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"Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel*; For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives." Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

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"ESSAYS ON SECRET AND FAMILY WORSHIP"

Restoring the Christian Life, pt 1

by Rev. Brian M. Abshire, Ph.D.

The Requirement For Secret & Family Worship

"And these words which I am commanding you today shall be on your heart and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead and you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates..." Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

The passage from Deuteronomy six, cited above, comes immediately after the second giving of the Law in chapter five. The Moral Law was to be the foundation of the Hebrew life, and the believer was to immerse himself in this law throughout his daily activities. The Law was to be "on" their "hearts;" God has never had much time for people who simply go through a religious ritual. He has always wanted His people to love Him and obey Him from the "heart" (see Hosea 6:6; John 4:23-24).

One of the problems of course is that many Christians do not really understand what the Bible means by the word "heart." When we use the word "heart" today, we usually mean something like a deep and passionate emotion about something. If a young man says to a young woman, "I love you will all my heart" he is saying that his feelings for her are powerful and sincere. But the Bible does not use this word in this way. The "heart" in both Hebrew and Greek thinking was never the seat of emotions (they used the word "bowels" for "feelings" which, if you think about it, is physically where you intensely feel something).

Instead, the "heart" was considered the essence of a man's being; what he really was, deep down inside. The Bible, unlike modern culture, never sees a Man's feelings to be his "true" or "real" or intrinsic nature but rather that his feelings flow from what he is like in his heart. Our feelings never define who we are, but rather show WHAT we are, deep down inside; a subtle but important distinction.

Thus when Moses in Deuteronomy 6:6 says that God wants the Hebrews to have His Law "on" their "hearts" he is not saying that God expects them to have a certain emotional response towards Him, but rather that right down deep inside, at the very core of their beings, they are to have the Law at the center of who and what they are. In other words, every thought, every feeling, every word, and every action was to stem from a heart that was controlled by the Law.

God then requires that His Law was to be taught diligently to one's sons, discussed when sitting down in one's house or even when walking (or driving) down the road. The Law of God was supposed to be the last thing they thought about when they went to sleep at night, and the first thing they thought about when they awoke in the morning. Throughout every waking moment, a godly man was supposed to constantly think about the Law of God and how it applied to his life.

If Hebrew history is examined carefully, it can be shown that all of Israel's problems can be traced back to a failure to follow this most fundamental principle. Again and again, no matter what great deeds God might have done for them, the next generation invariably fell into apostasy and incurred God's wrath and judgment. It is no stretch to consider that the reason WHY they fell into sin and judgment was because the people forgot or neglected to meditate on the Law of God. It certainly appears as if fathers did not diligently teach their sons, presumably because they themselves did not think about the Law throughout their day. After all, they "loved" God and appreciated all the great things He had done for them; they offered the sacrifices and met in the required holy assemblies. But what they did NOT do was spend daily time in meditating on His Law; they offered Him rituals, often sincerely performed,

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instead of what He really wanted from them. And as a result, they made life decisions based on their own wisdom, rather than God's, leading to disaster after disaster.

This principle of constant reviewing of the Law of God and relating that law to every aspect of life is so basic, so fundamental to everything else God expects from us, that having to encourage Christians to have "secret" worship makes about as much sense as reminding people they have to breathe! Yet, this is what the Proverbs do continuously in the first few chapters. Again and again, the phrase, "*My son, give attention to my words*" is repeated. Clearly Solomon saw the need to exhort his readers to pay careful attention to the wisdom of God as revealed in the Law.

And for what it is worth, in my experience over the past thirty years since coming to faith in Christ, (twenty four of them as a pastor), we still have the same problem today. Many Christians just do not have regular, set times of "secret" or "family" worship where the Law of God is considered, discussed and then applied to their lives. As a pastor in broad evangelical churches, I ran into resistance time and time again, usually from those who had grown up in the faith, when I exhorted them to have "secret" and "family" worship; at best they might agree that it might be a "good" thing to do, but often they never got beyond an intellectual agreement; it was "good" but often not considered "necessary."

At worst, they sometimes fought me "tooth and nail" perhaps because they were offended that my emphasis on secret and family worship suggested that there was something deficient in their practice of Christianity; since they didn't already do it, therefore, it couldn't really be all that important! After all, they loved God, sang with gusto, prayed with passion and made all the required meetings of the church! Now I was coming along and adding some new burden to their lives!

The "best" families in the average evangelical church MAY have had a little "devotional," usually reading from some booklet at breakfast or after supper; that is if they could get the entire family together for a meal. but even this "devotional" usually took less than five minutes and had no real substance other than offering the most general platitudes; platitudes that while true, were far short of what God requires in Deuteronomy 6. God does not say, "Toss me a crumb once a day and I'll be happy" but rather "think about My Law constantly every moment of every day and diligently teach your children how to do the same."

Joshua 1:8 carries the same thought, "*This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate on it day and night...*" God actually REQUIRES and EXPECTS that His people will on a moment by moment basis, consciously strive to bring their thoughts, words and deeds into humble conformity with His will. And the means He has commanded for us to use is *meditating* on His Law (we'll discuss what we mean by "meditation" in a moment). And yet, the average evangelical Christian simply found it too difficult, too inconvenient to set aside even a few minutes each day to spend some focused time thinking about God's Word.

For years, I thought the problem was bad teaching; i.e. somewhere along the line Christians had forgotten about the requirements of secret and family worship and thus, fell away from these essential spiritual disciplines. Therefore, all I had to do was remind people of God's requirements, and show them how to fulfill them, and everyone would say, "Oh, is THAT what God wants me to do" and we could all get back on track. In fact, when I worked in various min-

istries focusing on disciplining new believers, universally, they accepted as normal that THIS was just what Christians did.

However, when I moved from these kinds of ministries to being a full-time pastor, THAT's when I began to run into opposition. While people MIGHT well agree with me intellectually about the necessity of daily secret and family worship, too often, too many simply refused to actually PRACTICE them. So, I would encourage, exhort and instruct as effectively as I could; but still, often some people just refused to change.

When I finally moved into ministering to Reformed Churches, I was wonderfully encouraged that most Christians actually welcomed teaching and exhortations on secret and family worship and the ones who set aside time each day to do them, saw tremendous changes in their lives and families. Men especially seemed to undergo a dramatic transformation when they started meditating on the Law of God on a daily basis. They became more confident, yet less arrogant. They became stronger leaders in their homes, yet gentler and kinder towards their wives and children. They even became more successful in their calling.

Again and again over the years, I have had women come to me in tears, thanking me for emphasizing secret and family worship because NOW they have a husband they respect and admire; what had once been a duty now became a joy because their husbands were growing daily in understanding and applying God's principles in their homes. And I have had husbands come to me to share with me how they fell in love all over again with their wives who had stopped nagging, complaining and whining because for the first time in their marriage, they actually trusted their man.

The biggest change though has always been in the children. When Dad begins to do secret and family worship, meditating on the Law and trying to diligently teach and apply it to his family, the children receive the greatest blessings. They become respectful, obedient, and self-controlled while at the same time, they stop squabbling with their siblings, become more disciplined in their school-work and actually develop a deep interest in or even passion for the Word of God. They go from bored squirly nuisances in the public worship service, to involved worshippers often, just after a few weeks of family worship. And of course, in their own private lives, men who do secret and family worship, learning how to meditate and apply the Law find that for the first time, that God seems close and real in a way they have never experienced before. They find victory over long term sins, confidence in sharing the gospel, joy despite trouble or adversity because every day, they see the sovereign hand of God at work first in His Word, and then in His world through their own lives.

So, with so many blessings attached to secret and daily worship, as well as both being something that God Himself commands, why would any Christian EVER resist this? Sometimes it is just a matter of change. Change is always hard and if no one has ever told you about secret and family worship, or exhorted you to start doing so, it can seem almost impossible to make it a part of your life. Many fathers try a couple of times, find it too difficult to schedule, and then give up.

The solution here is simple enough; we need to understand that this is something God requires of us and that if we neglect it, we are going to suffer major problems in our lives. And like any new endeavour in life, there WILL be a learning curve involved; but once over the top, I promise

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you, it WILL become easier. It helps of course if the men-hold each other accountable; “Iron sharpens iron” Solomon says and we all need the encouragement of others to help us do, what we know we ought to be doing.

However, on occasion, SOME Christians actually have articulated a Biblical argument AGAINST set times of secret and family worship! I do not for a moment want to suggest that this is just a rationalization or excuse invented for justifying not having secret and family worship; no, I won't suggest that - let God's holy spirit convict each person as he wills. But leaving aside the self-deception aspect, there is in fact a very powerful point this argument makes that needs to be addressed; where does God say specifically, that people are to have secret and family worship the way we here (and the Reformed church in general since the Reformation), insist? For it is a serious sin indeed to attempt to bind the consciences of men to something that God does not require; so where in this passage, or in some other passage, does God actually command the average Christian to have secret and family worship?

Now, I need to be honest and admit that these brothers actually have a point; Deuteronomy 6:6 does not give a direct command for us to have a daily, set time for secret or family worship. While this passage does require a man to diligently teach his sons, it does not go into detail about HOW or WHEN that teaching is to be accomplished; other than to say that the Law of God is to be taught diligently and discussed and thought about throughout the day. Thus some have argued that the WAY we are to instruct our sons is by “teaching in the milieu” or basically, teaching them as we go about our daily life. In other words, you do not have to have set times of secret or family worship; just spend time with your kids as you work, play, travel to town or whatever, and simply talk with them about God and His Law as it relates to life. And as you do so, they will absorb the truths of God's Word, especially as they see how it relates to real life as they watch your example.

There is much to recommend this approach; we do learn more by actually observing a model or example than we do by mere intellectual instruction (1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:11, etc). And clearly, there is no more powerful way to teach our children than by showing them on a daily basis how we deal with sin, temptation, anger, frustration, etc. Whether we like it or not, every parent knows that their children are far more likely to do as we do, than as we say. Furthermore I think it unarguable that a father who excels in academic instruction in a formal setting, but who is unable then to relate those principles to real life will be a miserable failure as a man, and the head of his household; sadly I have known a number of highly esteemed Christian leaders who fit into this category.

Yet, there are several factors that I think also need to be considered. For example, if you wanted to “diligently teach your sons” how to do, say, differential equations, could you do that while driving to the local Wal-Mart or Bunnings or as you were cleaning out the garage? This is kind of a silly illustration I know, but let us be honest, some things take time and disciplined study to master; you have to work hard at the basics BEFORE you can actually get to the point where you really understand and can apply the principle. All significant learning takes some disciplined “sit down” time, right?

So, if you want to teach your son advanced math, you

first have to teach him how to add and subtract, multiply and divide; and this takes time and discipline. He would then have to learn about fractions and decimals and then go on to develop skills in solving algebraic equations, etc. You do not just walk along a roadway, casually discussing advanced mathematics and expect your son to “pick it up” as he goes along. No, even something as basic as learning how to read takes discipline and diligent study so that the child can master the basics.

So why should studying God's Law be any different? How can we expect our children to UNDERSTAND the Law of God and how it relates to life, UNLESS we diligently and conscientiously and yes, even systematically have disciplined times of instruction for them? This kind of teaching does not require a formal education in theology or Biblical studies; the command here is given to fathers, not to Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, pastors, college teachers or even seminary professors. God clearly thinks that fathers, who themselves have the law on their hearts, are perfectly qualified to teach that law to their sons. No, the issue is not academic qualifications here, but whether men will take their domestic duties to teach their families seriously and fulfill those duties conscientiously.

However, just where did Dad learn all this wonderful stuff he is teaching his sons? How else but by having disciplined, diligent times each day when he sat down and personally meditated on the Word. Granted, teachers, writers, speakers, and yes even preachers may help us; but they are no substitute for personal time meditating on the Word of God. Thus disciplined times of daily, “secret” worship is the foundation for disciplined times of “family” worship.

There is also a second argument though against the sufficiency of the “teaching in the milieu” concept. While clearly, a father MUST teach his children how the law applies in daily life, there have been some radical changes in culture that make this most difficult to put into practice without disciplined times set aside each day. Hebrew culture being mainly agrarian, worked one way while we today, in a post-industrial society work another.

In Hebrew times, the body was tasked, while the mind was often free to think about whatever a man wanted to think about. You worked in the fields, or with the flocks and while any farmer or rancher will tell you this is often very hard, physically demanding work; it uses a different skill-set than brain surgery, rocket science or accounting, law, medicine or even working on a factory floor. Many intelligent, well-educated men actually ENJOY this kind of hard physical labour just because it leaves their minds free to think and explore.

In the ancient world, the average man's work left him time to think and talk during the day. Furthermore, his sons, normally speaking, would have worked right along beside him. Therefore, teaching your son about God, His Law and how that law applied would have been natural and easy since fathers and sons (and obviously, mothers and daughters) were physically close to each other throughout the average day. This cultural condition would have been true right up to the Industrial Revolution; the average man worked long and hard physically, but few were tasked mentally and all worked closely with their children but they also had the kind of work that would allow them to actually talk and discuss the things of God.

Furthermore, in a day without television, newspapers,

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books or magazines, in the evening, the godly family would have had few other options OTHER than to discuss the Word. What do you do after supper and before bed when there are no distractions? Ungodly people would have gotten drunk, gossiped about their neighbours, etc., but the godly family would naturally have talked about God and His Law. This time in the evening would also have been the most natural opportunity to teach the children in a disciplined and conscientious way. Remember, in an agrarian culture, every child is an extra set of hands to do work. During the day, children old enough to work - would have, well, worked! The evening would have given the family time to spend together, and it is not unreasonable to think that much of this timew was used for study.

Hebrew culture prized education, ancient Israel being one of the only literate societies of antiquity. And they valued literacy, just because they understood that the Law of God was so important their children were taught to read it and memorize it. Therefore, since the children were working during the day, basic education would have taken place in the evening, and on the Sabbath. And of course, the ONLY reading material available would have been the the books of Moses, and later on, the Psalms, Proverbs, and other Biblical books.

Today of course most of us work at jobs that do not allow us the freedom to think about God while our bodies are physically engaged in doing something else. We are also bombarded by media, television, computers, radios, telephones, etc., that fill our minds with information. Compounding the problem is that most of us don't have the luxury of being physically present with our children throughout our work day. And therefore, because the cultural situation has changed, our approach must adapt to the reality that we no longer have the blessing of leisurely walking out to the fields with our sons and then have hours and hours of time where nothing else is interfering as we talk together. There are so many demands on our time that if we do NOT take a disciplined approach to secret and family worship, then the reality is that we simply will not do it.

For years, I have argued that if a Christian does not set aside specific portions of time every day to do family and secret worship, when DO THEY meditate on the Word? And that is the problem; they don't. They delegate the teaching of Scripture to the church, the Christian radio station, popular books, etc., and that's if the family is among the super-spiritual elite! But the average Christian does not have set, daily, regular times of prayer, meditation or secret and family worship. Now seriously, would you want your kids to study any other subject that way? And if you would not teach your kids that way about math, science, English, or history, then why would you be satisfied in teaching them that way about the most important topic of all; God and His righteous requirements?

Usually, the average Christian ASSUMES that if their kids go to Sunday school, and maybe later on to Youth Group, and regularly attends worship services, that they have fulfilled their domestic responsibilities by delegating it to the church. And of course, many parents invest a considerable amount of money to provide their children a paid, Christian education in a private day-school where they expect their kids to be taught a Biblical worldview.

As tempting as it is for me to go off on one of my infamous "rants" about why the above is woefully naïve, let me just make two quick points. First, of course, a parent may

lawfully delegate some duties to others and secular education is certainly one legitimate application. But Deuteronomy 6:6ff gives fathers the responsibility of teaching their children the Law of God. There is no way around this; it is YOUR responsibility, Dad. The church exists to preach the Word and to administer the sacraments to the assembly of believers, so that the individual believer is equipped for HIS work of service (Ephesians 4:11). The church is to HELP the father do his job as head of the household, but not to replace him, in doing his work for him.

The second aspect is that Sunday school, youth groups and yes, even Christian day-schools just cannot do, what parents want them to do. God says that we are to meditate and apply the Law daily, moment by moment; and none of these programs or institutions can do that. How can a forty five-minute Sunday school class replace diligent, daily instruction by the father? How can forty hours a week of television (the amount the average child under eighteen watches) be overcome by a one hour "fun time" with the youth group? And how can a Christian day-school teacher, no matter how motivated or sincere, give YOUR child the time and attention it needs for their spiritual life when he has thirty other children to deal with at the same time?

No, I am sorry; but God has given you, Dad, the responsibility to diligently teach your children His Law. Nothing else works, because nothing else was intended by God to work. And wisdom, Biblically speaking, is learning how God's principles work in the real world, and then changing your ways to conform to His. You would have as much success trying to run your car on water as you will have raising

dominion-oriented children if you expect that someone else is going to effectively teach your kids God's Law.

For what it is worth I think there are a couple of reasons why Christians do not normally so secret and family worship. The first is that we have been propagandized for several generations with a worldview that de-emphasizes personal responsibility. We are too accustomed to delegating our duties to others, the state, to educate our children, the church to teach them the Scriptures, etc., to suddenly then shift gear and take responsibility at home. Furthermore, no one in the broad evangelical world has been teaching about secret and family worship for years. Most pastors have never been trained to do secret and family worship and therefore, how can they be expected to encourage and teach their congregations to do something that they have never done themselves?

And of course, secret and family worship requires a little self-discipline and diligence; character traits all too easy to ignore these days. You can always find a church with lots of "fun" programs that promises to take your kids off your hands for a few hours and many of us are willing to accept their promises because it makes our lives just a little easier. but if God says that His Law is to be on our hearts, and that we are to be diligent to teach it to our families, we risk everything if we ignore it.

Hence, while I thoroughly agree that "*teaching in the milieu*" is vital and important, it alone can not substitute for diligent, conscientious times, every day, when the father takes responsibility to instruct his family. It is thus not an "either/or" proposition, but a "both/and." Secret and family worship could become simply another religious ritual we do, with no meaning; and as we noted, God doesn't want our rituals, He wants our "hearts." "*Teaching in the milieu*" is the way we self-consciously bring His Law-Word to bear

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to real life situations. However, in order to first UNDERSTAND that Law, we need focused times of study and meditation; which is exactly what secret and family worship requires.

In this series of essays, we have gathered together a number of articles that deal with the whole concept of how to develop godly habits of consistent, diligent secret and family worship; worship that will transform the heart, renew the mind and prepare us and our children for victory. Highlands Reformed Church and The Institute for Christian Culture are dedicated to changing the world for Jesus the Christ, by faithfully teaching His commands and encouraging His people to apply them. Yet, the world will not be changed by powerful, gifted teachers, no matter how wise their observations, or articulate their expression of truth. The world is changed, when individual men humble themselves before God, meditate on His Word, teach it to their families and then raise up a godly seed who have internalized His truth.

Thus, we offer this series of essays for your edification and encouragement. We start with the basics, on how to meditate on Scripture for daily, secret worship, and then show you how to lead your family in a deeper and closer walk with God through daily, family worship. We then go on from there to show you how to prepare even your youngest children for public worship so that under the ministry of the Word and sacraments, they can grow in grace and godliness. And the recurring theme is that all these duties, Dads, is primarily YOUR responsibility, God has entrusted into YOUR care the spiritual well-being of your family. But you cannot teach what you do not know; and you cannot lead where you have not been. So the place to begin is with your own, disciplined times of personal meditation on the Word every day.

Yes, it may be hard to make a life-change here and develop a new set of disciplines that few pastors ever teach on, and even fewer Christians practice. But I promise you, that if you are faithful in secret and family worship, it will revolutionize your own life, as well as the lives of your family. So sit back, read and think about the issues we are about to bring up. Ask God for grace that He might show you what changes YOU have to make. And start today in bringing your family together, under the authority of His Word that His richest blessings might begin to flow.

to be continued...

Courtesy Highlands Reformed Presbyterian Church

TWO OR THREE WITNESSES

by Gary DeMar

The old adage of “not judging a book by its cover” is not only a common-sense concept, but a biblical one. Proverbs 1:5 tells us that the wise man “hears and increases in knowledge.” Increasing in knowledge does not just mean getting more information, but also analyzing and comparing the knowledge one already has with the new. In other words, it is a caution of putting too much emphasis on first impressions.

Gossip - by its biblical definition - is related to slander, which is a violation of the ninth commandment (bearing

false witness). Gossip is usually not as deliberate as slander in bearing false witness against a neighbour, but it does so just the same. Gossip is almost always shared on the first hearing, and the subject of the gossip is never consulted for his side of the story. Leviticus 19:15-16 “lumps slander together with legal injustice and even false testimony in a capital case, but Proverbs uses the same word to condemn the talebearer and to warn the wise not to associate with gossips (Proverbs 11:13; 20:19). The New Testament also lists both as sins (Romans 12:9-30).”[1]

There is always more to see than what first meets the eye. We seldom, and I would go so far as to say we never, get the full picture from our own perspective. Seeking to understand things from another person’s point of view is the first step toward empathy and true understanding. Gossip is the wilful denial of this fact, and slander is the wild spreading of untruths (or misinterpreted truths) about a person.

This is why the Bible commands two or three witnesses be present before any case can be lawfully heard in a court.

“One witness shall not rise up against a man for iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established” (Deuteronomy 19:15). [Have you ever been convicted on the evidence of a single witness? e.g. a traffic ticket?]. Only one point of view (one witness) is not enough to condemn a man. At least two (three is preferred) must be able to come forth in order for the case to even be heard.

Some commentators on this text indicate that having two or three witnesses assures a fair trial. God is no fool. He knows very well that men are only too happy to collude in their sinfulness. If getting two or three witnesses is all that is required, surely a group of men who have much to gain by accusing a man of wrong-doing will do just that. Paul assures us that one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord

(Philippians 2:9-11), but until that day men will continue to deny that God will bring judgment upon them for their sins. God is ultimately the Judge of both the witness and the perpetrator. Having two or three witnesses does not guarantee that the trial will be fair, but it does place a great amount of responsibility on the witnesses. Their testimony is a legal oath in the earthly court, but more importantly it is a covenantal oath in the heavenly court. “By your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:37).

Sin is seldom private. In fact, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 19:15 when he discusses church discipline in Matthew 18. “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses” (Matthew 18:15-16).

The first stage of winning a brother is going to him in private. Restoration is the goal, not public humiliation. Each stage of the restoration process becomes more and more public though, moving from private discussion, to two or three, to the whole church. If the final step does not

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win him, he is to be excommunicated as an unbeliever (the reason you need to have “membership” so that excommunication can be applied). The implication is that there is no fear of God before his eyes, because he does not wish to reconcile with his brothers in the church.

This is also true in the civil realm. If two men have a dispute and are able to settle it between themselves without involving the courts, this is preferable. Two or three witnesses are only necessary when a matter cannot be solved amiably, or when others are directly involved, as in a capital offense. Fairness, or getting what one deserves is not the primary point of the two or three witness law. God’s judicial precedence - in both the church and the civil realm - is for disputes to be settled on the lowest level possible.

But some may protest by saying if only one witness is present to a heinous crime then we must allow this case to be heard; one is certainly better than none. But God’s Law is clear on this, as Deuteronomy makes obvious. God has specifically mandated that one is *not* better than none when it comes to fallible witnesses who don’t see everything properly from a limited point of view. But even if no earthly witnesses are present we must always keep in mind that heavenly eyewitnesses are always watching. We may not be able to convict in an earthly court, but the heavenly court - with its Supreme Judge - is never lacking the necessary number of witnesses. In fact, the heavenly court always had the preferred amount.

Proverbs 18:17 reiterates the Deuteronomic law when it states: “*The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him.*” How often has this been the case in your own life? If your experience is anything like mine, you know the answer is more times than you would like to admit. We are quick to judge and quicker to condemn, even when we don’t know half of the story. Proverbs later tells us: “*By wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety*” (Proverbs 24:6).

In our sinfulness, we ignore wise counsel and wage our own private wars of gossip and slander, but the Bible tells us that there is safety from this battle plan in a multitude of points of view (counselors). Proverbs 1:7 says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Ignoring the Bible’s command to seek safety in the multitude of counselors, we become fools when we willingly despise “wisdom and instruction.” Rather than heeding God’s Law, we become laws unto ourselves (autonomy). And it is this very sinful, self-referential state of autonomy that the law of God is meant to destroy.”

[1] Paul J. Achtemeier, *Harper’s Bible Dictionary* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985).

Courtesy American Vision, Box 220, Powder Springs GA 30127.

IN DEFENSE OF KINGDOM TRUTH

by Charles Jennings

A Reminder of the Acceptance of This Biblical Perspective in Recent Church History.

Doctrinal differences within the Body of Christ have existed since the first century believers. Even the Apostles Paul and Peter had a face to face confrontation (Galatians 2:11-14). The church council at Jerusalem was characterized by “much disputing” (Acts 15:7). In spite of these dif-

ferences there were no strong denunciations excluding anyone from the Body of Christ or committing one to the region of the damned. One lesson that every mature Christian learns is that there are genuine saints in other dimensions of understanding that would strongly disagree in different areas of doctrine, but this gives no right for utter condemnation upon another Christian believer. This attitude seems to be toward everyone except those who believe the Anglo-Israel prophetic perspective.

Among uninformed and prejudiced Christians this belief has generally been sneeringly referred to as “British Israelism” or the mysterious “Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.” Most Christians who have heard of this only from a negative perspective and without any investigation, consider it a cult. It may come as a pleasant surprise or a devastating shock to learn that many of our revered twentieth century forefathers believed and taught this historical and prophetic perspective. The acceptance of this perspective was believed by many ministers and laity from a wide range of Christian persuasions and denominations. Many of these saints were held in high esteem by their peers and were on the forefront of Christian evangelism in their day. Naturally, it would be impossible to name everyone of the past who held to the Anglo-Israel point of view, because their oral or written testimonies have been lost.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Briefly stated, the essence of this Biblical truth goes back to the division of the Israelite kingdom after the death of King Solomon. The various deportations of the Israelites (745-721 BC) of the Northern Kingdom and the cities of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, excluding Jerusalem, by the Assyrian kings resulted in the diaspora (dispersion) as prophesied by the prophet Hosea (Hosea 1:2-5). This was typified through the name of his son Jezreel, whose name means to *scatter*. But when seed is scattered it is also sown which results in a harvest of increase. Contrary to the fallacious amalgamation theory, these dispersed Israelites migrated throughout the Mediterranean and European world. Over the centuries, eventually thousands of them arrived in Northwestern Europe and

the British Isles and became known as the Angles, Saxons, Germanic, Scandinavian and related peoples. This makes perfect sense when you consider the natural western expansion of civilization.

According to common knowledge, these same people accepted Christianity very early after the passion of our Lord. Polydore Vergil, the learned Italian historian in England wrote: “Britain, partly through Joseph of Arimathea, was of all kingdoms, first, that received the Gospel.” It was even recognized by four church councils of the fifteenth century that Britain had accepted the Gospel in 37 AD. They conceded that “the churches of France and Spain, must yield in point of antiquity and precedence to that of Britain, as the latter church was founded by Joseph of Arimathea immediately after the passion of Christ.” (*The Traditions of Glastonbury*, by E. Raymond Capt, book #345 @ \$17.85, or DVD #CI-159 @ \$25).

The fulfillment of God’s promise to make a “*new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah*” (Jeremiah 31:31-34) is the Christian covenant that Jesus ratified by the shedding of His blood on Calvary (Matthew 26:26-28).

Must Have Reading: THE LAW by Frederick Bastiat

This author was a renowned champion of individual freedom. This book, first published in 1850, is his most famous and enduring work. The classic blueprint for a just society. This book has been acclaimed for more than a century as the classic moral defense of liberty and limited government. Here is a timeless message of immutable principle - in the immortal words of one of history’s most courageous thinkers and brilliant writers.

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This is part of the Gospel of the Kingdom that John the Baptist and Jesus proclaimed saying, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” (Matthew 3:1; 4:17), or the kingdom is now being restored under the terms of the New Covenant. Even the apostles knew that there would be a time when the kingdom would be restored to Israel. After hearing the Savior teach about the Kingdom for three and one half years, “*they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*” (Acts 1:6).

To many opponents of these facts, this translates into some form of superiority, therefore they launch their vitriolic attacks. Instead, this is servanthood and responsibility to serve God without fear all the days of our life, (Luke 1:68-75). From Western European Christendom, the Gospel of Jesus the Christ has been taken to all the peoples of the earth through great missionary efforts for the last four hundred years (much of which was against the instruction of Matthew 7:6).

PROMINENT CHRISTIAN LEADERS

The incomplete list of prominent Christian leaders who believed this historical and prophetic perspective would include Martin Lyman Streator (1843-1926), state evangelist and home missionary for the Christian Church, a friend and student to Alexander Campbell; Joseph Wild, DD (b.1834), pastor of the Union Congregational Church of Brooklyn, NY, and the Bond Street Congregational Church of Toronto whose Sunday sermons were published in Canada’s largest newspapers; William H. Poole, DD, prominent pastor in Detroit who authored ***Anglo-Israel or the Saxon Race? Proved to be the Lost Tribes of Israel*** (1889), which received widespread favorable reviews throughout the Christian literary world; Richard Reader Harris (1847-1909), English barrister, counselor to Queen Victoria, founder of the Pentecostal Prayer League and personal friend of Oswald Chambers; Elieser Bassin, Christian Jewish scholar who stated in his book, “the Hebrew Scriptures point to the British Isles as the home of God’s first born”. These would be the among many British proponents of this belief.

Recognizable names for many contemporary Christians would include, Dr. Mordecai F. Ham (1877-1961), under whose old-fashioned Gospel preaching Billy Graham and Grady Wilson were converted to Christ; Dr. William M. Groom (1884-1957) who served Baptist pastorates in Texas; and the popular Lincoln McConnell, DD, who pastored the famous People’s Church in Atlanta and was a speaker in large national conferences throughout the country.

Included also are great soul-winning evangelists such as Jay C. Kellogg who authored ***The United States In Prophecy*** (1932), and, as guest evangelist, held meetings for pastor Paul Rader at his Chicago Gospel Tabernacle; and Henry Wellington Stough, DD, (1870-1939) a young associate of D.L. Moody, personal friend of William Jennings Bryan and Evangelist Billy Sunday, and a preaching associate of J. Wilbur Chapman, the prominent Presbyterian evangelist.

Among the Church of the Brethren would be M.M.

Eshelman, prolific author and co-founder of Lordsburg College in California, University of LaVerne and McPherson College in Kansas. Of Presbyterian persuasion was Roger Rusk (1906-1994), University of Tennessee professor of physics, expositor of scientific, historical and Biblical studies and brother of Secretary of State, Dean Rusk. Prominent clergymen of the Church of England such as Bishop J.H. Titcomb and the Methodist master pulpiteer, Dr. Dinsdale T. Young (1851-1938) who preached to London’s largest crowds for twenty five years at the Central Hall in Westminster, and a host of others too numerous to mention. The name of Harry D. Clarke (1888-1957), song writer, Moody Bible College professor, song leader for four years in the Billy Sunday campaigns and founder of the Billy Sunday Memorial Tabernacle in Sioux City, Iowa must be remembered as a witness to this great truth.

Great Holiness preachers would include Maynard James (1902-1988) a leading figure in the International Holiness Mission of Great Britain, Foreign Missions Director, co-founder of Beech Lawn Bible College and co-organizer of the Church of the Nazarene in Britain; A.M. Hills (1848-1935), Yale Divinity School graduate, first president of the Texas Holiness University in Bethany, Oklahoma where he served as professor of theology, Dean of the School of Religion for years, held evangelical meetings in Great Britain and America, and authored over thirty volumes of ***Defense of the Christian Faith***, plus tracts and booklets including, ***Christian Education and Anglo-Israel***.

Further witnesses are George O. Barnes, pastor and missionary evangelist; Luke Rader (1890-1952), author, pioneer, radio broadcaster, founder and pastor of the River Lake Gospel Tabernacle of Minneapolis. His nationwide ministry was instrumental in bringing over sixty thousand people to a saving

knowledge of Jesus the Christ. He associated with the most well-known ministers of his day, such as George Benner, author of ***The Old Rugged Cross***; Harry Rimmer; ‘Ma’ Sunday, the widow of the famous Billy Sunday; Charles F. Weigle, author of the hymn, ***I Would Love To Tell You What I Think Of Jesus***; Raymond T. Richey and many other prominent pastors and evangelists. According to the pastor, Dr. Oswald J. Smith, Luke Rader held one of the three most successful evangelistic campaigns ever conducted at the famous People’s Church in Toronto, Ontario. The other two campaigns were conducted by F. F. Bosworth and Adolph P. Gouthey, who were also believers in the Anglo-Israel truth.

Today, with the breakdown of national pride and the rise of globalism, most Christians have lost touch with the religious heritage of their past. The Biblical consciousness of ancestral origin that many of our forefathers possessed has been lost in the noisy clamor of modern philosophies. It was general awareness among many Anglo-Saxon people around the turn of the twentieth century that by divine election the two great nations of Great Britain and the United States were in the embryonic stage of the coming Kingdom of God on earth.

In his book ***Yale and the Ministry***, Roland H. Bainton explains prevailing ideas among professors and students of

New Book

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MSM or Methyl Sulfonyl Methane, is a rich source of organic sulfer. The body uses sulfer to continually create new healthy cells to replace old ones. Without it, the body will produce weak dysfunctional cells. Sulfer deficiencies are associated with slow wound healing, brittle nails and hair, gastrointestinal problems, inflammatory problems, scar tissue, lung dysfunction, and immune dysfunction. Because sulfer in food (and water) is lost during processing, deficiencies are very common today.

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Yale Divinity School in the 1890's. One idea taught by professor Samuel Harris was that "with Edwards and Beecher he found the locus for the realization of the future holy commonwealth in these United States. God has always acted," said he, "by chosen peoples."

To the English speaking people more than to any other the world is now indebted for the propagation of Christian ideas and Christian civilization. It is a remarkable fact in this day that the thinking of the world is done by the Christian nations; that the enterprise and energy of the world are mainly theirs."

To voice these thoughts today would be considered anathema to most Christians, in spite of the fact that the outpouring of holy spirit verified these principles to be true.

BIBLICAL TRUTH - NOT A CULT

Too often, Christian people accuse other Christian groups of being a cult without having a proper understanding of what a cult really is. Generally, they consider someone else of being cultish, but never themselves guilty of exhibiting any cult like traits.

Intellectually dishonest persons consider other groups of being a cult who are simply different in belief and practice, or believing something that the accuser does not understand. They often base their opinion on the unfounded prejudice of others (FBI; ADL; JDL) and ignorantly use this accusation in an effort to discredit those they do not like, in order to reaffirm their own doctrinal position.

Contrary to the mistaken accusation, the Anglo-Israel truth does not fit the description of a cult in any form or fashion. Some of the distinguishing marks of a cult are the following:

- A cult possesses and promotes a "sacred" book other than the Bible, produced by its founder or followers. The Anglo-Israel truth has no "sacred" book other than the Bible, upon which its belief and practices are founded.

- A cult has an elevated earthly leader, even though they acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ. This leader, whether dead or alive, demands obedience and allegiance and is usually the last word on any issue of doctrine or practice. This wonderful Kingdom truth has NO Mary Baker Eddy or Joseph Smith or Charles Taze Russell.

- A cult always has an additional doctrine that must be believed or followed in word or practice in order to receive salvation. Usually this is simply salvation by works as opposed to the Biblical principle of salvation by Grace. Paul said, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

- A cult demands utter allegiance to its cause, its history, its leadership and fellow members. Usually this allegiance and obedience is in the area of inordinate control concerning the time, money and devotion of its members.

- A cult as a collective group and its members as individuals usually exude an attitude of spiritual elitism. They feel that they are in possession of secret or superior knowledge that non-cult members do not have. Through the possession of this special knowledge they have been elevated

to a higher plane of relationship with God and are therefore worthy of a greater reward in the afterlife.

- A cult may possess and practice secret oaths for membership initiation which puts its adherents under spiritual and psychological bondage to the group. Even secret passwords, pieces of clothing or a prescribed form of greeting among members may be practiced.

The truth of the Anglo-Israel message, the ministers and laity that believe this Biblical perspective do not meet any of the above descriptions of a cult. The thousands of people of the past and present that believe this Gospel of the Kingdom have been members of a wide range of Christian, Protestant denominations and groups.

Many prominent true men of God have believed this wonderful truth and have incorporated it into their prophetic perspective of Scripture. They have been true Biblical scholars that have kept the proper focus of the Christ in their message and have been instrumental in leading thousands of people to a personal knowledge of salvation by grace through faith.

The major doctrinal difference between those who adhere to the Anglo-Israel perspective and other evangelicals is in the areas of history and prophecy. The correct identification of the historical people of Israel determines the correct identification of those same people in modern day fulfillment of prophecy.

Being that Anglo-Israel believers have much in common with other evangelicals in the areas of salvation, divine healing, the ministry of holy spirit and many other Biblical doctrines, we have been compatible in fellowship and ministry without contention. We seek the good of the whole body of Christ.

THE CROWD OR THE CLOUD

In an effort to discover why so many Christian people look upon the Anglo-Israel message with disdain and consider it a cult, the following reasons would apply. The obstacles to understanding this truth would be:

1. **Ignorance**, which is the lack of knowledge. People just simply do not know the facts.

2. **Prejudice**. This would be judgment before investigation. Solomon said, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him" (Proverbs 18:13). Sr. Paley said: "There is a principle which is a bar against all argument, and which cannot fail to keep a man or woman in everlasting ignorance. This principle is 'contempt prior to investigation.'"

3. **Misinformation**. This is caused from the ministry giving false information to the laity, because they have not done their research. Therefore they teach what they have previously been taught by their mistaken leadership (and/or seminary).

4. **Uneasiness**. The acceptance of new information disturbs one's comfort zone. Most Christians are comfortable in their religious environment and ecclesiastical shell that they or others have created for them.

5. **Fear of the Unknown**. This automatically brings intimidation to many people who are unsure of and/or do not trust themselves in doing research into new areas of

New Book:

THE POWER OF MUSIC for Good and for Evil by Charles A. Weisman

The knowledge and information that modern research has revealed regarding music is drastically altering our perspective on the subject of music.

This research has explained many important questions surrounding music. • Why do infants respond to music even when still in the womb? • Why do children who have musical training excel in math, language, and memory skills?

• Why do some types of modern music promote crime, violent behaviour, and sexual promiscuity? • Why will listening to Mozart increase your IQ or help cure you of illnesses?

• Why does some music help plants to grow, while some music makes rats go mentally insane?

The reason is because music is a part of nature and guided by certain rules and principles, and when these rules and principles are violated, it produces negative results. Music is in fact wired into our brain and nervous system, and profoundly affects us mentally, physically and spiritually.

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thought.

6. **Fear of Rejection.** One characteristic of human nature which often overrules the acceptance of truth and even the conviction of holy spirit in many saints is the fear of rejection by their peers. It is very unpleasant to be labeled a heretic, so therefore it is easier to follow the most commonly accepted doctrinal viewpoint at any given time. To be excommunicated from a religious fellowship brings a reproach upon one's reputation that is not easily overcome.

The parents of the blind man that was healed by Jesus is a typical example. John 9:22-23 says, "These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already that if any man did confess that he was (the) Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age: ask him."

7. **Unfair Association.** Opponents of this Kingdom truth have accentuated and made unfair comparisons with groups that put an undue emphasis upon any one doctrine and who have become fanatical or extreme in their outlook. They accuse some of blending this Biblical Anglo-Israel truth with peculiar unbiblical ideas and therefore poison the minds of Christians against this Scriptural perspective. This same mistreatment has been practiced against other Biblical doctrines, such as divine healing, which results in perversion and rejection of truth.

Unfortunately, it appears as though most Christians, mainly ministers, are afflicted with the disease of "cognitive dissidence," commonly known as resistance to knowledge. Most saints, including ministers, would rather follow the crowd of popular opinion than the cloud of progressive divine revelation. The prophet Isaiah said, "And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure" (Isaiah 33:6).

The believers in the Gospel of the Kingdom feel extremely fortunate that holy spirit has opened our minds and hearts to this great Biblical truth and we long for the day when our Israelite brethren shall be partakers with us in this "bread of life." This truth makes the Bible come alive to one's understanding and gives Jesus His rightful position as Prophet, Priest and King among His people.

With joy we loudly proclaim that Israel has been found and is no longer lost. Our Saviour so clearly taught us that, "the kingdom of heaven [national Israel] is like unto a treasure hid in a field [the world]; the which when a man [Jesus the Christ] hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath and buyeth [by His death] that field" Matthew 13:44.

Courtesy Truth in History, Kingdom Treasure Ministries, Box 808, Owasso OK 74055

THE BATTLE OF BLOOD RIVER

by Dries Kriel, South Africa

SHORT HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Boer people originated mainly from German Protestants, French Huguenots and some Dutch Protestants who were persecuted for their protest against and break with the Roman Catholic Church in Europe. After William of Orange (a German by birth) managed with the aid of some Dutch and European Protestants to establish a base in the Netherlands, thousands of persecuted Protestants from Europe took refuge under William from where they defended themselves.

Spain, being the mightiest military force of the time.

became the spearhead of the Roman Catholic forces. This war lasted for generations with the heroic Protestant forces under the Orange, White and Blue flag, in small boats challenging the mighty Spanish Armada. After the war the Protestants could not return to their Roman Catholic controlled countries of origin where they faced persecution, and with the help of Holland came to settle in South Africa. Later the French Protestants known as the Huguenots were also forced by the Roman Catholic persecution to settle in South Africa.

Thus people who gave up their name and left their countries for religious principles laid the very foundation of the Boer nation. Right from the start these Pioneers considered themselves as different from those that stayed behind in Europe. They considered themselves as a dispersed and chosen people with a special calling from their God as prophesied in Zephaniah 3:10.

When they arrived in South Africa they chose to settle far from the civilized Cape Town and obtained land in the area of the Eastern Cape bordering the savage Xhosa nation with whom they were forced into continuous wars, referred to as the Kaffir wars. The Boer people refused to mix socially and religiously with the inhabitants and were in continuous conflict with the liberal missionaries from abroad; the Boers standing firm on the apartheid principle, stating that their God of the Bible forbids His chosen people to mix with the black and foreign races.

At the end of the eighteenth century when the British Imperial forces annexed this part of Africa, it ended up with the Boers having to take up arms against the British (1815), and the Boer leaders being hanged at Slatersnek. A substantial group of Boers as well as the loved ones of those to be executed were forced to attend the execution. When the order came to open the gallow doors the ropes broke, leaving the tied up Boers sprawled on the ground. The watching Boers told the British officers that this must be a sign from God; that their leaders were innocent and that their lives must be spared. However, the British got hold of some more ropes, ignoring the pleads and cries of the families and carried on with the hanging.

The Boers then opted to move away from British rule and started trekking to the interior where they thought that they would be able to govern themselves in a free republic away from the Cape and its liberal authorities and missionaries. Not one of the Reverends of the state-controlled church accompanied them.

The further they trekked away from the influence of the church, the more the belief grew amongst them that they were Israelites and the more they adhered to the commandments of their God of the Bible.

Many of them died, being murdered by savage tribes, others of malaria, ferocious animals, etc. But they did not turn back. Eventually a group of Pioneers trekked to Natal on the east side of South Africa. Their leader was Piet Retief. He negotiated with the Zulu king, Dingaan to buy land from him. The Zulu king agreed on the condition that the Boers go and fetch some cattle that were stolen by Sikonyella, who was the leader of another tribe.

Retief agreed and after a skirmish brought the stolen cattle back to Dingaan. Dingaan then signed the contract, but asked Retief to stay another day. Retief and his fifty-nine men camped outside the Zulu capital. The next day Dingaan sent a messenger telling Retief that Dingaan wants

Charles A. Weisman

SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE

Do you know what the terms "saved" and "eternal life" mean in the Bible? Do you know what was the main purpose Christ fulfilled by his death and resurrection? Do you know what the Bible says you are "saved" from? Do you know what is your fate and destiny after you die? There has for some time existed a "salvation hoax" which uses made-up, non-biblical terms and concepts, and puts all emphasis on the future, and the heavenly aspect of salvation.

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to see them, but that they had to leave their guns outside the kraal. When they sat down with Dingaan, the Zulus started dancing and all of a sudden Dingaan shouted; "Bulala Mti-gati," which means "Kill the magicians." The sixty Boers had only their pocket-knives to defend themselves with but were overpowered and murdered.

In the meantime, the people waiting for Retief in the dispersed wagons were not expecting foul play, and that night a massacre took place with the Zulus going on a murdering rampage. They grabbed the younger children by their feet and hit their heads to pulp against the metal rims of the wagon wheels. That night many Boer people died at the hands of the murdering savages.

The Zulus were at that time a mighty nation and feared all over Southern Africa. They were well trained in military skills and operated in well-disciplined regiments with experienced commanders. Only their faith in their God stopped the remaining Boers from running.

On the fourth of December 1838, a commando consisting of four hundred and sixty two Boers under command of Andries Pretorius crossed the Tugela River into Zulu land. They prayed and read a vow that if God will grant them a victory over their enemy that the day and date will always be remembered by them and their descendants as a Sabbath and that they will also erect a church towards the glory of God. The vow was repeated from day to day.

THE BATTLE

On the fifteenth of December 1838, the four hundred and sixty two Boer Pioneers found themselves in a laager consisting of fifty seven wagons. That evening they were praying and singing Psalms to the glory of God; four hundred and sixty two men awaiting an attack by the thousands of Zulus.

Then when dawn broke on Sunday the sixteenth of December 1838, the first wonder happened. The mist (that dampens the gun powder) cleared away and the sun broke through. They saw the Zulu regiments storming, and literally thousands upon thousands of warriors surrounded the Laager charging down on them. After the first shots they had to wait for the smoke of the gun powder to clear. Then the second wonder happened when the smoke cleared.

Something made the Zulu regiments hesitate in bewilderment. The regiments consisting of the younger warriors started fleeing, only to be slaughtered by the older veterans as they fled. Now these younger regiments knew that if they fled they would be killed by the older warriors. The survivors related after the battle that they saw thousands of glowing giant men all around the laager that scared them into panic and scared them so much that they fled into the arms of the waiting indunas who slaughtered the younger warriors.

Just around the laager three thousand dead Zulus were counted. The third wonder was that the hundreds of oxen in the laager stood quietly while the guns roared around them. In ordinary circumstances these animals would have stampeded, trampling everyone in their path to death. And the fleeing Zulus did not stop running. When Dingaan got the message of what happened, he burnt his capital and ran with them to present day Swasiland, where they were killed by the Swazis. The mighty, but evil, reign of the Zulu nation was finally broken.

AFTERMATH

The Sixteenth of December is still to this day being

kept by the Boer people as a Sabbath, also called the Day of the Vow (or Day of the Covenant), and we still gather to honor the pledge made by our ancestors towards our God. On that day our Pioneer ancestors made a contract with our God that can never be broken.

And the King of kings ordered His legions on that day to battle against the evil powers of darkness, enabling the Boer people to survive and carry out their calling in this dark continent. My grandfather told me what his grandfather said, that to his mind there was a far fiercer battle raging above the laager between the forces of light and the powers of darkness.

As we in South Africa today are again facing fearful odds, I know that in the not so distant future we will again, like our fathers be forced on our knees to renew our contract with our King. That is why I won't stop praying.

For God and Israel, *Dries Kriel*.

Courtesy Virginia Christian Israelite, Box 109 Round Hill VA 20142

Clearance while they last **OPERATION VAMPIRE KILLER** **2000**

Jack McLamb

This publication, many months in preparation, was found difficult to compile for many reasons. One important reason was that none of the officers involved were pleased with the duty of bringing to the attention of our colleagues the names and activities of some in our nation who have been in the past (or presently) engaged in what can only be described as treason and/or sedition against their government.

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RITALIN **AND RUSSIAN ROULETTE** *by Samuel Blumenfeld*

It is estimated that in the United States between four million and eight million children are on Ritalin, the drug being used to change the behaviour of children afflicted with a disease or condition called Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

We already know that the long-term use of Ritalin can be fatal. In March 2000, a fourteen-year-old ninth-grader, Matthew Smith, dropped dead of a heart attack while skateboarding. He had been on Rit-

alin since the first grade. And in 1994, the very popular singer and songwriter, Kurt Cobain, committed suicide at age twenty seven. He was known as a "Ritalin child."

What parents are not being told by psychiatrists who prescribe the drug and the school nurses who give it to the kids, is that taking Ritalin is like playing Russian Roulette, simply because nobody can be sure what the side-effects will be.

Recently, I happened to come across a copy of the latest *Physician's Desk Reference* on pharmaceuticals. It lists all of the drugs available to physicians and provides the drug's Clinical Pharmacology, Indications and Contra-indications, Warnings, Precautions, Adverse Reactions, etc.

So I looked up Ritalin. Its generic name is methylphenidate hydrochloride. It comes in two forms, a regular tablet, and a time-release tablet. It was described as follows:

"Ritalin is a mild central nervous system stimulant. The mode of action in man is not completely understood, but Ritalin presumably activates the brain stem arousal system and cortex to produce its stimulant effect. There is neither specific evidence which clearly establishes the mechanism whereby Ritalin produces its mental and behavioural effects in children, nor conclusive evidence regarding how these effects relate to the condition of the central nervous system."

So we really don't know exactly how the drug works in the brain, but the book warns:

"Ritalin should not be used in children under six years, since safety and efficacy in this age group have not been established. Sufficient data on safety and efficacy of long term use of Ritalin in children are not yet available. Although a causal relationship has not been established, suppression of growth (i.e. weight gain, and/or height) has



been reported with the long-term use of stimulants in children... Clinical experience suggests that in psychotic children, administration of Ritalin may exacerbate symptoms of behaviour disturbance and thought disorder."

As for Adverse Reactions, otherwise known as side-effects, this is what the Ritalin user may also experience: nervousness, insomnia, skin-rash, urticaria (itching, burning, stinging, smooth patches usually red), fever, arthralgia (pain in joints), exfoliative (flaking) dermatitis, erythema (skin redness) multiformed with histopathological (microscopic changes in tissues) findings of necrotizing (death or decay of tissues) vasculitis (blood vessels) and thrombocytopenic purpura (purplish patches), anorexia, nausea, dizziness, palpitations, headache, dyskinesia (impairment of body movements), drowsiness, blood pressure and pulse changes both up and down, tachycardia (rapid heartbeat), angina, cardiac arrhythmia, abdominal pain, weight loss during prolonged therapy. There have been rare reports of Tourette's syndrome (tics). Toxic psychosis has been reported.

If that isn't playing Russian Roulette with a child's health, I don't know what is. Note the number of cardiac side-effects, probably caused by the constriction of blood vessels. That's what probably caused the heart attack that killed Matthew Smith. We only hear about the worst tragedies. Sin rashes, headaches, dizziness, nausea, and palpitations don't make the headlines. They just make the users miserable.

Why would anyone subject a child to a drug with so many possible harmful side-effects simply to "cure" an attention problem? How about treating classrooms with more order and fewer distractions. The kind of chaos that now exists in American primary schools is a result of the new classroom configuration that creates attention problems.

You couldn't possibly have attention deficit disorder in the kind of classrooms that existed when I went to school back in the 1930's and 1940s. In those days, the students sat at desks bolted to the floor arranged in straight rows. The walls were generally bare, with no distractions. The teacher was the focus of attention, and we were all taught the same thing. No individual education plans. And the teacher used the most rational and effective methods of instruction developed over the centuries. It was an education system that produced what Tom Brokaw called "the greatest generation."

In other words, they knew how to educate well. We really don't have to re-invent the wheel. But try telling that to today's educators, for whom the successes of the past simply don't exist.

[Large pharmaceutical and drug manufacturers don't exist to invent and develop "cures." They, like most all business exist to make a profit. Consider well what you may take in the way of drugs, and be especially cognizant of what you give children (gifts from God).]

News with views.com - Virginia Christian Israelite

(Ninemsn 7-11-11, had this headline "Painkillers double risk of strokes: study. Doctors call for tougher restrictions on everyday anti-inflammatory drugs".)

WHEN BIBLICAL TEACHINGS DON'T WORK

by **Bill Brinkworth**

Folks find themselves in a dilemma. They try their

way, and it doesn't work. Then try another way, and it only makes matters worse. They seem to try everything.

Wait! There's one more avenue. They'll give it a whirl. Let's try it God's way. So they pack up the family in the car, start going to church, and start reading their Bible. Why, they may even get saved through it all. They start doing "religious" things. After what seems to be a fair amount of time for God to remedy the situation, they throw their hands up in exasperation, and cry out, "See! We tried it God's way, and it doesn't work." They pull out of church, stop their Bible reading and other "spiritual" works they were doing and quit.

Hold on. God's way *always* works. Why didn't He bail you out? Let's examine some reasons why the situation did not get altered. First of all, God may not have remedied the situation because He helps family members. The person that called out to God may not even be saved and a member of His family. 1 Peter 3:12 reminds us: "*For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*" Just going to church does not make anyone a Christian.

I had the best parents. They met all our needs: clothes, food and even some of our unnecessary wants. But, if a neighbour had asked for the same support and help, I doubt they would have given it to them as they would us. Why? We were family members, and they weren't.

God does help the unsaved. He gives them chance after chance to turn to Him. There comes a time, however, when He has to turn His mercy away so that they will call out to Him in

love and devotion and not just to fix the "problem."

Sometimes we are in a situation, because we have put ourselves there. Read carefully about the people referred to in Romans 1. They did know God, but didn't want to retain what He showed them. Instead, they did their own thing. God had mercy. He wanted them to love and obey Him willingly, but their lusts and sin got worse, until finally God said, "Fine, you don't want the warnings, I'll stop." (Paraphrased, of course).

They got what they wanted, and suffered the consequences. What they reaped is what they sowed. God explains that, "He gave them over" to their sin. Folks want to know why they're in the situation. It may very well be that they ran from God despite His warnings, and got themselves in their current jam.

Sometimes the Biblical way doesn't seem to work because they weren't totally obeying God's way. They put God in a little box, and said, "Here's what I'll let You control in my life, and here are the things I will not do. I will only do this much for You." They limit God. They are robbing themselves of God's power which they could be enjoying. They only have a partial obedience to God's commandments.

"...Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Timothy 3:1).

God's help will not be totally given, unless you totally obey. Obey all. Who are we to limit God and to direct what we will or will not do for Him?

"My life's a mess. I'm facing divorce. The kids are creating havoc. The job's a mess. I need your help, Lord. I'll read my Bible. I'll go to church, but don't expect me to be a fanatic or anything." Limiting God will never work. He is God. He is the Creator. It's His way or your own way -



which usually fails. Sometimes our help does not come from above because of our spiritual ignorance.

“For they, being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3).

I remember the tale of the communist children, years ago, who were told to prove if there was a God. They were instructed to pray as hard as they could to God for candy. They prayed and prayed. Nothing!

Did God not hear their prayers? True, they possibly were unsaved, but they didn’t know the adults that were making them tempt the Lord were making them break Biblical principles. They didn’t get help because they did not know *how*, and *who*, can go to God.

Many people are ignorant of what He requires, and how it should be done because they have no idea what God thinks of the situation. Bible reading and prayer over time would reveal clearer how we are to go to God and what He commands. Some folks give the *appearance* of obeying, but disobey God in their hearts. Appearances are deceiving.

Ananias and Sapphira (see the fifth chapter of Acts) deceived many. They led many to believe that had sold everything and given it all to God. The all-knowing, watchful Father knew that, although they didn’t have to give it all, they had lied and held some back. Instead of receiving the blessing of God, they received the wrath of God. They both perished. God saw through their deception.

Sometimes the situation does not get changed, because God has reasons for you to be in the state you’re in right now and it’s not time to leave it. You pray for the testing to stop, but God wants you in the valley to teach you something you haven’t learned yet. Class isn’t over yet.

Every child of God I know gets in this situation more than once during their life. We pray. We cry out to the Father. We check our hearts and lives to see if there’s any sin causing us to reap the problem. Nothing changes. Hard times are the best teacher. No one really wants to go through them. They may get you far from God or closer to Him. The latter is always His desire.

When do *you* get closest to Him or pray the most? We get closer when a child is sick and the doctor says there’s nothing more he can do ...or when you lose your job and you wonder where you’re going to get your next income from. It’s through those dark times that we get the closest to Him and rely on Him the most. They can be the sweetest times in our lives.

The only way for the Bible teachings to work one hundred percent of the time is for you to walk in one hundred percent obedience. As Paul exhorted Timothy (1 Timothy 4:15) after Paul had given him some advice: *“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them...”*

After God shows us what to do, through preaching His Word, or through direction of God’s people, we are responsible to obey all those commandments. We cannot choose what we want to obey. It’s all or nothing. What He shows us are usually His commandments.

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines commandments as “an order or injunction given by authority.” He is the authority and His Words should be our orders.

You want the Bible to “work”? Then obey ALL!

GET RID OF SIDS PROJECT

by Stephanie Messenger

Could toxic gases coming from baby mattresses and bedding be the major cause of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome?

Do you want to do all you can to keep your baby safe and alive? Investigate today so babies live tomorrow!

Over the past thirty years many thousands of babies have succumbed to what is defined as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) each year in Australia. Research into SIDS has been carried out worldwide over the past decades. Many risk factors have been identified, but mainstream SIDS research has not found a cause. New Zealand Forensic scientist T. J. Sprott and a British scientist Barry Richardson, maintain the **MAJOR CAUSE of SIDS is toxic gases** coming from mattresses and bedding that babies sleep in and on.

The **Toxic Gas Theory** hypothesises that compounds in the mattress i.e. phosphorus, arsenic and/or antimony, when combined with fungi formed from bacteria (*Scopulariopsis brevicaulis*) in bodily fluids, and heat, create particular gases to be generated in the mattress and then escape into the air around the baby. These gases are phosphine, arsine and stibine (and/or derivative gases). They are like nerve gases and the babies succumb quickly and silently.

The compounds are mostly put in the sleep surface in fire retardants but some occur naturally in the materials used. The bacteria come from bodily fluids e.g. urine, saliva, perspiration etc. After a short time fungi forms on this bacteria. The heat source is most often a fever, hot water bottle or electric blanket or over-heating baby’s bedroom (you should never let them sleep on electric blankets anyway! CIM).

At this time this theory has not been conclusively tested so there is no guarantee a baby will not succumb to SIDS sleeping on a covered mattress. However, there have been over two hundred thousand covers sold in New Zealand and not one death when all of Dr. Sprott’s protocols have been followed. That’s a one hundred percent success rate! Visit

www.cotlife2000.co.nz for complete protocols.

Please inform other parents about this research and encourage them to visit the website below, where all the current SIDS figures and research is provided. **The Get Rid of SIDS Project Inc.**, is a non-profit organisation dedicated to getting to the bottom of this devastating issue. We do not have government funding so we rely totally on donations.

Please consider donating to **The Get Rid of Sids Project Inc.** Bank details are on the website. Donations are tax deductible. Email for a receipt to be sent once you have donated.

For additional information visit www.getridofsids.com or call Stephanie on 07 3821 5454 or 0412 671 922; or email: getridofsids@live.com.

British research shows the birth order is relevant because second-born babies die twice as often as first-born babies, and, third-born babies die twice as often as second-born babies. It is thought that, because cot mattresses are used for subsequent babies, more fungi has taken hold and

Videos You May Have Missed: all three from AmProm 2007 Summer Camp

1. *Wake Up!*

2. *Our Heritage, Use it or Lose it,*
pastor Dave Barley

DVD#CI-555 @ sug don \$17

Deity Revelation

parts 1 & 2 of 2

James Bruggeman

DVD#CI-556 @ sug don \$17

Truth With Both Barrels

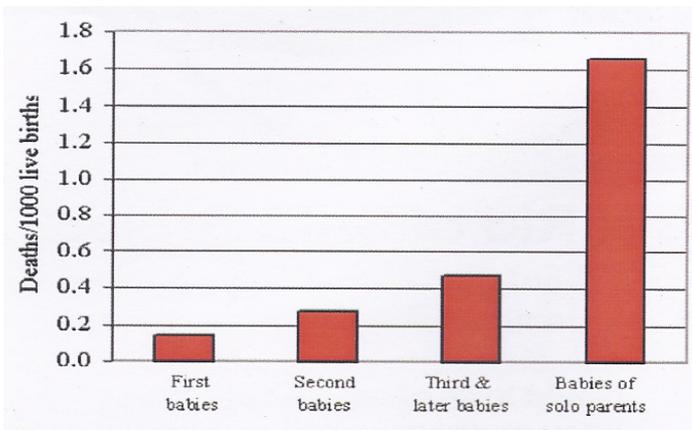
parts 1 & 2 of 2

DVD#CI-557 @ sug don \$17



then the gases are generated more quickly. Often solo parents use mattresses which have been used many times over, thus increasing the fungi build-up in the mattress, and making the gas generation faster.

“Cot Death Rates For First and Later Babies and Babies of Solo Parents (Britain, 2005).”



This graph (which is compiled from official British cot death statistics) shows the rising rate of cot death [SIDS] from one baby in a family to the next, with babies of solo parents having the highest cot death rate. These statistics, which are paralleled in other countries and repeat year after year, disprove every medical and physiological theory for the cause of cot death.

A request by **The Get Rid of SIDS Project** for birth order to be added to the CCYPCG (QLD Gov. Dept) report into SIDS, was denied. No valid reason was given. We will continue to request this information. Once the near-equal sleeping position was pointed out to the CCYPCG representative in their report, they excluded this vital data from subsequent reports.

Queensland’s Current SIDS Rate

In 2009-10 (financial year period) there were fifty one deaths from SIDS. That’s approximately one baby per week in QLD alone.

Sleeping With Your Baby

Close to fifty percent of babies who died from SIDS in the same period in Queensland were sleeping in bed with either their parents or siblings. If co-sleeping is your choice, the bed needs to be covered in this same type of plastic. Plastic sheeting needs to be free from phosphorus, antimony and arsenic. It is available. Call for details (at the end of this article. Do NOT call CIM for this!).

Port-a-Cots, Bassinets and Cradles

Close to twenty five percent of babies who died in the above year were sleeping in port-a-cots, bassinets or cradles. Some babies have died while Mum was out shopping with them in a stroller or pram. It is important all surfaces a baby sleeps on are covered.

Sleeping Position

Approximately half the babies who die are sleeping on their back according to the CCYPCG report. The current “Back To Sleep” message may be irrelevant given these figures. Many mothers report that babies sleep on their stomach after they are able to roll over themselves. Research is currently being done by **The Get Rid of SIDS Project** regarding sleeping positions.

Vaccinations and SIDS

It is clear from the U.S.A. Vaccination Compensation Fund literature that some babies die from vaccine damage and it is attributed to SIDS. This is a small number compared to the SIDS rate in the U.S.A. While some SIDS deaths have undoubtedly been vaccination deaths, the

majority could possibly be toxic gas deaths. If vaccines were a major cause of SIDS, it would follow that countries with the highest vaccination rate would have the highest SIDS rate. This is not the case.

Why has the SIDS rate fallen in the past fifteen years? There are several possible reasons for this; below are three:

1. Autopsies are being carried out far more thoroughly these days.
2. Previously children up to four years were included in SIDS figures. Now it’s only up to one year.
3. Some figures do not include babies under twenty eight days as these are considered perinatal deaths.

What Can You Do To Protect Your Baby?

In order to prevent the gases from escaping, a mattress can be covered with a rubber or thick polythene membrane which the gas cannot permeate. The polythene cover must not contain any of the compounds implicated and must also be at least one hundred twenty five microns thick.

If the mattress is covered when new, before any baby has slept on it, then the bacteria cannot get into the mattress in the first place so no gas will be generated. If the mattress is already used and then covered, the gas cannot escape. Either way, the baby will not be exposed to these gases.

Some people are concerned about babies sleeping on a plastic cover. It is not physically possible for suffocation to occur on this plastic. This plastic is so thick and strong that an adult cannot tear it.

The cover is itself incapable of any toxic gas generation. The plastic used in the covers is chemically inert, and does not contain BPA or phthalates. If the mattress has been previously used, air it for a couple of days (preferably in sunshine) before enclosing it in the cover.

Bedding and Bed Clothes

One hundred percent natural cotton or woven wool is to be used in the baby bedding and also in bed clothes. Synthetic clothes and bedding contain many compounds, including those implicated in the toxic gas theory. See Dr Sprott’s analysis of bedding on his website.

Unless bedding and bed clothes are tested to determine they are clear of the compounds, arsenic, phosphorus or antimony, they should not be used; otherwise you could be bringing the gases to the top of the bed. Some laundry detergents contain phosphorus also, so washing baby’s bedding and clothes should be done using pure soap.

Sheepskins and Lambskins

Baby should never be placed on a sheep or lambskin - these give off the toxic gases implicated in the toxic gas theory. Do not line baby car seats, strollers and prams with sheepskins unless they have been laboratory tested to determine they are free from the compounds listed.

The theory contends that SIDS can be virtually eliminated by ensuring that anything the baby sleeps on is covered as above, and that bedding does not contain the above compounds.

**COME BACK, COLONIALISM,
ALL IS FORGIVEN**

By Alex Perry - Thursday Feb. 14, 2008

Le Blanc and I are into our five hundredth kilometer on the river when he turns my view of modern African history on its head. “We should just give it all back to the whites,” the riverboat captain says. “Even if you go one thousand kilometers down this river, you won’t see a single sign of development. When the whites left, we didn’t just stay where we were. We went backwards.”

LeBlanc earns his keep sailing the tributaries of the Congo River. He’s forty years old, and his real name is Malu-Ebonga Charles - he’s got his nickname, and his green eyes and dark honey skin, from a German grandfa-



ther who married a Congolese woman in what was then the Belgian Congo. If his unconventional genealogy gave him a unique view of the Congo's colonial past, it is his job on the river, piloting three dugouts lashed together with twine and mounted with outboards, that has informed his opinion of the Democratic Republic of Congo's present. "The river is the artery of Congo's economy," he says. "When the Belgians and the Portuguese were here, there were farms and plantations - cashews, peanuts, rubber, palm oil. There was industry and factories employing three thousand to five thousand people. But since independence, no Congolese has succeeded. The plantations are abandoned."

It's true that our journey through six hundred forty three kilometers of rainforest to where the Maringa River joins the Congo at Mbandaka, has been an exploration of decline. An abandoned tugboat here; there, a beached paddle steamer stripped of its metal sides to a rusted skeleton; several abandoned palm oil factories, their roofs caved in, their walls disappearing into the engulfing forest, their giant storage tanks empty and rusted out. The palms now grow wild and untended on the riverbanks and in the villages we pass, the people dress in rags, hawk smoked blackfish and bushmeat, and besiege us with requests for salt or soap. There are no schools here, no clinics, no electricity, no roads. It can take a year for basic necessities ordered from the capital, Kinshasa, nearly two thousand kilometers downstream, to make it here, if they make it at all.

Even amid the morbid decay, it comes as a shock to hear LeBlanc mourn colonialism. The venal, racist scramble by Europeans to possess Africa and exploit its resources found its fullest expression in the Congo. In the late nineteenth century, Belgium's King Leopold made a personal fiefdom of the central African territory as large as all of Western Europe. From it, he extracted a fortune in ivory, rubber, coffee, cocoa, palm oil and minerals such as gold and diamonds. Unruly laborers working in conditions of de facto slavery had their hands chopped off; the cruelty of Belgian rule was premised on the idea that the Congo and its peoples were a resource to be exploited as efficiently as possible. Leopold's absentee brutality set the tone for those that followed him in ruling the Congo - successive Belgian governments and even the independent government of Mobutu Sese Seko, who ruled from 1965 to 1997 and who, in a crowded field, still sets the standard for repression and corruption among African despots.

LeBlanc isn't much concerned with that history; he lives in the present, in a century where education is a luxury and death is everywhere. Around forty five thousand people die each month in the DRC as a result of the social collapse brought on by civil war, according to a study released in January by the International Rescue Committee. It estimated the total loss of life between 1998 and April 2007 at five million four hundred thousand. For many Congolese like LeBlanc, the difficulties of today blot out the cruelties of the past.

"On this river, all that you see - the buildings, the boats - only the whites did that. After the whites left, the Congolese did not work. We did not know how to. For the past fifty years, we've just declined." He pauses. "They took this country by force," he says, with more than a touch of admiration. "If they came back, this time we'd give them the country for free."

Courtesy America's Promise, Box 157, Sandpoint Idaho 83864.

Switzerland Bans Burqas

At the end of September, the lower house of the Swiss parliament voted, by one hundred one to seventy one, to ban the wearing of burqas or other face coverings in some public places. These include public transport and access to

public buildings "in order to guarantee the security of other users." The Bill now goes to the Swiss upper house.

In France, a court has fined two women, under the French law banning the wearing of burqas in public.

Scotland: Marriage Agenda

The Scottish parliament is currently conducting a fourteen-week "Consultation" on the question of whether they should legalise same-sex 'marriage.' The Consultation, asks if marriage should be allowed in Scotland for homosexuals through a civil or religious ceremony. The Consultation document says "The Government's initial view is that marriage should be open to both same sex couples and opposite sex couples." The First Minister, Alex Salmond, has already said that he supports homosexual "marriage". The Health Minister said churches would not be forced to "solemnize" gay marriages.

Several religious groups are backing the proposal: The Unitarians, Quakers, Metropolitan Community Church, Pagan Federation and Liberal Judaism.

Of course, homosexual lobby groups have been campaigning for this for some time. In March 2009 the *Equal Marriage Campaign* was established by the *NUSLGBT Scotland Campaign*. The group presented a petition to the parliament in September 2009 with about one thousand signatures.

The Roman Catholic Church in Scotland has strongly opposed the proposal - they sent out one hundred thousand "protest cards" to parishioners, encouraging them to oppose the proposal.

Courtesy Salt Shakers, Box 6049, Wantirna Vic 3152

It has come to my attention that some people like to listen to messages as they drive in the car. Most cars are now fitted with CD players. We are trying to convert all messages to CD. Where a cassette tape is too long for a single CD (as with some Sheldon Emry, Bob Hallstrom, Jack Mohr, and others), as they usually have two messages, one per side; we will need to split these onto two CDs. (as in the same number, but (a) and (b).). Who are you interested in most on CD: Sheldon Emry, Jack Mohr, Bob Hallstrom, Ben Williams, Pete Peters? Let me know.

We had already put a number of Sheldon Emry messages on DVD, and that is good with a series, as in many cases the entire series can be put on one DVD. However, I would appreciate your feedback, as to whether you prefer to have them on DVD or on CD - so please let me know.

Also, it seems there are still some problems with some DVDs in that they will not play on some DVD players. At this time, we have no idea why this happens, and we have tried different things to try and alleviate this problem - it seems without success. If you do have a problem, your patience is appreciated. If possible, please try it in another machine (or a friend's, or neighbour's) and see if it works there. Often they will play when put in another player. If that doesn't help, please send it back and explain the problem, and we will try and sort the problem by giving you a replacement disc (that works) or giving you a refund. Sorry for any inconvenience. We are doing the best we can.

It seems we are finishing up with several CD copies of the same message, because of returned 'loan' CDs. Please rather than sending them back, consider buying them - \$5each or 7 CDs for \$25 at the one time. This will help us greatly with not having to stockpile and store returned CDs - THANKS!

I would like to say 'thanks' for the complimentary letters we have had for the *Messenger*. God sends us great articles! We look forward to your letters and clippings, and we value your support. May our Heavenly Father bless you and keep you safe for your faithfulness

