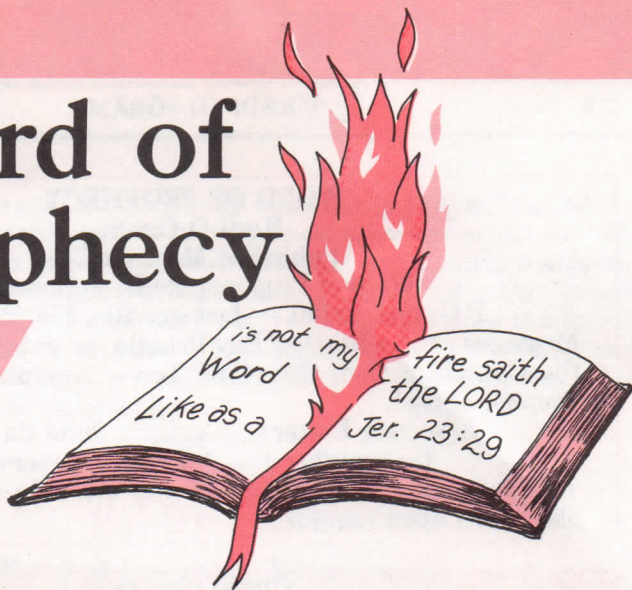


# Word of Prophecy



RADI-O-GRAM

Oct. — Nov. 1979

## THE GATHERING STORM



LUKE 21:25

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**ENROLLMENT: ANY TIME!**

**— A Vision of The End-Time —**  
**THE GATHERING STORM**  
**(PART II)**

(continued from last month)

What is about to happen? Who can tell us? World conditions — global and national problems of such magnitude we would never have believed possible three decades ago — are bringing intense pressures upon all members of the human family. Prognosticators in many positions of leadership in and out of government forewarn of coming disasters in agriculture and in all food production and distribution because of violent changes in weather conditions, widespread terrorism, and wars of liberation so-called. There is an uneasy feeling that grips the minds and clouds the thinking of responsible men and women of all nations — a feeling of uncertainty, of impending doom and hopelessness — a feeling that men will never find solutions to the grave problems of survival — doubtful that our society can ever be

truly peaceful, free from violent crime, terrorism, war, hunger, and moral corruption.

### THE EMERGING NIGHTMARE

This message and revelation came forth from the lord in early 1968 and this ministry has proclaimed and published it ever since. As the prophet was commanded, so has the lord commanded us: "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables (i.e., tablets), that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end (or endtime) it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Hab. 2:2-3. The vision of the prophet was terrorism and violence — a vision of our endtime generation! "Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? **for spoiling and violence are before me;** and there are that raise up strife and contention...**They shall come all for violence:** their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. and they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes (i.e., laws and governments) shall be a scorn unto them... then shall his mind change (i.e., the leader of these violent ones, the antichrist), and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god." Hab. 1:3, 9-11; also cf. Dan. 11:36-39. The rise of the antichrist is projected in part by these prophetic scriptures.

**Jesus, the holy prophets, and the apostles of Christ all predicted the rise of violence and moral perversion in our end-time age resulting in one crisis after another.** The greatest news forecaster of all history foretold the very bad news you will hear on your TV newscasts today, and read in your newspapers and news magazines tomorrow. Jesus prophesied that similar global conditions which abounded in Noah's Day would precede the swift rise of an emerging nightmare — The Great Tribulation and the world-wide kingdom of a god-emperor, the antichrist." Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; **then shall they seek a vision of the prophet.**" Ezekiel 7:25-26.

The prophecy of Daniel and Jesus Christ (both prophets), forecasts the rise of trouble without precedent since the world began. We've already entered the turbulence preceding the Storm! "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book." Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22. We are the children of the last generation, living witnesses to the age old dramas of tragedy that are raging throughout the earth right NOW! **These scattered fires of revolution, terrorism, lawlessness, and violence will**

rage unabated and uncontrolled until this our world will be in flames!

### **I REPEAT — DAYS OF NOAH ARE HERE!**

In Noah's Day: "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." Gen. 6:11. This one verse from the prophetic scriptures characterizes the hopelessly Sick Society of Noah's day which had reached the point of no return in degeneracy — and God destroyed every living person of that perverted, Sick Society except righteous Noah and his family. **God did it — and He will likewise do it again!** Gen. 6:17; 7:1; Isa. 66:15-16.

All prophecy of the holy scriptures are both historical and prophetic to our generation — they are symbolic of Noah's Day! **We are the last generation of this age, and even now we're living at the countdown as time is running out!** 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0! People of our Sick Society and even the church don't believe this — their actions prove it! Intemperate eating and drinking, marrying and divorcing, buying and selling filled the Sick Society of Noah's Day with insatiable lust. Luke 17:26-30. Likewise, pride, selfishness, lust, and greed dominate the thoughts and actions of the people in our decadent society which plunges further and further away from the God of our fathers and the Holy Bible into modern-day paganism — disarming us of all spiritual values and moral strength.

**God's judgments cannot be restrained much longer from falling on our hopelessly Sick Society and today's idolatrous church because the holy, God fearing saints are in such a minority.** It takes desperate and revolutionary action by holy men and women of God to turn away or even postpone God's judgments — and that action must consist of true repentance, with fasting and prayer. There is no earthly good whatever for preachers to do talk shows and write "novels" about the coming of the Lord, the Great Tribulation, the Mark of the Beast, and Armageddon unless they warn the Lord's own people to get thoroughly right with God themselves. God has warned: "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**" II Chronicles 7:13-14. Believe me, people, God's judgments are coming upon America soon — even now! We have rebelled and we have not repented. "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.**" II Timothy 4:3-4.

## I REPEAT—THE SPIRIT OF OUR AGE: REBELLION!

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12. "Iniquity" is lawlessness or rebellion. Jesus foretold also in the Olivet message that the rising storm would be filled with riots, rebellions, and revolutions. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity; **the sea and the waves roaring**; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:25-26. "**The sea and the waves roaring**" in prophecy symbolizes the unrest and lawless behaviour of the masses of all humanity. "Waters" in prophecy are "multitudes, nations, and tongues," Revelation 17:15. Great waters as "the sea and waves roaring," therefore represent a storm of violence, world-wide.

**Terrorism is developing into a form of total war.** Letter bombs, assassinations and skyjackings are a part of a sweeping terror assault, world-wide. Our nation is fast becoming a jungle of fear as one human preys upon another. Safety for one's family or himself, from assault, robbery, or death, is an ever increasing burden upon citizen and police alike. Terror in the classrooms of America has made education of our children next to impossible. Violent crime increases at the rate of almost 15% annually — murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery. In 1975, 150 lawmen were gunned down by criminals here in these United States.

## REBELLION IN THE HOME

**Morals declined more in America during one decade (1966-76) than in all our history put together** according to a recent news report. The communists will not permit the animalistic behaviour of their citizens that this nation indulges. The dissolution of the home is the devil's greatest delight. **Our homes are collapsing — our national institutions torn apart by immorality and sex perversion.** It has saturated our society until we are malignant. "Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children what are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord: they have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger, they are gone away backward ... **the whole head is sick and the whole heart faint.** From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it: but wounds and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isaiah 1:4-6. A good mother and wife is the anchor of a strong and effective home influence on our children and our nation. However, God has warned that rebellious women and children will ruin the generation of our day. In general, women of today are rebellious, and men are too weak and

puny to bring stability out of the chaos that has arisen.

**"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths."** Isaiah 3:12. Further in the same chapter, God foretells the judgment of rebellious women. Verses 16-26.

### **THE DEVIL'S GREATEST DELIGHT — DESTRUCTION OF THE HOME!**

**The grand design of the devil is to destroy the home and to bring a UNISEX society — a society of homosexuals and fornicators which live like animals!** This will completely destroy our nation's identity and merge all nations into the empire of antichrist. There, all will receive a number, worship his image, live like alley cats, with no moral or social obligations to a family or to God. Outward evidence of this fact is seen everywhere — women in pants suits, and men with long hair. Read Rev. 9:7-8. Both are abominations in the sight of God and require His severe judgment for a remedy. This was the nature of the generation of Noah as described in Genesis 6:5-7: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created ..." **Sex education in the public schools of our nation, plus the moral decadence of parents, are turning even our young children into animal-like creatures socially, and like robots, spiritually.** The Bible predicted that their consciences would be seared with a hot iron in today's rebellious society. I Tim. 4:1-2. God said of parents: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands...likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." I Peter 3:1,7. **America's greatest bastion of strength is a godly home with godly parents.**

Unfaithfulness among wives and husbands has become a national scandal. There were over one million divorces in our nation in 1975. Other millions of unwed men and women live together like animals, and breed babies born out of wedlock to hasten our animalistic society into further paganism and into the thundering judgments of God. **God is going to severely punish our nation for the permissiveness that is indulged by clergymen, politicians, and parents who are wholly responsible for the wretched, abominable position in which we stand before God and the other nations who loathe our moral and spiritual decay.** In the darkness of the Gathering Storm, Jesus spoke of the inevitable results of the family's dissolution. "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and

the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." Mark 13:12.

### **DARKNESS IS DESCENDING UPON US**

Out of the spiritual degeneracy and moral decadence of our sick, permissive society, there is a spiritual darkness of a terrifying magnitude descending upon our nation. "The night is coming when no man can work," Jesus cried prophetically of our day. John 9:4. When men and women reject the Word of God, there is nothing to expect but the inevitable — spiritual darkness! The Prophet Isaiah predicted many centuries ago by the Holy Ghost: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. **For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people:** but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1-2. A severe physical repression against God's saints is arising, but the Lord will glorify His people amidst the great spiritual darkness we are even now entering. God will thoroughly purge the church of this generation with purifying fires of adversity and persecution — a world conforming, pleasure loving, and lukewarm church that resists the Bible's demands to live holy. "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." Isaiah 48:10. **"That he might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the word,** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:26-27. When God's people rebel against the Word of God that relates to holy living as the church of today has done, only judgment and chastening can remedy the situation. "When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." Isaiah 26:9. "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried ..." by the antichrist and great tribulation. Daniel 12:10.

### **A VISION OF THE RISING STORM**

On a bright afternoon, February 15, 1974, during a period of prayer and fasting, the Holy Ghost visited me and spoke to me the following message in a clear, unmistakable voice:

"My son, listen to me carefully, and write what I am showing you of great troubles that will befall your nation shortly — and all nations. Terror — world-wide is arising throughout all the earth that will soon bring the antichrist to world power. Shortly he will appear in Northern Ireland and settle the present day terror of that troubled nation, and be hailed universally as the great peacemaker. He will be recognized by those who truly walk in My Spirit. (A subsequent revelation revealed that Lebanon will also be calmed by his

peacemaking powers.) Assassinations, bombings of public installations, riots, and violence will continue to rise relentlessly. **Racial strife and violence will again erupt across America bringing division and destruction to life and property.** There will be paralyzing strikes all over the world, curtailing the distribution of food, and medical supplies, giving support to widespread food shortages and hunger — and epidemics of diseases will be widespread among people and animals. Diseases are arising among livestock and people with no known cure. Odd and violent weather, with changing patterns, causing floods and drought, will contribute to severe food shortages in America, and famine worldwide. Political and religious upheavels will bring great instability in our government and churches. This is the violence of the Gathering Storm.

“Now, here is the moral and spiritual perversion that will accompany the great violence. Many will turn to devil worship and even offer human sacrifices. Witchcraft, astrology, the occult in every form, and exotic oriental religions will enjoy equality with the true worship of God in America. Dope addicts and sex perverts will vaunt themselves against God’s true saints. **Many churches will be taken over by homosexuals and other perverts who will claim to be Spirit-filled.** Many preachers will quit using God’s Word to any great extent, and refuse to stand up against the perverts who invade the churches. Persecution will arise simultaneously against those preachers and saints who stand up for Holiness and the True Word of God.

**In the midst of these abominations and perversions there will only be several strong voices of true men of God who will cry out, nationally, against these things and stand up against them.** My son, here is the sad part of this revelation — many professing Spirit-filled Christians will turn back as these troubles arise, and will accept antichristian doctrines and follow false prophets.”

## THE SCRIPTURES VERIFY THE VISION

**God reveals His secrets unto His servants the prophets.** Amos 3:7. A vision’s validity is established only by being in harmony with the prophecies of the Holy scriptures. “No prophecy of the scriptures is of any private interpretation.” II Pet. 1:20. “And God hath set some in the church ... prophets ...” I Cor. 12:28. A prophet’s vision must harmonize with the word and revelation of the Bible prophets. The timing of a prophecy or vision must be by revelation from the Lord — not a wild or educated guess. Here’s the vision from Joel the prophet’s revelation of the rising storm: “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion; and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand. A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people



and a strong: there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations." Joel 2:1-2. Here **God says to blow the trumpet to wake up the church** because a dark and gloomy day is approaching — the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is not just one day on the calendar but a period of time of about 3 1/2 years which will culminate in our Lord's return with the armies of heaven. Zechariah 14:5; Revelation 19:14. The prophet in verse 2 speaks of an invasion of a strong people during the great spiritual darkness arising upon the end-time generation. The "army," described from verses 3 through 11 which overruns all of civilization is the world-wide followers of the antichrist — composed of rebel bands of dope addicts, sex perverts, and religious apostates which will assault and overthrow all world governments simultaneously — to enthroned the antichrist as god-emperor of a new world-government! This is corroborated in Habakkuk 1:1-11. The prophet then continues his vision of the Gathering Storm in Joel 2:3: "A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them." The rebels of our sick society have sworn to burn our cities and all that the former generations have built. Here is the prophecy — the burning of a civilization flourishing like the garden of Eden — leaving nothing but desolation behind them. All these prognostications will literally be fulfilled in the approaching darkness and storm of violence (Verse 4): "The appearance of them is **as** the appearance of horses and **as** horsemen, so shall they run." Horses and horsemen in prophetic vision are spirits or demons. Zech. 6:5; Rev. 9:7. These militants so depicted in the army of the antichrist are demon possessed. Their appearance is **like** the noise of chariots — **as** a strong people in battle array — like the noise of a flame of fire. Verse 5. They only "appear" like a disciplined army equipped for conflict and destruction. "They shall run **like** mighty men; they shall climb the wall **like** men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks." Joel 2:7. These lawless ones who follow the antichrist will resemble an organized army — but, their forces have been marshalled by the spirit of antichrist to destroy and overcome all authority. "They will not break their ranks" — thus this army of rebels and terrorists are graphically described to be well organized for world-wide revolution. "Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. **They shall run to and fro in the city they shall run upon the wall; they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.**" Joel 2:8-9. Here is a panoramic view, graphically detailed of the complete subjugation of our society as described in Isaiah 3 by the rising army of degenerates, cut-throats, and terrorists. Generals, police captains, judges,

preachers, businessmen, scientists, lawyers, and politicians will all capitulate before the violence and terror. Read the Isaiah 3 account we used in an earlier chapter of this message — verses 2-5. **The antichrist's weapon of subjugation will be terror!**

### **A STORM RISES GRADUALLY**

Many confused and blind teachers and preachers relate all this travail to the Great Tribulation, or the day of Christ's return, or just to Israel. Don't you believe it, people of God. I know the greater fulfillment in verse 11 of Joel 2 relates to the Day of God's wrath and the return of Jesus Christ — but, remember a storm rises gradually — And, so does the terrible violence of Joel's vision. Jesus said in Matthew 24:8, "All these are the beginning of sorrows," referring to wars, commotions, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. Preceding the greater fury and destruction of a storm, there are thunderings, lightnings, rising winds, and the waves of the sea arising to lash the shore. The antichrist's army of revolutionists will hate God, the Bible, and all true Christians. This army is called God's army in Joel 2:11. God will employ them to bring persecution and chastening to the church of this generation — to purge and make it white. Following on the heels of the beginning of these sorrows Jesus warned, **"Then shall they deliver you** (i.e., Christians) up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And **then** shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." Matt. 24:9-10. The introductory word "then" points the prophetic finger of Jesus Christ to our very generation — a generation that will see all the "beginning of sorrows" caused by false prophets, wars, commotions, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes of unprecedented magnitude. Beloved, we must be made aware of all these sorrows being intensified by prophetic fulfillment. "Verily I say unto you, **This generation** shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." Matt. 24:34. And we are "that" generation and the only generation that shall see all these sorrows come upon the world in one lifetime. "But he that shall endure **unto the end**, the same shall be saved." Matt. 24:13.

### **THE ANTICHRIST & FALSE PROPHET ARE ARISING AS REJECTION & REBELLION AGAINST GOD'S WORD INCREASE**

The U.S. and the world just beheld on TV a giant preview of the hypnotic powers the antichrist will possess! This vivid portrayal of the spirit of antichrist hard at work to bewitch and deceive earth's masses was demonstrated through Pope John Paul II as he visited America in October (1979). This man, as the false prophet of Revela-

tion 13, was unveiled before the bewildering eyes of God's true saints and elect. **The Antichrist is now rising out of the cauldron of violence and revolution in the Middle East, (i.e., out of anarchy, Rev. 13:1) — the False Prophet out of organized religion.** Rev. 13:11. The turbulence is now building into a terrible storm as this dire prophecy comes to pass: **"And all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon (i.e., Satan) which gave power unto the beast (i.e., the antichrist): And they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast (the antichrist)? Who is able to make war with him?"** Rev. 13:4.

The world's masses has virtually worshipped him already — world leaders, preachers, the mighty and the weak call the Pope "Your Holiness," or "Holy Father", or bow to him and kiss his ringin obeisance. This is blasphemy to God who alone is worthy of such respect and worship. Read John 17:11. "And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth." Rev. 13:11. This is a revelation of the false prophet who has finally been unveiled! However, the false prophet can perform no miracles until his collaboration with the antichrist, the arising world ruler, has been accomplished. **This shocking prophetic fulfillment will occur within the next 3 years!** "And (the false prophet) deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast (i.e., Antichrist).", Rev. 13:14. And: "The devil (or dragon) gave him (i.e., the antichrist) his power, and his seat (or throne), and great authority." Rev. 13:2; cf. Rev. 19:20.

**Just think — in a few months, a beast out of hell, having seven terrible slashing heads with which to wreak destruction and persecution upon God's saints, will be loose among us.** "And it was given unto him (antichrist, i.e.) to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Rev. 13:7. Pope John Paul II will continue to charm and enchant multiplied millions, setting them up for the grand coup de grace of seduction, when he will be joined by the antichrist.

### **A FINAL WARNING FROM THE HOLY GHOST**

We must be led by the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, and live in the Spirit to be able to endure the emerging pressures resulting from the Gathering Storm. There are no ports of safety to which we can flee from the rising storm — no immunity from the fear, spiritual darkness, and physical deprivations. The only safety lies in the Bible exhortation — "Be led by the Spirit!" (Gal. 5:18) and "Fear the Lord, ye his saints." (Psalms 34:9) For: **"Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy. To deliver their soul from death, and to keep the alive in famine."**

Psalms 33:18-19. Also read Phil. 2:12; Matt. 10:28; Acts 9:31; Psalms 91:4-16. God will say (Isa. 26:20-21): **"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."**

The Lord emphatically confirmed the following vision to me in July 1970. After I had preached in a revival service one night, a group of fifteen Christians with my wife and I went to a restaurant to eat. We returned after the fellowship supper to our apartment about 12:30 midnight. While my wife and daughter prepared for bed, exhaustedly I fell across a couch to relax for a few moments, and was carried by the Spirit into a vision back to the restaurant we had just left. In the vision, with the group of Christians seated around three combined tables, we were just receiving our food from the waitresses when the Spirit of God spoke to me and said, "Don't touch that food. Pay the check quickly and get My people out of this place." I said, "But why Lord?" The Spirit replied, "There's a bomb planted in this place by an irate employee that will detonate in 5 minutes—get out of here quickly." I looked around and saw that the restaurant was filled to capacity — and a sign on the wall read — seating capacity 109.

Well, I argued with the Lord about the situation, protesting, "Shall not I warn the others who are in here?" Then the Spirit replied, "No. They will mock you and laugh you to scorn. Get **My People** out of this place quickly — you only have three minutes left." I related the warning to the group, then we quietly paid our bill and moved quickly to our cars and out into the wide boulevard on which the restaurant was located. Then just as we were barely a safe distance away as we looked behind us, the restaurant exploded with a flash of fiery destruction and death.

Immediately, I was out of the Spirit as the vision ended and the Spirit spoke to me with a most somber warning: "You remember this vision, and tell My people everywhere I send you that they must be led by My Spirit, and obey My Words, or they will be involved with their families in the terror that is arising — riots, with violence of all kinds — storms and tornadoes — earthquakes and food shortages. Tell my people to live holy and fear me — then will I warn them of the dangers arising in the descending storm and darkness — to deliver them." Read Isaiah 43:2.

**God's hand is writing on the wall as in Daniel 5 — writing that the judgments of God are soon to fall upon a nation, weighed in the balances and found wanting.** And, as God's prophet, we are reading the handwriting accurately, and warning God's people and our nation.

The End.

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## — The Only Way to Divine Favor! — TRUE REPENTANCE

Is there a shortcut to God's favor, to eternal life? The answer is NO, but the average person who only hears the bargain counter offers by religionists in the pulpit, on radio, TV, and by the printed page would never know the sobering truth about this grave matter of heaven or hell! God and the Bible are very un-American! About all our fellow Americans and the English speaking world about us hear is juicy grace, love, and "just believe" as God's demands for eternal life from sweet, soothsaying evangelists and pastors. But I want to warn you, ladies and gentlemen, this soothsaying kind of preaching is not the whole truth — and, half truths will not save us! **God warns: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."** Prov. 14:12. Jesus warned also: "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:14.

### REPENT OR PERISH!

Jesus Christ warned all would-be disciples: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. 5. The theme of the Old and New Testaments is "repent"! The apostles preached "that men should repent." Mark 6:12. And: "**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.**" Acts 3:19. Also: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; **but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.**" Acts 17:30. And further: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, **but that all should come to repentance.**" II Pet. 3:9. The Holy Scriptures of the Bible which is God's True Word teach from cover to cover: Repent or Perish! There is no exception — God has made the rules — He will not accept any person as His son or daughter who does not truly repent! Every person must repent and be converted, or perish in the lake of fire.

**Remember the story of Jonah?** The real theme of the scripture story is lost in the magnification of the prophet's 3-day ride in the belly of a whale. God sent Jonah to preach His last message to a corrupt and violent nation: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." Jonah 3:4. The results: "And God saw their **works, that they turned from their evil way;** and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not." Jonah 3:10. Listen to Jesus' words about this historical event of such vital con-

sequence: "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because **they repented at the preaching of Jonas**; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." Matt. 12:41. The warning: Repent, or perish in hell!

### WHAT IS TRUE REPENTANCE?

God's Word warns: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but **whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**" Prov. 28:13. TRUE REPENTANCE is not just believing and confessing! **True repentance means to forsake and give up our sins after we confess them to the Lord.** The beginning of True Repentance is "to change our mind." The Prodigal Son, in the hog pen and a long way from God, "when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son." Luke 15:17-19. He changed his mind — He quit his sinning — He truly repented! "Confessing" and "Believing" as we hear it preached in today's sick Christian Culture is worthless without Repentance. **If we really believe God's Word about Death, Hell and the Judgment, we will repent — that is, we'll quit sinning and live godly in Christ Jesus.** I John 3: 6-10; II Cor. 5:17. A new creature in Christ will live soberly, righteously, and godly (now) **in this present world.**" Titus 2:11-12.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: **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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Isa. 55:6-8. This is the epitomization of true repentance: Let the sinner or wicked person give up his ways and thoughts to accept God's holy ways and thoughts!

Jesus rebuked the religious leaders, his constant antagonists, thusly: "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John (the Baptist) came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, **repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.**" Matt. 21:31-32. Christ's order: "Repent first, and then believe the gospel" unto eternal life. Mark 1:15.

### GOD'S LOVE

The Holy Ghost cried out: "Despiseth thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering: **not knowing that the**

**goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"** Rom. 2:4. God's love ever leads men to repentance because as God has said: "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you." Isa. 59:2. Also: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezek. 18:4. And: "**Fools make a mock at sin.**" Prov. 14:9. Sin is not a trifle with God — it's a tragedy! Sin will ruin, destroy, and send a soul to hell. So God pleads in love: "**Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions;** so iniquity shall not be your ruin." Ezek. 18:30. God's messenger, the Apostle Peter, cried out in God's love: "**Repent, ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.**" Acts 3:19. God puts our sins under the blood of Jesus, and covers us from His wrath (to be revealed in the day of the great judgment), when we turn from our old sinful life in true repentance. Rom. 5:8-9. This is God's love manifested! Titus 3:3-5.

### CONVICTION

God has warned every person, saint and sinner: "My spirit shall not always strive with man." Gen. 6:3. Also: "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." I Cor. 12:3. Jesus warned: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6:44. This is Holy Ghost conviction of sin that leads to repentance.

Jesus foretold His disciples: "And when he (i.e., the Holy Ghost) is come, **he will reprove the world of sin** (i.e., convict of sin), and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. Holy Ghost conviction is the only way to true repentance: "For godly sorrow (i.e., regret through Holy Ghost conviction) **worketh repentance to salvation** not to be repented of: but the sorrow (i.e., regret) of the world worketh death (i.e., eternal death)." II Cor. 7:10. Holy Ghost conviction makes a sinner miserable in his sins before God, and leads him to repentance and eternal life in Christ — but, the sorrow or regret of a sinner that is just sorry because his sins have caught up with him, leads to hell. The Holy Ghost will convict a sinner of his lying, stealing, cursing, immorality, gambling, drinking of alcoholic beverages, smoking, hatred, and all other sins. These all must be forsaken at the foot of the Cross of Christ **before** He comes into our hearts to abide. Rev. 3:19-20; Eph. 3:17.

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Grace (Heb. 10:29) He convicts all men of sin and points the way to God, but all men do not repent nor believe on Jesus Christ to be saved. Jesus contended with a group of religionists who were "convicted by their own conscience" (John 8:9) and yet they repented not nor believed on Him. God does not overrule an individual's will — he can accept or reject God's offer of mercy.

The apostles doctrine was: "Testifying both to the Jews, and also

to the Greeks, **repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**" Acts 20:21. First, a sinner repents to God the Father, and then in faith turns to Jesus Christ for His eternal life. Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." John 15:1. Also: "In him there is no sin." I John 3:5.

### RESTITUTION

Jesus gave His disciples this commission: "And that **repentance and remission of sins** should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem." Luke 24:47. Why isn't it preached on radio, TV, and in the pulpits of our land? Because True Repentance is too all-embracing in terms of unconditionally surrendering to God and Christ. It includes believing, trusting, receiving — but also, first giving up selfishness, egotism, sin, fleshly lusts, and pleasures of this world — and, restitution for our past crooked ways! An all-embracing miracle of God's grace!

The first message of this age of grace (by John the Baptist) was: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, **make his paths straight ... Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance ...** I indeed baptize you with water ... He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Luke 3:4, 8, 16. Jesus' first message was: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**" Mark 1:15.

Repentance to God includes "making his paths straight" — that is, straighten up your past life of sins committed against your fellow man. God forgives our (past) sins against Him when we repent, but we must seek our neighbor's or enemy's forgiveness whom we have wronged, **where it is possible!** When Zaccheus was saved, he stood before Jesus and said; "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house." Luke 19:8-9. This is true repentance!

In the great revival of Ephesus as the Apostle Paul preached, "**Many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.** Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. **So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.**" Acts 19:18-20. Praise God! These are the fruits of true repentance also! Don't tell me you repented — show me, John insisted. Matt. 3:8.

### A REPENTED LIFE

**God demands a repented life.** "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to



**your shame.”** I Cor. 15:34. A repented life is a life hid in Christ: **“Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.”** I John 3:6. True repentance means to “quit sinning” — remember? I Pet. 4:1-2; Prov. 28:13. The only way to walk with God, the only way to divine favor is through a repented life. God has spoken: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, **and turn from their wicked ways** (i.e., truly repent); then will I hear from heaven, **and will forgive their sin**, and will heal their land.” II Chron. 7:14. God does not forgive a man’s sins by confession only — but by the forsaking of his sins!

God’s message to the church of Jesus Christ in today’s Laodicean, lukewarm age is Repent or Perish! Jesus gave the Apostle John His message to the seven churches of Revelation 2 & 3: “What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia.” Rev. 1:11. These churches are symbolic of spiritual conditions in the Lord’s church of today. Five churches were commanded by Christ to Repent because they were lukewarm, dead, fallen from their first love, were filled with immorality, or were teaching doctrines that were heresy. Only the persecuted church of Smyrna (Rev. 2:10) and the church of Philadelphia “which has kept the word of my patience” (Rev. 3:10) were not commanded by Christ to repent. **The church of today is not being persecuted nor keeping “the word of Christ’s patience.”** So God’s message in the thundering voice of God’s Prophet is **Repent or Perish, Church.**

**A true man of God will preach repentance!** The word of the Lord came to the church of old through the prophet: “I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: **no man repented him of his wickedness**, saying, What have I done? ... Thou hast forsaken me, saith the Lord, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee ... I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways.” Jer. 8:6; 15:6-7. Again through His prophet God cried out to His people who were not living a repented life: “I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.” Amos 4:11-12. Soothsaying preachers proclaim God’s peace, love, and blessing upon an idolatrous, rebellious church in today’s Sick Society — a church that is not repentant toward God — but, God is going to judge His Church severely, chastening it back to true repentance and to its first love. Rev. 3:19. God has warned: “I am the Lord, I change not.” Mal. 3:6.

## FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

What is the Bible evidence or fruit that shows the authenticity of a professed repented life unto the Lord? As John the Baptist demanded, "Don't tell me you repented — show me. Bring forth fruit that prove you have repented that is true Bible evidence." Matt. 3:8-10. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things (i.e. sin and works of the flesh) are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. I can tell a new creature in Christ afar off!

Water baptism is right and is an act of obedience to God (Acts 2:38), but it is not a substitute for repentance. Church membership is fine (to join some churches), but this is not salvation nor repentance. Preachers by the thousands will circumvent repentance and true salvation as Jesus said: "They compass sea and land to make one proselyte (i.e., church member), and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." Matt. 23:15. **Water baptism and church membership have become symbols of salvation and eternal life in today's idolatrous and world-conforming, Laodicean church.**

A new creature in Christ, a repented man or woman will manifest the fruit of his turning away from his sins and iniquities: He will quit cursing, he will quit lying, he will throw his cigarettes and liquor and beer away, he will quit going to cocktail bars and dance halls, he or she will quit dressing like the world (nudely and sexily), and in one word, he will adhere to the holy lifestyle of God's Word in every detail as he receives the knowledge of the Truth! This includes doing many "new" things: Going to church, praying, reading God's Word, witnessing, tithing and giving, loving the Lord and His true disciples. **Read Col. 3:1-25!** All these fruit of repentance are listed in this one wonderful chapter of God's True Uncompromising Word!

## A SECOND CHANCE TO REPENT?

Jesus told the story of a wealthy church member who would not live a repented life, that died and went to hell as recorded in Luke 16:19-31. In the torment of hell's flames he cried out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." This rich man would have given all his wealth a million times over to have been offered God's mercy and eternal life through true repentance once again — but alas, that opportunity had passed him by forever! "There's a great gulf between Hell and Paradise that Lazarus cannot pass over to you nor you to him," replied Father Abraham. The tormented rich man pleaded further: "I pray you father, send Lazarus to my father's house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify to them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets (i.e., they have preachers and the Bible); let them hear them."

Now, hear this plea from an inmate of hell who refused to repent in his God-given lifetime opportunities: "Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent." Verse 30. Would they? The answer is NO! **If dead men on furlough out of the regions of the lost, out of the pit of hell — if they could persuade men to repent, God in His love and compassion would send them to preach!** So Abraham replied to this rich man in hell, to his last desperate plea: "If they (i.e., your brothers) hear not Moses and the prophets (i.e., the preaching of God's Word in which he demands that men repent or perish), neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Verse 31. This is not a fable nor a funny story from the lips of Jesus Christ, but the true biographical sketch of the tragic ending of a man who would not repent, to live a repented life.

God implores the sinner and His rebellious son or daughter to "Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions ... For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord: wherefore turn yourselves (i.e., repent), and live ye." Ezek. 18:30-32. Jesus calls in compassion to all those who have sinned: "I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: **for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**" Matt. 9:13. And again: "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7.

As a true servant of God, I close with this warning: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 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." II Tim. 2:24-26. Now is the time for every sinner and erring Christian to repent — tomorrow, or next month, or next year may be too late." Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-27.

The End.

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### WHY AMERICA HAS BEEN GREAT

About 35 years ago, President Roosevelt sent Roger Babson, his economic adviser, as a personal envoy to the President of Argentina. While in the midst of economic discussion, the president suddenly directed a question to Mr. Babson, asking, "What do you think the reasons are for the superiority the United States has over Latin America in economic conditions. We have equal weather and climate, population, mountains, plains, waterfalls, rivers, and oceans — yet, America is so much further advanced than us in every way." Mr. Babson replied, "Mr. President, you tell me what you think are the reasons."

The President of Argentina reflected a moment and then answered Mr. Babson: "I have studied the histories of both Latin America and the United States well. This is my honest belief as to why America is greater than Latin America — Latin America was discovered and settled by the Spanish conquistadores in search of gold. America was founded and settled by the Pilgrims in search of God."

## THE BACKSLIDER

No greater or more profound truism or philosophy has ever been penned than God's definition of a backslider: "**The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways:** and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." Proverbs 14:14. Let me paraphrase that in other terminology: "A backslidden man or woman's heart is full of his own ways — not God's, but God will keep a Christian who lives a humble life from backsliding." Amen!

**WHO IS A BACKSLIDER? The definition of "to backslide" is:** "To slide back into wrongdoing; gradually return to old habits or practices especially forbidden by Biblical authority." Therefore, a backslider, by Bible definition, is a person who goes back into sin or rebellion against God's Word after having been saved or converted to Jesus Christ. Backsliding is usually gradual as a Christian drifts back into his old habits and sins. But here is a profound revelation: A person who has been saved or born again, then goes back to his own ways and old ways, is backslid whether he admits it or not! If we are filled with our own desires and ways, we have departed from the living God. God warns New Testament Christians: "(Your) fathers would not obey (God), but thrust Him from them, and **in their hearts** turned back again into Egypt (i.e., the world)." Acts 7:39. And again the Holy Ghost warns Christ's disciples: "Take heed, **brethren**, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, **in departing** from the living God." Heb. 3:12. A backslider in his heart shall be filled with his own ways — not God's ways, and he will live lustfully and sinfully.

**There are degrees of backsliding as a wretched spiritual condition before God.** Lukewarmness and world-conformity are symptomatic of a backslider's true spiritual condition. The first step in backsliding for a Christian, however, is: In heart to seek to have your way, and refuse to submit to God's ways as the Bible commands — to reject the counsel of God's Word to live holy. God has cried out to His backslidden people: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Isa. 55:8. Also, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Isa 59:2. Sin and rebellion against God's ways will sever a Christian from the Lord's fellowship and from the divine nature he received in Christ. John 8:31; Heb. 6:4-8; Judges 16:20; I Sam. 16:14; Rom. 8:12-13.

### STUMBLINGBLOCKS

God exclaimed to the prophet: "My people are bent to backsliding from me ... O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity ... (but) I will heal their backsliding." Hosea 11:7;

14:1, 4. The Church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-21) was backslidden, for they were filled with their own ways, so Christ warned them: "I will spue you out of my mouth." These church members knew the conditions of salvation as set forth in the scriptures: "For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.**" Heb. 3:14. Christ's offer of forgiveness to a backslider, His conditions for a return to divine favor, is only through True Repentance. "Remember therefore from whence **thou art fallen, and repent**, and do the first works." Rev. 2:5. The backslidden church at Sardis "had a name that they professed, but were dead (spiritually)." Rev. 3:1.

Jesus has foretold his disciples: "It is impossible but that offences (i.e., causes to stumble and fall) will come: but woe unto him through whom they come. It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend (cause to stumble) one of these little ones (i.e., Christ's disciples)." Luke 17:1-2. These stumblingblocks or causes of backsliding to Christ's disciples, are professing Christians who lead them away from full submission to God's Word. The apostle described these who cause God's people to fall away: "O foolish Galatians, **who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth ...** Who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? ... I would they were even cut off (i.e., drop dead) which trouble you ... Christ is become of no effect unto you, whoseever of you are justified by the law; **Ye are fallen from grace.**" Gal. 3:1; 5:4, 7, 12. Dishonest and soothsaying preachers, together with phony Christians "cause many to stumble." Mal. 2:8. "To stumble" is to fall from God's grace — the extremity of a backslidden condition.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus warned of other stumblingblocks. "He that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word (of God), and anon with joy receiveth it. Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the Word, by and by he is offended (i.e., he stumbles and falls — backslides)." Matt. 13:20-21. In Luke's account of this parable, the warning reads thusly: "They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.**" Luke 8:13. Temptation to the lusts of the flesh and disobedience to God's Word is many-faceted, but God's Spirit does not fellowship a backslider whose heart is filled with his own ways. **Spiritual pride and rebellion also precede backsliding:** "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18. Also: "He giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, **but giveth grace unto the humble.** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. (Then to the

haughty backslider God admonishes) **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners: and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded.** Be afflicted, and mourn and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up." James 4:6-10. This is true repentance. God's grace keeps the humble, trusting Christian from stumbling into sin and backsliding. Rom. 5:1-2; Jude 20-24. Many believers, however, receive the grace of God in vain, sadly to say. II Cor. 6:1; I Cor. 15:1-2.

### **CONDITION OF A BACKSLIDER**

The father of the prodigal son (who had devoured his father's living with harlots — Verse 30), said to his elder son, brother of the prodigal, at his return: "It was meet that we should make merry and be glad: **for this thy brother was dead** (i.e., spiritually), and is alive again; **and was lost** (i.e., did not have eternal life), and is found." Luke 15:32; also verse 24.

**A backslider, who is filled in heart with his own ways, is just as lost as a sinner who has never known God — he is "dead" and "lost"!**

**Christ doesn't leave us — we leave Him!** When? When we quit listening to His voice, quit obeying His Word, and go back to our old evil habits and sins. John 10:27-29. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ." (Rom. 8:35). No one but ourselves, when we become rebellious and sinful — not living in God's Grace, but in Sin's Disgrace! God is no respecter of persons either, "but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." Acts 10:34-35. Any professing Christian who does not live holy is backslid, and lost! God asks, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. No! "Take heed, **brethren**, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, **in departing from the living God.**" Heb. 3:12.

### **NO FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

A backslider will not produce the real fruit of the (Holy) Spirit. **"For the fruit of the Spirit is in** (i.e., is produced in) **all goodness and righteousness and truth.**" Eph. 5:9. In speaking to His disciples about the relationship of fruit-bearing to eternal life, Jesus warned: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he (the Father) taketh away ... I am the vine, ye are the branches ... If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15:1-6. Note the three vividly portrayed truths introduced here by Jesus: My Father cuts an offending branch out of me, the vine — and you, My

disciples are the branches. And, every branch or disciple that beareth not fruit or abideth not in me is cut off and burned. "**Whosoever abideth in him (Christ) sinneth not.**" I John 3:6. How can any revelation of the Word of God be more categorically set forth in understanding? Sin in a Christian's life renders him fruitless, self-willed, and rejected by the Lord — for he is backslidden. **Only** true repentance can restore such an one to divine favor and a return to true fruit bearing. John 15:4-5, 7.

The Holy Ghost has warned Christ's disciples: "Therefore, **brethren**, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. **For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die** (i.e., spiritually): but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live (i.e., eternally)." Rom. 8:12-13. And further God's warning proceeds: "Well, because of unbelief they (i.e., Israel) were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear (i.e., fear God): For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. **Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God:** on them which fell severity; but toward thee goodness, **if thou continue in his goodness** (God's grace is conditional), **otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.**" Rom. 11:22-24. God's grace and love is offered to the backslider freely, however, only upon God's conditions: "And they also, **if they abide not still in unbelief** (in heart), shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again." Verse 23. Also to backslidden church members whom He spewed out of His mouth, Christ entreated mercifully! "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness (and) unto salvation." Rom. 10:10.

Unbelief in God's Word — i.e., in the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is an intolerable sin with the Lord. Heb. 11:6. "Let us **labour** therefore to enter into that rest, **lest any man fall** after the same example of unbelief." Heb. 4:11. Erring from the truth of God's Word is a lost state of backsliding, and the end will be fatal as the Apostle James warned: "**Brethren**, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner (i.e., the sinning brother) from the error of his way **shall save a soul from death** (i.e., eternal death), and shall hide a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20.

### LET GOD BE TRUE

"Yea, let God (i.e., His Word) be true, but every man a liar." Rom. 3:4. Amen! Praise God! How can Christians reject the warnings of the Word of God about backsliding and not fear the penalty exacted of their sins and rebellion which are so vividly set forth? "Follow peace with all men, **and holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Looking diligently **lest any man fail of the grace of God**; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person (i.e., a person with no regard for God's holiness), as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: **for he found no place for repentance**, though he sought it carefully with tears." Heb. 12:14-17.

The Holy Ghost warns every Christian with carefulness: "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the (i.e., God's) adversaries." Heb. 10:26-27; also verses 28-31. The warning says, unequivocally: If a Christian ignores or rejects the warnings of the Word of God and of the Holy Ghost to live a holy life, and returns wilfully to his old habits and sins which the Holy Scriptures forbid — there is no forgiveness for that backslider's sins! "He hath (sinned) despite unto the Spirit of grace (i.e., the Holy Ghost's warnings)?" Verse 29.

### GOD'S ELECTION

I believe in the election of God by Grace! "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God." I Thess. 1:4. "Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him?" Luke 18:7. Also: "Israel (is) mine elect." Isa. 45:4. And: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, **unto obedience** and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." I Pet. 1:2. Read also Rom. 8:28-33; 9:11; 11:5-7; Matt. 24:22-31; Eph. 1:4-7. The church is God's elect! The body of Christ!

God's "election" is saved by obedience even after they are called or elected by the Lord. Jesus warned His elect: "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen (i.e., many are rejected after they were called)." Matt. 20:16. We, as a Christian, must obey God's Word to qualify to remain in God's elect: "**Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things** (i.e., be obedient to God's Word), **Ye shall never fall.**" II Peter 1:10. God's elect can fall or backslide and still be lost. To the Jews and Gentiles in God's elect the Holy Ghost has warned: "Because of unbelief they (the Jews) were broken off ... Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, **if thou continue in his goodness** (i.e., full obedience): **otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.** Be not highminded but fear (i.e., don't boast of your eternal security which is based conditionally on fully obeying God's Word)." Rom. 11:20-22. The warning; "**Wherefore let him that**



thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall (i.e., backslide and be lost)." I Cor. 10:12.

"The gifts and **calling of God** are without repentance." Rom. 11:29. The "gifts" are not the 9 spiritual gifts, but the 5 ministerial gifts — and the calling of God to eternal life, through His foreknowledge, is as the scriptures reveal: "According as he hath chosen us in him (i.e., Christ) before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame** before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Eph. 1:4-7. The choice of God's elect is by grace — but to remain in that illustrious group of "called out ones," our election is determined solely upon our Obedience! Israel, nationally, was God's first "elect", but their rebellion against God's Word and subsequent rejection is **our** example: "Now these things were our example (i.e., what happened to God's elect, the church in the wilderness), to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. **Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition** ... Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I Cor. 10:6-11. Ladies and Gentlemen, You can fall from grace — You can be lost and lose your election even though you have once walked with God in Christ's grace! Jude 5-6.

### THE BOOK OF LIFE

"Whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world." Rev. 17:8; 13:8. God's elect had their names written in the Book of Life before the very creation of man! Eph. 1:4; Psa. 139:16. But beloved, there will be many names which were inscribed initially in the Book of Life, that only a blot will remain in remembrance at the judgment seat of God. Here is Christ's warning to the election: "He that overcometh (i.e., the world, sin, the flesh, and the devil), the same shall be clothed in white raiment; **and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life**, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Rev. 3:5.

When God's church in the wilderness, which is our example, sinned grievously against the Lord by corrupting themselves in rev-

elling and in the worship of their golden calf, Moses made intercession into the Lord for them: "Moses said unto the Lord: 'Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin —; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.'" Exodus 32:31-32.

God's elect are written in the Book of Life, remember, from the foundation of the world. However, listen to this amazing revelation in God's reply to Moses' passionate intercession in the behalf of God's elect: "And the Lord said unto Moses, **Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.**" Verse 33. What a warning! Thousands ignore this revelation, however, choosing to believe "God doesn't do this anymore." How foolish and stupid! God says, "I change not." Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8.

### **DEFILING GOD'S TEMPLE**

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own." I Cor. 6:19. Also: "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Cor. 3:17. **The Spirit of God will leave a Christian when he consistently defiles His temple which is the (Christian's) body.** II Cor. 6:14-18.

Jesus said of the Holy Ghost: "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." John 14:15-16. The conditions of the Holy Ghost's abiding presence is "keeping my (Christ's) commandments." Also I John 2:3-4. The Holy Ghost has said of Christ: "And being made perfect, **he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.**" Heb. 5:9. The Holy Ghost's presence is the seal upon a true Christian's life. Eph 1:13-14. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 1:4); also, the Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:29). When a believer in Christ departs from God's commandments, his heart filled with his own ways, and he returns to his old sins and unclean habits, the Spirit of grace (Holy Ghost) leaves that backslidden Christian! (Gal. 2:17-18).

As the Holy Scriptures exhort God's elect: "Put on (these) therefore, **as the elect of God** holy and beloved." Col. 3:12. (Read the whole chapter). Beloved, we don't have to grow cold, lukewarm, and backslidden. Let's heed God's admonition: Watch out for the little foxes that spoil our vines. Songs of Sol. 2:15. If you are a backslider or in a backsliding condition, turn to the Lord. God calls in compassion to every backslidden son and daughter: "**Return**, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings." Jer. 3:22. Also: "Let him (i.e., the backslider) forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy