

... Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error'

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SINS THAT WILL SINK THE UNITED STATES

By Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psa. 11:3)

"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34)

These texts are solemn warnings to the nations of the world, and the truths are applicable to all generations. When one traces the record of great empires, it becomes crystal clear that divine judgment has come to those nations which have wallowed in iniquity.

The first historical evidence is the generation of Noah. In an unprecedented judgment by means of the great flood, destruction was brought to the world. Only Noah and his family were spared.

And Jude tells of the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness which dominated the lives of their inhabitants. Violence, immorality and debauchery had filled their cup of iniquity. Lot's generation was materialistic and sensual, according to the Biblical record. God therefore stepped in and brought destruction to the cities by fire and brimstone.

Later in history, during the kingdom period, the ten tribes of Israel were overthrown and the people taken into captivity by the Assyrians. Still later the tribes of Judah and Benjamin also came under divine

judgment and had to endure the 70 years of the Babylonian Captivity. In fact, both nations were dismantled because of their disobedience, idolatry, and other abominations. The Bible specifically mentions that the judgment came "because Manasseh, king of Judah, hath done these abominations" (II Kings 21:11). Despite his subsequent repentance, God did not recind the judgment of Judah.

Perhaps the clearest historical evidence of God's chastisement of a great nation was the fall of Rome, which had been the most durable empire of antiquity, having existed for more than 600 years. In its final period, during the 5th century, this great nation disintegrated because of its moral rot and inner corruption. The hand of God may be clearly seen in its destruction, as well as other nations where iniquity abounded to that extent so that it was impossible for them to escape the divine judgment and retribution.

Nor can our own beloved country expect to escape the judgment of God because of its sins, some of which we shall list and discuss.

"Lovers of Pleasure"

Our nation is pleasure-mad. This end-time development was predicted by Paul, who wrote, "They shall

be lovers of pleasure, more than lovers of God" (II Tim. 3:2).

The unrestrained quest by people seeking every form of pleasure is leading our nation down the road of worldliness and God-forgetfulness. The interest in pleasure-activities has become excessive throughout our land. Recently 68,000 people attended a soccer game in the Eastern part of our country. In that general area at about the same time, 100,000 young people met for a rock festival. With all its bombastic music, drinking, and use of drugs by the participants, the vast gathering demonstrated that this warped kind of life is popular with multitudes of people. There they were in an open field, or pasture, packed together like sardines, carrying on their activity. The large attendance in all our stadiums at the various kinds of sports activities further indicates that we are drifting into a period when worldly pleasures will have achieved dominance over tens of millions of people.

The radio, television, and the entire news media are devoting an abnormal amount of time each day to the various sports events. Some of these activities might serve in a wholesome way if kept in balance, or within proper bounds; but these pleasures have gone to ridiculous extremes. Leading athletes in various clubs are being paid fabulous sums; at times million-dollar contracts are given to certain individuals. In fact, some of them are paid higher salaries than that of the President of the United States. Truly sports have become the idol of the nation, which seems to have forgotten that every form of idolatry is condemned in the Scriptures.

Unfortunately during some of these activities drinking and rowdiness have occurred, as at our Twin

City stadium recently, resulting in a cancellation by a respectable organization of an arrangement to have its convention in the city of Bloomington, which would have brought several million dollars worth of business to this community.

It is well to remember that it was at Belshazzar's feast, attended by thousands of lords, which brought about the hand-writing on the wall with the announcement of doom to the king and his pleasure-mad crowd. On some rare occasions I have attended a baseball game of one of the major leagues, but when I see the amount of drinking and the spirit of the crowd, I feel out of place and will doubtlessly discontinue attending such games. Often the Lord's Day has become the center of such pleasure activities. Stadiums have been built in many areas of the country accommodating 50,000 to 100,000 people. In our Twin City area a new stadium is being planned and no doubt will be built soon at a cost of more than fifty million dollars.

Indeed, we have reached the point where it may be said that people in our country are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." This condition was predicted and constitutes a sign of the end-time.

Excessive Indulgence in Alcoholic Beverages

It is now estimated that seventy percent of our youth are drinking intoxicating beverages, at least to some extent. And, according to statistics, over 450,000 teen-alcoholics have been identified. Moreover, the total cost of consumption of alcoholic beverages has reached the sum of more than 30 billion dollars a year. Recent figures indicate that there are approximately 10 million alcoholics in the United

States, and leaders of Alcoholics Anonymous believe the figure is nearer 20 million. And they inform us that only one million of these are ever cured of this destructive habit. This is disheartening, to say the least.

More than half of the fatalities on our highways and streets are caused by drivers who are under the influence of liquor. Many regulatory measures are discussed to reduce this terrible destruction of human lives, but none seems to come up with the recommendation of mandatory jail sentences for those who drive with an unacceptable amount of alcohol in their blood when tests are made. This would be a remedy that would help very much in reducing the number of lives lost. The large-scale promotion of the sale of various brands of liquor continues to be featured in our newspapers and magazines as well as over the radio and television.

Liquor also is the leading cause of the breakdown of American homes. The excessive use of alcoholic beverages has put our country on the skids, and it will eventually lead to national disintegration. It is revolting to read accounts of the drinking habits of leaders in our Congress, especially when Congressional groups take their trips around the world at the taxpayers' expense, including huge amounts of liquor. Our people are becoming a nation of drunkards. I have information that even certain Christian groups in conservative churches are accepting social drinking at certain gatherings. All in all, our nation is headed for the catastrophic judgment of God unless it returns to a more sober way of life.

Collapse of Our National Home Life

Statistics indicate that there are almost as many divorces as mar-

riages in our country. In certain large cities it stands at fifty-fifty. In past generations the home was regarded as the citadel of an enduring civilization, and the very cornerstone of strength of a free people. It is an established fact that one child out of six is now reared in a home with only one parent exercising responsibility, due to the separation of husband and wife. This condition applies to 11 million children in the United States under 18 years of age.

In recent years divorce has become a major problem in the churches. It has even reached the ministry and prominent lay leaders. A short time ago it was announced that the famous Riverside Church in New York City called Dr. William Sloan Coffin, Jr. as its senior pastor by a vote of 372 to 2. Not only has he been divorced twice, but he also openly attacked our government on its foreign policy. He encouraged the draft-evaders and supported street demonstrations in defiance of the law. When the pastor of a nationally known church who has experienced such things is selected as the leader of the congregation, then we have experienced some very low standards. Roman Catholics are also witnessing nearly as many broken homes as Protestants. Recently I had a letter from a friend in one of our largest cities, who has been an educator for 40 years, who made this observation: A generation ago, he said, at rescue missions one would often appeal to the derelicts on the basis of their mothers, who often were Christians. Now, he said, the word *mother* has very little appeal if any, as many of these derelicts on skid-row do not even know who their mothers are, and have no memory of any wholesome home life.

No nation is able to survive the general disintegration of the home life, especially at the rate we are moving in this generation. This tragic development will sink our republic in spite of its 200 years of glorious history.

Legalized Abortion

As late as a decade ago no honorable person could have believed that this great sin would be given the green light by the United States Supreme Court. The tragic ruling of the highest court of the land a few years ago literally paralyzed the states and local communities in upholding their statutes, simply because the ruling of the Supreme Court takes precedence over state and local laws. This terrible destruction of the unborn will bring on divine judgment. In New York City last year there were more abortions than live births. A total of over a million unborn children were slaughtered during 1976 in our country. This exceeds the total number of men who died during World War I, World War II, the Korean War (where 33,000 died) and the Viet Nam war (with a loss of 55,000 lives). All these war dead did not reach one million, but the abortions in one year exceeded that figure! Isn't the right of the unborn as sacred as that of those born? Who knows but that the destruction of life on this scale might include such potential leaders as a Luther, Shakespeare, Wesley or D. L. Moody! Such men changed the course of history. What if they had been destroyed through abortion? We pray that the Pro-Life Movement will gain strength rapidly, and that it will crystallize public opinion to the extent that Congress will be forced to submit a Constitutional Amendment which, if adopted, will

overturn the action of the Supreme Court. The high court has failed to safeguard the sanctity of human life. The sin of destroying the helpless unborn is a cry that reaches up to Heaven. No nation can escape the divine judgment which has allowed such a sin to be nationally practiced.

The Unprecedented Expansion of Crime

The Lord predicted that "iniquity (lawlessness) shall abound." Obviously He had reference to the latter days. In recent years all our prisons, federal and state as well as local jails, are filled, the walls bursting, as it were, in attempting to hold the inmates. This has led judges and pardon boards to take a dangerous action, namely, placing on parole those who continue to be a threat to society. In order to make room for new prisoners, the device of parole is used to alleviate the crowded prison conditions. It is estimated that only one out of ten guilty of crime is apprehended and sentenced to serve time. We have more than 300,000 being incarcerated at present and the prison population is increasing rapidly. Crime is actually on a rampage. In New York City a big segment of the police force was committed to search for a criminal who had murdered six and wounded seven. Fortunately he was caught, but it appears that he may be considered by the judge incapable of trial due to his mental state. Yet he manifested capability as a sharp-shooter.

The total cost of criminal justice in the United States is approximately 19 billion dollars; but the total cost of *all* crime has reached the staggering figure of 88 billion dollars a year! People can scarcely be out on the street in the evenings as

the killings, rapes, and robberies continue to increase. Recently the well-known Christian owner of a travel agency, Gliff Gotaas, was found lying on the stairway of a restaurant near his office with a massive head injury, dying a few hours later from what his family believed to be cold-blooded murder.

Our generation is the most violent in history. During the recent New York blackout, thievery and arson amounted to several hundred million dollars. Not only were the poor guilty, but middle-class people with good jobs in an affluent society also were involved. Fires were set deliberately in order to cover up evidence of looting the business establishments. Violence is overtaking our nation. And this was predicted. Noah's days and the days of Lot are being repeated. The words of Christ are being fulfilled in our generation.

The Increase in Pornography

The stimulus to immorality and crime is caused by much which this generation sees on the screen and in the theaters, as well as in the

lewd magazines which are sold by the million. Pornographic filth is flourishing throughout the land. City governments seem unwilling to bear down hard on those theaters and booksellers who are guilty of corrupting the morals of the people. Sodomy and immorality, according to Romans 1, will bring on divine judgment. No society can long survive when it rests on the quicksand of abominations in the sight of God. Homosexuals and lesbians are demanding acceptance as respectable people in our society. The trends today threaten the very existence of our nation as a free people. It seems unlikely that we shall outride this storm of violence and iniquity.

God's people need to rise up in this hour, as Anita Bryant did in Florida some months ago. Something constructive can be done despite the fact that we are outnumbered on every hand.

The national sins I have identified will sink our land unless there is a miraculous reversal of the present trends. This is an emergency period for our nation.

BOOKS FOR OUR READERS

The recently published volume, *Glimpses and Reflections of a Ministry*, by Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor of *The Discerner*, is informative and it evaluates his 50 years of ministry. For this attractive cloth bound book the price is only \$4.25 and 40¢ for postage. Most books of this size are listed at \$6.00 or above that. This book makes an ideal gift to people for various anniversaries, and for pastors and Christian workers it is especially valuable for the amount of information contained. Order your copy now.

The book entitled, *The Scientific Case for Creation*, by Dr. Henry M. Morris, is a recent publication. Very few scholars have done a greater amount of research than Dr. Morris. In a day when most scientists are discussing the age of the earth as so many millions of years, it is interesting to find a profound scholar who believes that the earth is of late origin. This book, paperback, sells for \$1.95 with 30¢ in addition for postage. Order copies for your high school and college science teachers.

UNMASKING THE MAN IN THE 'MOON'

by Harold J. Berry

"You may again want to ask me, 'With what authority do you say these things?' I spoke with Jesus Christ in the spirit world. And I spoke also with John the Baptist. This is my authority."

As incredible as these statements may seem, they were made in a speech given by Sun Myung Moon in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 28, 1973. These statements, translated by Bo Hi Pak, are found in *Christianity in Crisis: New Hope*, page 98. Preceding these comments, this religious leader from Korea said, "There can be no doubt that John the Baptist was a man of failure. He was directly responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ" (p. 98).

Having told the audience of his special conversations with Jesus Christ and John the Baptist, he added, "These are hidden truths presented to you as new revelations. You have heard me speak from the Bible. If you believe the Bible, you must believe what I am saying" (p. 98).

But who is Sun Myung Moon? Why was he giving a speech in the United States? Does his teaching agree with the Scriptures?

Relatively few people in the United States would be able to miss hearing about Sun Moon, because he and his followers have been the subjects of reports appearing on national television networks, in news magazines and in secular as well as religious periodicals. These accounts have told of the material wealth of this Korean industrialist and of the increasing number of young people who are rushing off to join his movement. These young people are seen on the streets of American cities peddling various items, such

as candles, peanuts and flowers. The solicitors usually give vague answers when asked where the money goes. Standard answers refer to youth work or drug rehabilitation programs.

Parents who have lost young people to the movement are especially concerned and charge that Moon and his movement brainwash them and maintain rigid control over all of their activities. Some parents have whisked their children away from Moon and have endeavored to have them "deprogrammed" from his concepts. There has been much controversy about this process, especially concerning its legality.

An ABC television documentary on September 2, 1976, gave background that indicates Sun Moon's church may be only a religious front for a movement seeking military aid for South Korea. This coincides with a statement made earlier by *The New York Times Magazine*: "The church operates a political affiliate in Washington called Freedom Leadership Foundation, which lobbies for United States military and economic support for South Korea; hence, some critics suspect that Moon's movement is directed or subsidized by the South Korean C.I.A., a charge the church denies" (May 30, 1976, p. 8).

Moon's Personal History

Sun Myung Moon was born in Korea in 1920. When Moon was 16 years old, Jesus Christ supposedly appeared to him personally on Easter morning and told him that he "had an important mission to accomplish in the fulfillment of God's providence" (*Christianity in Crisis*, p. 117).

After Korea was partitioned, Moon served time in a Communist labor camp. When he and the other prisoners were freed by a United Nations landing party in 1950, Moon is supposed to have carried one of his fellow prisoners "on his back on a bicycle the six hundred miles to Pusan" (p. 120).

In 1954 Sun Myung Moon formally organized the Unification Church. The full title of the organization is The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity. The biographical note in *Christianity in Crisis* states, "There are now headquarters in more than forty countries and church centers in more than 120 cities in the United States" (p. 120).

Why has Moon been giving speeches in the United States? Because he believes America to be the future base of operations for the Lord of the Second Advent. Moon states, "The end of the world signifies that the time of the arrival of the Lord of the Second Advent is near. He must have a base somewhere, some foundation prepared upon which he can begin to fulfill his mission. America is meant to be that base" (p. 62). Speaking in Washington, D.C., Moon said, "The movement for world salvation must begin in this country. America is the base and when America fulfills her mission you will be eternally blessed" (p. 67). No doubt this explains Moon's vast property holdings in the U.S., particularly in New York State. Moon has traveled extensively in the U.S., making his views known to whoever will listen.

Moon's View of the Bible

This brings one to the question, What does Moon believe? In particular, are his beliefs in line with what is taught in the Scriptures as

has been accepted by historic Christianity? The authoritative source of the Unification Church, Moon's *Divine Principle*, reveals that the Bible is not accepted as God's infallible Word. *Divine Principle* states: "The Bible, however, is not the truth itself, but a textbook teaching the truth. Naturally, the quality of teaching and the method and extent of giving the truth must vary according to each age, for the truth is given to people of different ages, who are at different spiritual and intellectual levels. Therefore, we must not regard the textbook as absolute in every detail" (p. 9).

That the truth of the Bible is not binding on Moon and his movement is evident from the fact that Moon supposedly receives special revelation. As already indicated, Moon claims to have talked with Jesus Christ and John the Baptist (*Christianity in Crisis*, p. 98). According to *The New York Times Magazine*, Moon says he "has had visionary chats with Jesus, Moses, Buddha and assorted Biblical luminaries" (May 30, 1976, p. 19).

Moon's Concept of God

Although Moon's writings refer to God as being omniscient, it is apparent from what Moon says that he does not believe God knows everything. In explaining the two lines of prophecy concerning the suffering of Christ and the glory of Christ, Moon says, "Since God did not know how man would respond to His providence for the Messiah, He had no choice but to predict two contradictory results—dual prophecies, each possible depending on man's actions. Thus the faith of man was the factor determining which one of the two prophecies would be fulfilled" (*Christianity in Crisis*, p. 103).

Notice from these statements not only Moon's view that God did not know everything but also that man's actions determined the course of God. According to Sun Moon, if Israel had accepted Jesus as the Messiah, the prophecy of the Lord of glory would result; if Israel rejected Him, the prophecy of the suffering of Christ would be fulfilled.

Moon states, "Since the prophecy of the suffering Christ became fact in the time of Jesus, the prophecy of the Lord of glory has been left unfulfilled. And this is the prophecy which will be fulfilled at the time of the Lord of the Second Advent" (p. 104). This statement contradicts Moon's earlier comments. He indicated that the reason God gave both prophecies was because He did not know what man would do. But in this statement, he indicates that he believes one prophecy was fulfilled first, and the other prophecy will be fulfilled later.

Moon's Concept of Jesus Christ

One of the most important teachings of any group is what it believes concerning the Person and work of Jesus Christ. In particular, is Jesus Christ God? Sun Moon leaves no doubt about his position on this crucial subject: "Jesus is a man in whom God is incarnate. But he is not God Himself" (p. 13).

Moon believes that God sent Jesus, the second Adam, so He could marry the second Eve and produce a race of sinless children. "God intended him to bring forth upon this earth his own sinless children. Then Jesus and his bride would have become the True Parents for mankind," says Moon (p. 28).

Inasmuch as Jesus did not accomplish this at His first coming, Moon believes Jesus will come again as

the third Adam, and then the True Parents will produce this sinless race. However, some of Moon's statements indicate that he does not expect the same Jesus to return. Many people think that Moon himself believes he is the third Adam, although Moon does not directly say so.

John 1:1-3 refers to the Word's being with God and also being God. Verse 14 states, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us", thereby revealing that the Word is Jesus Christ and that He is God. John 8:58 reveals the pre-existence of Jesus Christ: "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." However, these verses do not daunt Sun Moon. He explains them away and sees no possibility that Jesus Christ is God.

Concerning the crucifixion of Jesus, Sun Moon believes He was a victim of evil men. Moon states, "Thus Jesus died on the cross, not not of his own will, not of the will of God, but by the will of men" (p. 102).

However, Jesus specifically stated, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (John 10:17,18). According to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ was not a victim of circumstances; He willingly laid down His life for mankind.

Moon's Concept of the Holy Spirit

In Moon's theology, Jesus "came as the True Father in order to realize the Kingdom of Heaven on earth by giving rebirth to fallen men as children of goodness without original sin" (*Divine Principle*, p.

214). In this regard, Moon reveals what he believes about the Holy Spirit: "However, a father alone cannot give birth to children. There must be a True Mother with a True Father, in order to give rebirth to fallen children as children of goodness. She is the Holy Spirit" (p. 215).

Moon further emphasizes: "Thus, the Holy Spirit is a female Spirit, consoling and moving the hearts of

the people" (p. 215). Although the Greek word for spirit is *neuter*, masculine pronouns are used for the Holy Spirit in such passages as John 15:26; 16:13,14. So in addition to Moon's views concerning the union of Christ and the Holy Spirit being contrary to the Scriptures, they are also wrong concerning the gender of the Holy Spirit.

Used with permission,
Good News Broadcaster, Nov. issue 1976.

SET FREE BY THE TRUTH

Testimony by Terry Schmuck

Terry Schmuck, a former Jehovah's Witness Elder, is now a Christian and consultant for the HELP JESUS ministry.

I was there, at the "Sacred Service" assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses held at Hollywood Park, in Inglewood, California, August, 1976. That assembly was significant in that it was the last one I would ever attend as a Jehovah's Witness. My journey with the Witnesses was coming to an end. How did it start?

It started eight years previous, in 1968, when a Witness, in the door-to-door work, persuaded my wife to purchase the book, *The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, published by the Watchtower Society. We had felt the need for God in our lives, and wanted to get more involved with religion. Enter, the Witnesses!

Shortly thereafter, we moved to San Bernardino, California, where we began studying with the Witnesses and attending Kingdom Hall meetings. It did not take long before we were completely indoctrinated and began going from door-to-door ourselves, leaving literature wherever we could. Many of our relatives and friends tried to dissuade us, but nothing would stop us. We surely had the "truth!" On January 18, 1969, we were baptized at a circuit assembly in San Bernardino. The following summer we

moved back to Ridgecrest, where we remain today.

I was a very active and zealous Witness. For a time, I was a "Pioneer" (full-time) minister. Also, I was appointed to various "servant" positions in the congregation, served on the judicial committee, and eventually became an "elder." In 1973 I attended the Watchtower Kingdom Ministry School in Norco, California, the course mainly being instructions in organizational procedure. During that course, the instructor said something that I would never forget. He told us, "Brothers, the best way for you as elders to do Jehovah's will is to do everything that the Society tells you to do, and to do it right away. *Right or wrong*, do what they tell you. If they are wrong, Jehovah will take care of it, but will bless you for submitting yourselves to His organization." No wonder the Society would not permit tape recorders in the classroom!

Why did I come out? I believe that it was time for the Holy Spirit to lead my wife and me into the real truth (John 16:13). Over the years certain things began to bother me. The Watchtower doctrine that Jesus' second coming took place, invisibly, in 1914 seemed to strain

the meanings of many Scriptures, the context of which appeared to say that Jesus' coming would be seen and heard (e.g., 1 Thess. 4:16-18). The Society's claim of being God's channel of revealed truth seemed to lack veracity in view of the Society's 'fruitage' of continuous doctrinal error (Matt. 7:18). If this was truly God's channel of truth, then why so much error?

How could we call past errors "old light?" Since when was error light? And, I chafed under the Society's latest speculation on when the "end" would come, 1975. I remember when we first attended the Kingdom Hall in Ridgecrest. There was a sign on the inside of the entrance door showing how many months were left before 1975. We heard and read many things in years to come that emphasized 1975. However, while all of these things bothered me, for years I chose to overlook them, because I still believed this to be God's theocratic organization, His "faithful and discreet slave" class, giving us food in due season.

There were occasions when I discussed these things with congregation elders. One elder said that apparently Satan had partially infiltrated the organization's headquarters, bringing about some confusion in the brothers' minds, creating doctrinal error! Another elder said that Jehovah expected all of us to submit to the Society's doctrines, error and all.

By the time of the summer assembly in 1976, my doubts and observations had created within me a spiritual crisis. I was an inactive Witness. By attending the assembly I felt that some of my doubts might be resolved, but this was not to be the case. While I enjoyed the assembly, it did nothing for me. On

the last day of the assembly I noticed swarms of people on the city streets, by the exits, handing out literature.

Some carried signs, one of which caught my eye: "Were You Told The Truth About 1975?" That was a sore subject with me, since representatives of the Society were saying that the Society had never taught anything specific about 1975, and that the individual Witnesses had unreasonably blown it out of proportion. But I knew better!

Not long after the assembly I attended my last meeting at the Kingdom Hall. A few months later, in December, I decided to read some literature about Jehovah's Witnesses, so I went to a Christian bookstore and purchased some books by an ex-Witness, Edmond C. Gruss. The books impressed me so I had some contacts with Prof. Gruss and another ex-Witness, Ken Guindon. Prof. Gruss gave me more literature, including some CARIS and HELP JESUS tracts, which proved very helpful to me. On January 24, 1977, my wife and I submitted our formal resignation to the Witnesses.

Through the ministries of Prof. Gruss and Ken Guindon, I came to accept Jesus as Lord and as the center of my life and worship (John 20:28). My wife is making progress in this direction, as is her sister who left the Witness at the same time as we.

Looking back, I realize that I spent many years preaching, a "different" gospel (Gal. 1:6-9), so I am now engaged in bringing the real Truth, and Way, and Life to other Witnesses (John 14:6). The CARIS and HELP JESUS outreach ministries have been helpful to me, and I am working with these Christians to open the eyes of as many Witnesses as the Lord will allow, and to educate the

Church about the "strange" teachings of the Watchtower Society (Heb. 13:9). Improperly, I used to refer to the Watchtower doctrine as the "truth," as is the practice among the Witnesses. But I now realize

the "Truth" to be Jesus Christ, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords" (Rev. 19:16).

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and Information Service.

TO A MORMON ELDER

by Sid H. Collison, Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Englewood, Colorado

*Why This Pastor Could Not Invite This Mormon Missionary
in Nor Count Him a Christian*

Dear Elder:

I am so glad that you stopped by today. I have been expecting you, for your zeal is a known fact, but there are many reasons why those of us who know and love Jesus personally cannot agree nor fellowship with you. Please allow me the privilege of listing a few of the reasons why your faith according to God's Word is vain, as seen from your own doctrines.

God

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as any man's; and this being cannot occupy two distinct places at once" (*Doctrines and Covenants*, Sec. 130:22).

The Bible says: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

It is taught in *The Pearl of Great Price*, page 60, that "Adam is the Father of all, the Prince of all and the Ancient of Days."

Brigham Young states: "Adam is God, the Supreme God, the creator of this world, our God, and the only God with whom we have to do. He is our father and our God. Who is the Father? The first of the human family" (*Doctrines and Covenants*, Sec. 130:22).

The Bible says: "God said, Let us make man in our image" (Gen. 1:26). "God said, Let us go down"

(Gen. 11:7).

Jesus

"When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was 'not' begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is the father? He is the first of the human family and when he took a tabernacle it was begotten by his father in heaven after the same manner as the tabernacles of Cain and Abel, and the rest of the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve" (*Brigham Young's Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 1, page 50).

The Bible says: "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14).

Holy Spirit

"Ethereal substances diffuse through space. The purest and most refined of substances. There is only one mode by which the Holy Ghost is conferred on mankind — the laying on of the hands of men who have themselves received it and are called and ordained to administer it (Mormon Priesthood).

The Bible says: "When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth. . . he shall testify of me" (John 15:26).

Also see John 16:13, John 14:26, Romans 8:11, Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 3:16.

Hell

"The false doctrine that punishment to be visited upon erring souls is endless, that every sentence for sin is of interminable duration must be regarded as one of the most pernicious results of misapprehension of Scripture" (*Talmage, Articles of Faith*).

Although your group denies Hell, yet when it comes to dealing with the Gentiles by which you designate all others than yourselves, Hell readily comes into your speech.

"Any person who shall be so wicked as to receive a holy ordinance of the Gospel from the ministers of these apostate churches will be sent down to hell with them unless he repents of the unholy and impious act." (*The Seer*, Vol. 1 and 2, page 255.) Also refer to Matthew 5:22-30 as God speaks concerning Hell in His Word.

The Book of Mormon

Concerning The Book of Mormon it has been proven beyond a doubt to originate in a historical novel written by Solomon Spaulding, a Presbyterian preacher who died of consumption at Conneaut, Ohio, in 1816 before it could be published. The manuscript was found by Sidney Rigdon in the printing office of Patterson and Lamdin of Pittsburgh (*The Mormons or Latter Day Saints*, D. H. C. Bartlett, M. A., published by Charles J. Thynne and Jarvis Ltd., London).

Joseph Smith

"It was in August, 1850 that I found myself spending a week in the immediate vicinity of Palmyra and Manchester. Three men were mentioned to me who had been intimately acquainted with Joseph Smith from the age of ten years to twenty-five years upwards. The testimony of these men was given un-

der no stress of any kind. It was clear, decided, unequivocal testimony in which they all agreed. 'Joseph Smith is simply a notorious liar. We never knew another person so utterly destitute of conscience as he was.' The thing for which Joseph was most notorious was his vulgar speech and his life of unspeakable lewdness" (*The Mormons or Latter-Day Saints*, D. H. C. Bartlett, M.A., published by Charles J. Thynne and Jarvis, Ltd., London).

Yes, I am glad you happened by today even though I could not invite you in. The Bible teaches, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. . . . Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (II John 7, 9,10).

Perhaps you see why I will not accept your teaching. Historically, your system stands condemned. Morally, it is not in agreement with God's Word. And lastly and most important, it stands in error according to the Word of God.

So it is that although I could not extend to you an invitation into my home, I am glad to have this opportunity to invite you to leave this false system and take Christ as your personal Saviour and enjoy the peace that is mine today for I know that I have everlasting life. Won't you please read the following Scriptures: Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 3:23;; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:12; Romans 10:9-13; John 10:28.

Used with permission,
The Sword of the Lord, July issue 1976.

STANDARDS ABANDONED AT RIVERSIDE

By a vote of 372-2, the congregation of Riverside Church in New York voted to call the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., the prominent social activist and former Yale University chaplain, as its senior minister.

Edith Lerrigo, who chaired the search committee of the 2,600-member congregation, said the divorce of the United Presbyterian minister had been the most controversial aspect of his career for the committee.

Mr. Coffin's marriage to Eva Rubenstein, daughter of Pianist Arthur Rubenstein, ended in divorce in 1968. They had three children. The following year he married Harriet H. Gibney, director of health education at Children's Hospital in Boston and former wife of an encyclopedia company executive. They are now separated.

Mr. Coffin, 53, will become the fourth senior minister of Riverside Church in November. He is expected to fit in with its tradition of liberal theology and social action that was established by the Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, who served as the first senior minister from 1926 to 1946.

Riverside was constructed in 1931 with major financial support from John D. Rockefeller, a Baptist. The interracial congregation, which is jointly affiliated with American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ, is supported by an endowment of more than \$40 million.

From Christian News

Editorial comment: The above is an example of unbelievable apostasy in a popular church in New York. On spiritual qualifications, the new pastor has none that meets the N.T. standard.

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WAS JESUS CHRIST A REVOLUTIONARY?

By Rev. Wendell K. Grout, Calgary, Saskatchewan, Canada

Some revolutionaries in our day would have us believe so. It is easy to see why. If you can prove that He was, then you have the highest possible justification for being a revolutionary yourself. You must, of course, also show that you revolution is the same in kind with His. Before answering the question, consider the following:

1.) Jesus Christ was not inflammatory in His preaching nor sensational in His methods. The prophet said of Him, "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench: He shall bring forth judgment with truth." Isaiah 42:2-3.

2.) He supported the institutions of His day. He was subject to His parents in the home. He learned and taught in the same synagogues. He worshipped in the temple, calling it His Father's house, putting out those who gave to its ministry. He paid tax to the Roman government and instructed His followers to do the same. All of this He did in spite of the fact that His parents were imperfect, the synagogues were attended by hypocrites, the temple was built by a pagan king and the Roman government was thoroughly

corrupt. He supported institutions without condoning any wrong doing practiced in any of them.

3.) He never tried to force His teachings on others and He taught His disciples to put away their sword and turn their cheeks when they met resistance in their ministry.

4.) There is nothing to indicate that His life style was different from his contemporaries. He went to the synagogue school, worked as a carpenter, lived on simple fare and probably looked and dressed like the common people of His town.

5.) He did not identify with any of the religious or political protest movements of His day. He led no demonstrations and did not take advantage of mob psychology when He could have turned the populace against Rome and used His power to become King. He clearly taught that His kingdom was not of this world.

6.) All of this is not to say, however, that radical changes did not take place as the result of Christ's teaching and that of His followers. Every good social, educational and political movement in the last 2,000 years can be traced to "twice born" men who loved Christ and preached the Gospel — a Gospel of regeneration, not revolution.

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PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

John E. Dahlin, Editor

QUESTION . . . Is there any basis for the present-day optimism often expressed regarding revivals and that the world will be evangelized in our generation?

ANSWER . . . My article in this issue of *The Discerner* may serve as an answer to these optimists, who are being carried away by the conversion of a few prominent persons, and the considerable evangelistic thrust of our time. No New Testament writer holds forth the teaching of successful world evangelism during the latter days. This does not imply that witnessing will cease. No. It will continue until Jesus returns. But the impact of evangelism will be limited nevertheless. In the United States during 1976 the most extensive efforts ever made, brought in approximately one-fourth of one percent, who professed an acceptance of Christ. Jesus referred to the great spiritual declension at the time of His return. See Lk. 18:8. Paul also predicts "Perilous Times" (II Tim. 3:1).

QUESTION . . . Do Cultic Groups ever abandon their unscriptural teachings and return to orthodox theology?

ANSWER . . . During my 21 years as President of Religion Analysis Service, I have never known any such group turning back to the Biblical position. Some years ago a great Bible teacher extended the hand of fellowship to The Seventh Day Adventists as he believed they had changed substantially and were worthy of fellowship with Bible-believing groups. This was found to be an error of judgment, as no change has taken place in the teachings of this cult.