology that has given us a church with 68% of its men addicted to pornography. Such theology will leave you in bondage to sin forever and damn your soul in the end. Notice the “*order*” the apostle gave; “...*but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified.*” His use of the word “*but* (contrariwise)” three times in one verse gives three contradictions to sin. “*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,*” Romans 5:8 and we are sinners no more. The idea that a person is forgiven, justified, and “*going to heaven*” while continuing in sin is a damning thought. The idea that you are “*justified without change,*” but must make a change in order to be saved will leave you in bondage to the whims of religious instructors for the rest of your life. “*You are accepted by God,*” they tell you, “*as long as you*

remain in our program for your addiction.” I would rather tell you about Christ, who came into the world to *“take away your sin”* John 1:29, I John 3:5-6, to take it out of your heart and nature, and to *“make you free from sin”* Romans 6:22 so you could serve God *“in righteousness and holiness all the days of your life”* Luke 1:74-75. I have no purpose beyond that.

**“Behold the Lamb of God,
which taketh away the sin of the world.”**

The Only Answer

As I write this, it was just yesterday that we awoke to the news of the massacre that took place in a gay night club in Orlando Florida. While I unashamedly say that it is a travesty that such a place even exists in our nation, nothing justifies the murder of these people. Let us never forget that these are souls for whom Christ died. Many years ago, while crying out against the sin of homosexuality, the Spirit of God spoke to me: *“You will never reach a homosexual until you can weep for their soul as the soul of one that is lost.”* The Church of Jesus Christ can never embrace or condone homosexuality, but we must be able to weep for the lives and souls that are lost. Any person, or group of people, for whom our hearts cannot be broken before God, will be damned, not for their sin alone, but because of the hardness of our own hearts. I have always believed that those so-called *“Christian”* groups which spew out continuous hatred against gays have done more to turn this nation towards accepting homosexuality than any pro-homosexual group has ever done. Taking a stand for Christ and the truth is not the same as railing and reviling. Where is the railing against the adulterer, the covetous, those bound in pornography, or those who have abandoned marriage for *“live in”* relationships? I am not calling for *“railing”* and *“reviling”* against any, but I need to make a point.

We cannot be selective in presenting the gospel. When Paul made a list of those who would not inherit the kingdom of God I Corinthians 6:9-

10, he did not list only the “*abusers of themselves with mankind*” (sodomites), but he also listed the covetous, the fornicator, and the reviler. Either Christ’s blood cleanses us from all sin, or it cleanses from none. Either it makes the heart of those who trust in Christ entirely pure, or it does nothing for the heart of anyone. We have churches that accept sin and we have churches that rail against sin, but far too few present the gospel answer for the sinner that will deliver them from sin! Jesus is the Christ whom Gabriel said would come to “*make an end of sin,*” and he is the Lamb of God whom John the Baptist said would “*take away the sin of the world.*” We have a nation and a world that is dying in its sin simply because we have a church that will not tell them that Jesus is “*the Christ*” who came into the world “*to make an end of sins*” Daniel 9:24-25. He did so through His death on the cross to “*take away our sin*” John 1:29, and “*make us free from sin*” Romans 6:22.

Some are trying to present this murderous attack as the work of a “*lone wolf.*” This was no lone wolf! The locust swarm that was prophesied in the ninth chapter of Revelation to torment men in these last days IS radical Islam. The scripture says they have a king over them. Their “*king*” is “*the angel of the bottomless pit*” Revelation 9:11, whose name is “*Apollyon,*” which in the Greek language means “*a destroyer.*” The man who committed this murderous act may, or may not, have been under the instruction of ISIS, Al-Qaeda, or another terrorist group, but he was no lone wolf. He was under the direction of “*the angel of the bottomless pit,*” the same one who orders the actions of ISIS and so many other terrorist groups. There will be many more such horrible acts to come. Apollyon, the king of the locust (radical Islam), can command his army of one or many to destroy in any place or nation as he sends them forth to torment men.

Due to the fact that radical Islam has no human head, we have no military might to defeat them. The apostle Paul gives the only answer: “*...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds...casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God...*” II Corinthians 10:4-5. Our only weapon against radical Islam is the simplicity of the gospel of Christ:

1. Know who Christ is! *Christ is the “Word,” who “was in the beginning with God and who was God”* John 1:1.

2. Know what Christ came into the world to do! *Christ came to “make an end of sins” and to “bring in everlasting righteousness”*

Daniel 9:24-25.

3. Know how Christ accomplished what He came into the world to do! *Through His death on the cross, Christ “took away the sin of the world”* John 1:29, *“destroyed the works of the devil”* I John 3:8, and made the believer *“free from sin”* Romans 6:7, 18, 22.

4. Everyone who believes who Christ is, why He came into the world, how He did it all through His death on the cross, and simply *“trusts in Christ”* Ephesians 1:11, will be made free from sin!

The world is not in need of, nor hungering for, our *“Christian philosophy”* or *“Christian principles,”* but the entire world, whether Buddhist, Hindu, or Muslim, is yearning for the appearing of *“The Christ.”* What they must know is something the *“church”* seems to have forgotten; *“Jesus is **The Christ!**”* I John 5:1. He has come, and He has *“made an end of sins”* and *“brought in everlasting righteousness”* for everyone who *“trusts in Him”* Ephesians 1:11.

John 8:32: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Why Christ Died

God is both merciful and forgiving. According to what God told Moses almost fifteen hundred years before Christ died on the cross, our *“God”* has always been a merciful, gracious, and forgiving God. If this is true, why is it taught that Jesus had to die on the cross so our sins could be forgiven?

The prophet Isaiah said, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, **for he will abundantly pardon**”* Isaiah 55:7. These words, written almost seven hundred years before Christ died on the cross, reveal God as one

who will “*abundantly pardon*” even the most wicked among us if they will “*forsake their way*” and “*turn to the LORD.*” So if God has always pardoned those who forsake their wickedness and turn to Him, why would it have been necessary for Jesus to die on the cross in order for God to pardon our sins?

The church, from the most lascivious to the most legalistic among us, teaches that Jesus died on the cross so God could forgive our sins. The inescapable truth is, God has always forgiven and pardoned those who have forsaken their sins and turned to Him? Another “*inescapable truth*” is that Jesus Christ must have died on the cross for something so much more.

The apostle Paul makes a powerful point when he tells us “*...if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain*” Galatians 2:21. It is evident that if the Law could make anyone righteous then for Jesus to suffer and die to make people righteous would be a waste and a vanity. The same is true for anything that was available to mankind before Jesus Christ came and died. If Christ died to forgive and pardon sins, which was something God had forever done for all who forsake their ways and turn to him, Christ’s death was unnecessary and in vain.

So, why did Christ die? Those who know the answer to this question also “*know the truth*” which Jesus said will “*make them free from sin.*” Those who scream, “*No one is free from sin*” can speak only from their personal experience, because they do not know (or believe) the word of God. Christ, the creator of the universe, became a man in the womb of Mary for the sole purpose of dying on the cross to “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. The Old Testament prophecy of the “*Seventy Weeks*” tells why Christ came into the world: “*...to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness...*” Daniel 9:24-27. From the beginning of time, God had “*forgiven transgressions,*” but Christ died to “*finish the transgression.*” God had “*forgiven sins,*” but Christ died to “*make an end of sins.*” God had “*forgiven iniquities,*” but Christ died to “*make reconciliation for iniquity.*” Through His death, He “*destroyed the works of the devil*” I John 3:8, when He “*destroyed*” Hebrews 2:14 the devil himself for those who “*abide in Christ*” I John 3:5-6.

Before the first century passed, men had started to pervert the gospel of God's grace into something that it was not. Jesus foretold this event in His parable of "The Wheat and the Tares," saying, "...while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares *among the wheat*..." Matthew 13:25. The apostle Paul warned the believers in Galatia against those who "*pervert the gospel of Christ*" Galatians 1:4-5. They twisted the grace of Christ into a doctrine that gave us over a thousand years of spiritual darkness. Then came the reformation as the "*light of the gospel*" began to pierce through the "*darkness of religion*," but once again, the "*enemy*" sowed tares among the wheat.

"*Penal substitution*" is a redemptive theory that has been around for less than five hundred years. This "*theory*" is commonly expressed as "*Jesus took the penalty for our sins.*" Although it is never once spoken by the scriptures, almost everyone in the modern church believes this theory, and most have come to the logical conclusion that if "*Jesus took my penalty, I can continue to sin without fear of suffering a penalty.*" Very obviously, as Jude said almost two thousand years ago, "*ungodly men*" are still "*turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness*" Jude 1:4. Jesus said the "*tares*" are "*the children of the wicked one*" Matthew 13:38, but the "*seed*" that produces them is the "*perverted gospel.*" **Where does the scripture say** our sins are forgiven, "*past, present, and future, even before we commit them?*" The Bible says Christ's sacrifice declares "*his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God*" Romans 3:25. **Where does the scripture say** Christ shed His precious blood to "*cover our sins?*" The apostle Paul said, "*Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate*" Hebrews 13:12. **Where does the scripture say** a "*child of God is still a sinner, and must sin every day?*" John said, "*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...*" I John 3:5-6.

Finally, where is the "believer" who actually believes what the scriptures say about Christ dying to make us free from sin?

Romans 6:22: "*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life..*"

Four Ways to Receive

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

Simply Christ is a weekly digital Newsletter dedicated to sharing the simple precepts of the gospel of Christ. Each week in **Simply Christ**, Keith Surface and Leroy Surface share simple yet powerful insights concerning the gospel of Christ. Visit our website at **cochurch.org** and register online to receive **Simply Christ** each week by email.

Gospel Foundations

Foundational Gospel Preaching

Register for **Gospel Foundations** and receive anointed gospel sermons ministered by Leroy Surface or Keith Surface and sent to you via email. Twice each month you will receive without charge a download link to a special mp3 audio message. These are not just sermons, but messages preached as God anoints us to share the glorious gospel of Jesus the Christ. Visit **cochurch.org** and register to receive **Gospel Foundations** today.

Behold the Lamb **PDF Ebooks**

Register for **Behold the Lamb PDF Ebooks** and receive each new issue of Behold the Lamb sent to you free of charge as a PDF Ebook via email. Visit **cochurch.org** and register to receive **Behold the Lamb PDF Ebooks** today.

Behold the Lamb **Printed Books**

Register to have each printed issue of **Behold the Lamb** mailed to you free of charge. Visit **cochurch.org** and register to receive **Behold the Lamb Printed Books**

or write to:

Behold the Lamb P.O. Box 750 Porter, TX 77365