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• GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS
• IT IS MINE
• LORD, I'M COMING HOME
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Exodus 15:14-16 — “And Miriam answered them, Sing you to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider has He thrown into the sea.”

The phrase, “And Miriam answered them,” seems to imply that the men would sing a refrain, and then the women would answer by singing the refrain again. Whether they did this while dancing, or whether some danced and some sang, we aren’t told.

At any rate, their worship and praise proclaimed the Lord as the triumphant One in every capacity.

The writer of Psalm 149 said:

Praise you the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise in the congregation of saints.
Let Israel rejoice in Him who made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise His name in the dance: let them sing praises unto Him with the timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth ...” (Ps. 149:1-6).

THE WILDERNESS

“So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water” (Ex. 15:22).

God tests faith in order to strengthen and enrich it. Israel journeyed three days in the wilderness and found no water. When water was found, there was an added trial—the water was bitter, which is a type of this world and what it has to offer.

Not to be thankful (Rom. 1:21) and to murmur lead to greater sins. Israel murmured, and their unbelief deepened as they murmured.

The smitten tree was cast into the waters, and the waters became sweet, which is a type of the Cross of Christ being placed into the bitterness of our souls. Thus, life may be sweetened if in the energy of faith, a crucified Saviour is introduced into it.

The healing mentioned here refers not only to the physical healing of the body but, as well, the spiritual healing of the soul.

The refreshment enjoyed at Elim suggested that which would come at the advent of Christ. The Lord sent out 12 apostles and 70 others to revive His weary inheritance with the tidings that the kingdom of Heaven was at hand.

As previously stated, we must understand that the Lord led the children of Israel into the wilderness. To be sure, this particular wilderness was about as inhospitable as anything could ever be.
A MATTER OF SOVEREIGN GRACE

Regrettably, the wilderness experience is needed by all Christians. First, the trials and testings of the wilderness make manifest the evil of our hearts and the incurable corruption of the flesh. These trials and tests are necessary in order that we may be humbled.

Second, the entrance into the inheritance itself is also solely a matter of sovereign grace, seeing that there is no worthiness and no “good thing” in us.

While the wilderness may, and will, make manifest the weakness of God’s saints, as well as our failures, this is only to magnify the power and mercy of Him who brought us into the place of testing. Further, we must understand that God always has in view our ultimate good.

So, we find that the “wilderness” gives us not only a revelation of ourselves, but it also manifests the ways of God.

After the Red Sea crossing, the children of Israel went “three days into the wilderness,” which speaks of resurrection, for Christ was raised from the dead three days after His burial (I Cor. 15:4).

And yet, despite the resurrection type, we find that almost immediately, they met with testing—no water, at least that which was usable.

While the world may look very attractive to the unbeliever, to the man of faith, it is simply a wilderness—barren and desolate. No one thinks of making his home in such a place, and neither should the believer become too attached to this world. It is merely the place through which man journeys from time to eternity, and it is faith that makes the difference in the way in which men regard this world.

GOD ALONE CAN SATISFY THE HUMAN HEART

The wilderness having no water is the first lesson that our experience is designed to teach us. There is nothing down here that can in any wise minister to that life which we have received from Christ. The pleasures of sin and the attractions of the world no longer satisfy. It is quite the contrary. These things that formerly charmed us now repel us. The companionship we used to find so pleasing has become distasteful. The things which delight the ungodly only cause us to groan.

In fact, the Christian who is in communion with his Lord finds absolutely nothing around him that will or can refresh his thirsty soul. For him, the shallow cisterns of this world have run dry. His cry will be that of the psalmist: “O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is” (Ps. 63:1).

God alone can satisfy the longings of the heart. That’s why Jesus said, “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink” (Jn. 7:37). So must he continue to go to Him who alone has the Water of Life.

We are going to find that the first lesson the Lord taught the children of Israel was the lesson of the Cross, just as He taught this lesson to the first family (Gen., Chpt. 4).

BITTER WATERS

“And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah” (Ex. 15:23).

The word Marah actually means “bitter.” Whether Israel gave it this name, or it had already been given this name, we aren’t told; however, the likelihood is that it had borne this name for some time. This is a test of faith, and as we shall see, Israel didn’t meet this test too very well.

In a sense, every single thing that comes the way of the child of God is a test of sorts. Of course, some of these tests are of far greater magnitude than others; nevertheless, everything is a test, and we must look at every situation in this light.
How will we react? Will we trust God or murmur and complain?

Great blessings tell us who God is; adversity tells us what we are!

**MURMURING**

“And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?” (Ex. 15:24).

Three days before, the children of Israel were rejoicing on the shores of the Red Sea. Now, some 72 hours later, they are “murmuring against Moses,” which speaks of complaining, and which was to very soon cause them tremendous problems.

Murmuring and complaining present a lack of faith, but the problem was not so easily recognizable.

Probably one could say without fear of exaggeration that the children of Israel had faith, but it was in the wrong object. It seemed to have been in Moses. When everything was going well, he was their hero. At the slightest adversity, the tables turned.

As we shall see, and as the Lord would teach them, their faith had to be in the Cross of Christ. Lacking that, their problems would multiply, and fast. There is only one way to live this life, to walk in victory, to be what God wants us to be, and to have the joy of the Lord, which is the more abundant life promised by Christ. That way is to understand that everything that comes to us as believers comes totally and completely by and through the Cross of Christ. As we’ve already said innumerable times, and will continue to say, the believer must anchor his faith in that great sacrifice. Then the Holy Spirit will work mightily with him, and with the Holy Spirit being God, there is nothing He cannot do. The believer is then guaranteed success; otherwise, the believer is guaranteed failure (Rom. 6:3-14; 8:1-2, 11; I Cor. 1:23; 2:2; Col. 2:10-15).

**THE BITTERNESS OF SOUL**

The bitterness portrayed here proclaims not only the condition of this present world, but also what it produces. There are untold millions of people who have suffered bitter experiences in life. Many of these have suffered sexual or mental abuse as a child, which has left them emotionally disturbed. As a result, there is bitterness of soul, which, without the help of the Lord, that person cannot shake off. Or, life has dealt the person a bitter blow, with the individual harboring unforgiveness, etc., which occasions bitterness.

To be frank, these are not isolated situations. The problem is actually pandemic. In much of this, many actually hold a grudge against God. They feel that He could have prevented whatever it was that happened, and in their heart of hearts, they harbor resentment against Him.

When we get to Verse 25 of Chapter 15 of Exodus, I’m going to tell you how to have total and complete victory over this terrible problem. In fact, that which we will relate to you is the only manner of victory, with there being no other. However, I want to first deal with the manner in which the world attempts to address this problem, which sounds good to the carnal ear, but which, in reality, is of no help at all.

**INNER HEALING**

From the world of humanistic psychology has come the phrase “inner healing,” which, as stated, sounds good to the carnal mind and ear. To be frank, there definitely is such a thing as inner healing, but not in the way that humanistic psychology proposes.

While all psychologists, I suppose, will use the term inner healing, mostly, each of them has a different interpretation as to how the problem is to be addressed—all of it wrong simply because what they are proposing is not the Word of God.

Sadly, many of those who refer to themselves as Christian psychologists actually propose for this malady that the individual in question forgive God.

**HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGY**

Whatever nuance or direction the psychologist might take, almost all of them will seek to delve into the past, as it regards the individual whom they are trying to help. As it should be understood, psychological teaching, which actually had its beginnings in Sigmund Freud, who was inspired by Satan, has no miracle drug, etc., that can be prescribed for the individual. They have only one thing, and that is talk. If talk can set the captive free, then Jesus came down to this sinful world and died in vain (Gal. 2:21).

So, they get the individual to regurgitate all of the happenings of the past, which is totally unscriptural. Concerning the past, Paul said, “Forgetting those things which are behind,” [CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]
FULL-POWER STATIONS

Baton Rouge, LA .................. 88.5 (WJFM)
Covering parts of Southern Louisiana

Lake Village, AR/Greenville, MS .... 95.9 (KUUZ)
Covering parts of Western Mississippi and Eastern Arkansas

Bowling Green/Toledo, OH ...... 730 AM (WJYM)
Covering parts of Northern and Central Ohio, Eastern Indiana, and the Southern tip of Michigan

Atlanta/Texarkana, TX .............. 100.1 (KNRB)
Covering parts of Northeastern Texas, Northwestern Louisiana, Southwestern Arkansas, and Southeastern Oklahoma

Graysville, TN .......................... 95.7 (WAYB)
Covering parts of Southern Tennessee and Northern Georgia

Camden, AR ........................... 1450 AM (KNHD)
Covering parts of Southern Arkansas

Grenada, MS ........................... 95.7 (WTGY)
Covering parts of Northwestern Mississippi

Benton/Day - Jackson, MS ... 92.1 (WJNS)
Covering Central Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana

Guthrie, OK ........................... 1490 AM (KMFS)
Covering Oklahoma City, Edmond, and parts of Central and Northern Oklahoma

Jonesboro, LA ....................... 104.9 (KTOC)
Covering Northern Louisiana

Augusta/Little Rock, AR ............ 97.7 (KJSM)
Covering Central Arkansas, Western Tennessee, a small part of Northwestern Mississippi, and a small part of Southern Missouri

Desoto/St. Louis, MO .......... 100.1 (KDJR)
Covering Southern Missouri, parts of Eastern Missouri, and Western Illinois

Palm Springs, CA .................. 90.9 (KPSH)
Covering the Coachella Valley

Winfield/Wichita, KS .............. 91.9 (KBDD)
Covering South Central Kansas and North Central Oklahoma

Crete, IL .............................. 88.1 (WBMF)
Covering South Chicago and Chicago Heights

Ottawa, IL ............................. 88.9 (WWGN)
Covering Ottawa, West La Salle, East Joliet, and North DeKalb

Kankakee, IL .......................... 88.3 (WAFF)
Covering Northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana

Nashville, AR .......................... 96.9 (KSSW)
Covering Southwestern Arkansas

Mobile/Citronelle, AL .............. 102.1 (WQUA)
Covering Mobile, Alabama

Lafayette/Church Point, LA ...... 91.9 (KCKR)
Covering Southern and Western Louisiana

Ada, OK .............................. 88.7 (KAJT)
Covering South Central Oklahoma

Albion/Highland Park, NY ....... 102.1 (WJCA)
Covering North Western New York State

Norman/Oklahoma City, OK ....... 89.3 (KSSO)
Covering Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Panama City, FL ................... 91.7 (WFFL)
Covering Panama City, Florida

Beatrice/Lincoln, NE .............. 88.9 (KNBE)
Covering South Eastern Nebraska

Grand Island/Hastings, NE ...... 90.7 (KNFA)
Covering South Central Nebraska

Lakewood/Jamestown, NY ....... 88.9 (WYRR)
Covering Lakewood and Jamestown, NY

Corrigan/Lufkin, TX .............. 99.3 (KYTM)
Covering Corrigan and Lufkin, TX

Bastrop, LA ......................... 88.3 (KJGM)
Covering Bastrop, Monroe, and the Northeastern part of Louisiana

Bristow, OK .......................... 104.9 (KREK)
Covering Bristow, Sapulpa, Cushing, Drumright, Okmulgee, Chandler, and the southside of Tulsa, OK

TRANSLATOR STATIONS

Andalusia, AL ...... 89.7
Eufaula, AL .............. 88.9
El Dorado, AR .......... 89.7
Bishop, CA .......... 91.7
Key West, FL ......... 90.5
Dublin, GA .......... 90.9
La Grange, GA ...... 90.3
Waycross, GA ...... 90.7
Carlinville, IL .... 89.1
Effingham, IL .... 88.7
Freeport, IL .... 91.3
Jacksonville, IL ...... 88.1
DeRidder, LA .... 89.5
Grayson, LA .... 91.9
Many, LA .... 91.3
Minden, LA .... 91.1
Morgan City, LA .... 91.5
Natchitoches, LA .... 90.1
Alexandria, MN .... 91.7
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Kirkville, MO .... 88.1
Mountain Grove, MO .... 91.7
St. James, MO .... 89.3
Springfield, MO .... 91.5
Willow Springs, MO .... 90.5
Columbia, MS ...... 88.3
Morehead City, NC .... 91.9
Rockingham, NC .. 88.3
Corny, NY .... 89.5
Chambersburg, PA .... 99.7
Franklin, PA .... 90.3
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Mansfield, PA .... 91.5
Andrews, SC ...... 88.7
Clinton, SC ...... 88.3
Manning, SC ...... 88.7
Winnsboro, SC .... 91.9
Brookings, SD ...... 89.7
Mitchell, SD ...... 89.3
Watertown, SD .... 90.1
Yankton, SD .... 90.7
Pikeville, TN .... 91.3
Bonham, TX .... 91.1
Columbus, TX .... 91.1
Midland, TX .... 91.7
Palestine, TX .... 90.7
### RADIO PROGRAM GUIDE

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reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).

And then, if that direction does not seem to be fruitful, the psychologist will actually make up things and plant them in the person’s mind and try to convince him that that is what happened, whatever it was. However, we should understand that talk has never healed anyone, as ought to be obvious.

As stated, then we have so-called Christian psychologists telling people to “forgive God.” In the first place, God has never done anything untoward toward anyone, so to tell people to forgive Him only exacerbates the problem, putting the person on the road of falsehood and wrong thinking.

One Christian psychologist uses as his therapeutic tool the practice of “visualization.” What is that?

**VISUALIZATION**

The patients (victim in these circumstances) are urged to visualize certain things. They are to lie quietly with their eyes closed and visualize themselves standing by a babbling brook in a beautiful meadow with tall, stately trees around them. The scene is beautiful and peaceful. They are then to visualize Christ walking toward them, speaking softly to them, and then putting His arms around them and, thereby, healing them of all their problems.

Once again, there is nothing of this nature in the Bible. In fact, this is bordering on witchcraft. In some circles, it’s called “white magic.”

The Scripture plainly tells us, “For whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Rom. 14:23).

So, what is the answer to the terrible problem of bitterness of soul?
THE CROSS

“And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there He made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there He proved them” (Ex. 15:25).

For the answer to this dilemma in which Israel now found herself, i.e., “bitter waters,” Moses “cried unto the Lord.”

Let me first of all say, and do so strongly, that there is no help outside of the Lord. As well, he doesn't need the advice or the counsel of Freud, or any worldly wisdom for that matter. In fact, the Holy Spirit through James plainly said, “This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”

He then said, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (James 3:15, 17).

Peter said, “According as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who has called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (II Pet. 1:3-4).

So, the Lord has the answer to whatever problems we might have, whatever dilemmas in which we find ourselves, etc.

THE LORD SHOWED HIM A TREE

One doesn’t have to be a Bible scholar to figure this out. The Lord was showing Moses that the answer to his dilemma was the tree. In fact, the Lord was using the tree as a type of the Cross.

I remember years ago mentioning this subject, and some brother after service tried to tell me how that the chemistry was changed in the water by this particular tree, etc.

The truth is, the Lord, by His miracle-working power, turned the bitter waters sweet. The tree, as far as its chemistry was concerned, had nothing to do with it. The Lord was using that to show Moses that the answer was found in the Cross.

Now, listen to this: The Lord had showed Israel that the “Passover” delivered them out of Egypt when nothing else could. It was a type of Christ and what He would do for us as our substitute on the Cross. The Red Sea crossing portrays the believer entering into the great sacrifice of Christ, as described in Romans 6:3-5. All of this constituted the salvation process, one might say.

Now that they were delivered from Egypt, no longer under the slave master’s whip, and no longer slaves to that despot in any fashion, the Lord would show them that the Cross was the answer to their salvation. As well, it was the answer to their sanctification.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

So, the first thing that the Lord portrayed to Israel through Moses was the Cross of Christ, implying strongly that this was their answer through the wilderness and into the Promised Land.

He’s saying the same thing today to the modern believer. It was the Cross that got them into salvation, or rather their faith in that finished work, and it is the Cross that will effect their sanctification, in other words, how we live for the Lord on a daily basis. It is the Cross alone.

Peter said, “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you slew and hanged on a tree” (Acts 5:30).

Paul said, “And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a sepulcher” (Acts 13:29).

The apostle also said, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree” (Gal. 3:13).

Peter also said, “Who His own self bear our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed” (I Pet. 2:24).

So, the Holy Spirit through Moses referring to the tree is picked up by both Peter and Paul, using the same terminology, which applies to the Cross.

THE TREE WAS PUT INTO THE BITTER WATERS

The believer is to appropriate the benefits of the Cross, which the Lord intends, and to do so on a continuing basis, even day-to-day. I’ll tell you how to do that in a moment.

Jesus said, “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself (deny his own ability, strength, etc.), and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Lk. 9:23).

When He spoke of denying oneself, He wasn’t speaking of asceticism, which is a denial of all things that are pleasurable, etc. Unfortunately, many Christians have come to the conclusion that if it’s something enjoyable, then it’s a sin. No, that has no bearing on what Jesus is saying here. That’s what Satan would like to get people to believe, but it simply isn’t true.

Living for God is the most exciting, thrilling, wonderful, and glorious life that one could ever live, and we’re not under law but under grace (Rom. 6:14).

Now, notice that He said that we must take up our Cross, and even do so on a daily basis. Let’s look at the first part of this statement.

TAKING UP THE CROSS

“Taking up the Cross” simply means that we understand that everything we need, in fact, everything we receive from the Lord, all and without exception, comes to us through the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, it’s the
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Haven of Rest
Headin' Home
Heaven's Sounding Sweeter
He Grew the Tree
He Washed My Eyes with Tears
He was There All the Time
He'll Understand and Say "Well Done"
He's Never Failed Me Yet
How Beautiful Heaven Must Be
I'm Goin' Through
I am Thine O Lord
I Keep Falling in Love with Him
I Know my Lord's Gonna Lead Me Out
In the Shelter of His Arm
I Owe It All to Jesus
I See a Crimson Stream
I Shall Not Be Moved
I Wanna Be Ready
I Was on My Way
I'll Fly Away
I'll Never Be Lonely Again
I'm Nearer Home
It's a Privilege
I've Never Been This Homesick Before
Jesus, Just the Mention of Your Name
Jesus Now More Than Ever
Jesus on the Mainline
Just a Little While
King Jesus
Let Me Lose Myself
Let Me Touch Jesus
Let the Lower Lights Be Burning
Let your Living Water Flow
Life's Railway to Heaven
Look for Me (I'll Be There)
Mercy Rewrote My Life
More of You
No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus
Oh Say but I'm Glad
Oh I Want to See Him
Only for His Eyes
Our Lord is Coming Back to Earth Again
Pass Me Not
Praise Him
Rise and be Healed
Royal Telephone
Since I Laid My Burdens Down
Someone to Care
Sweet Beulah Land
The Galilean
The Healer
The Last Mile of the Way
The Savior is Waiting
There's a Whole Lot of People Going Home
Touching Jesus
Turn your Eyes upon Jesus
We'll Never Grow Old
We'll Talk it Over
What a Beautiful Day
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When I Get to the End of the Way
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Cross that makes it all possible, and we are speaking of what Jesus there did.

The word *daily* means that we are to appropriate these blessings afresh and anew every single morning. The Prophet Jeremiah said, “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:21-23).

Now, the manner in which this is done, or the how that we appropriate these benefits, is all by faith. What do we mean by that?

**FAITH**

None of this is a physical or material thing. It is all in the realm of the spiritual, and it is all acquired strictly by faith. When we say “faith,” always and without exception, we are speaking of the believer having faith in Christ and what Christ has done at the Cross. Paul said, “Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).

This is the believer evidencing faith in Christ and what Christ has done for us in the sacrifice of Himself.

Every believer talks about faith; however, most believers do not understand that for our faith to be recognized by God, its object must always be the finished work of Christ. Let me say that again:

It’s the object of our faith that is so very important. In fact, every human being on the face of the earth has faith, but it’s not faith that God will recognize. The only faith that He recognizes is faith in His Son and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and what Christ has done, which is all proclaimed by the Word of God.

ANOTHER JESUS

Almost every Christian will talk about having faith in Christ, but let the reader understand that we must comprehend the fact that it is always Jesus Christ and Him crucified (I Cor. 1:23). In other words, if we try to divorce Christ from the Cross, we are, in effect, according to the words of Paul, preaching “another Jesus,” which the Lord, of course, cannot honor (II Cor. 11:4).

Millions profess to believe in Christ, and the truth is, they aren’t properly aligning Christ with the Cross. No, Christ certainly is not still on the Cross, but rather seated by the right hand of the Father in heaven (Heb. 1:3). In fact, we are seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).

What Paul is talking about, and what Jesus was talking about as it regarded taking up the Cross daily, are the benefits of what Christ did on the Cross. I am saved because of what He did at the Cross. I am baptized with the Holy Spirit because of what He did at the Cross. I am healed because of what He did at the Cross. I am victorious because of what He did at the Cross.

In fact, everything I receive from the Lord is all made possible, and without exception, through what Jesus did at the Cross. So, He must never be separated from the Cross. If, in fact, He is separated accordingly, which, regrettably, many, if not most, churches do, then pure and simple, we have accepted another Jesus, which is put forth by another spirit, which projects another gospel (II Cor. 11:4).

If it’s not “Jesus Christ and Him crucified,” then it’s not the gospel!

So, by faith, we put the Cross into the bitter waters of our lives. ⚠

This article will be continued in the May issue of *The Evangelist*.
COMMON CORE: EDUCATION OR INDOCTRINATION?
BY FRANCES SWAGGART

In the spring of 1989, Angela Buller stood up at her high school graduation and gave her valedictory speech. The remarks she gave nearly 30 years ago, which I will share in part below, are important now because of the school she attended.

Angela attended the Robert Muller School, named after Dr. Robert Muller, who served for 40 years as assistant secretary-general for the United Nations. There, he was known as the “prophet of hope” of the United Nations. His website biography claims that Muller was a “deeply spiritual” person; others credit his religious convictions to his increased representation of religions in the UN, especially the New Age Movement.

His website also names his “spiritual master”—UN Secretary General U Thant—a former school headmaster, who often told Muller, “Robert, there will be no peace on earth if there is not a new education.”

Muller created the World Core Curriculum for which he received the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization Peace Education Prize and became known as the “father of global education.” The content of his curriculum is summarized in four pillars: Our planetary home and place in the universe; humanity; our place in time; and the miracle of individual life (this includes spiritual exercises of interiority, meditation, and prayer and communion with the universe and eternity of God). Today, there are 29 of Muller’s schools worldwide.

Angela Buller was the first graduate and first valedictorian from his school. At her graduation ceremony, instead of inspiring her fellow students about their futures, Angela used her speech to praise the school’s curriculum:

We started out searching for a global curriculum, but we didn’t have one until the World Core Curriculum was implemented. This curriculum has broadened the scope of the learning experience so that my understanding of relationships is much more comprehensive than traditional education allows. I feel I know something about the Cosmos, the planetary organism, its various kingdoms, its people and their cultures, and how all that relates to me. I feel I have some perspective on how I fit into it all—the universe, the planet, and its ecology and cultures.

As I have become older, I have begun to grasp how deeply I have been affected by the broad scope of the curriculum—on subtle levels of consciousness. I have not analyzed how the World Core Curriculum is put together, but I have realized the results—my understanding of the relationships which I mentioned is real and will always have an affect on my attitudes to life.

This is what Muller’s curriculum produced: a student who strongly supported a new age curriculum, even though she didn’t know how it came about. Yet, its effects shaped her attitude throughout life.

If the tenets and student impact of the World Core Curriculum sound familiar, it’s because the standards now set in most U.S. public schools have their roots in World Core. Today it’s called Common Core.

The name has changed, but the indoctrination goals of Common Core echo Muller’s objectives to “steer our children towards global citizenship, earth-centered...”
beliefs, socialist values and collective mindset which is becoming a requirement for the 21st century workforce."

As a guest panelist on Frances & Friends, Kathryn Gopplet, an educator with 30 years of teaching experience and an advocate for parents and teachers against Common Core, confirmed Muller’s involvement.

“Common Core ... started in 1984; it was called World Core curriculum,” she said. “The goal of Common Core is to bring the world into one philosophical, religious, and academic oneness or sameness.”

WHAT IS COMMON CORE?

The official website for the Common Core State Standards answers the question this way:

“State education chiefs and governors in 48 states came together to develop the Common Core, a set of clear college- and career-ready standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. Today, 42 states and the District of Columbia have voluntarily adopted and are working to implement the standards, which are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to take credit bearing introductory courses in two- or four-year college programs or enter the workforce.”

Emmett McGroarty, the director of education at the American Principles Project and co-author of the book, Controlling Education from the Top: Why Common Core is Bad for America, was also a guest on Frances & Friends. He said that governors committed their states to Common Core based on its promise: that standards would be internationally benchmarked, evidence-based, and rigorous.

“They committed their states before Common Core had been developed. A year and a half later, the final product of the Common Core came out and it failed to meet those slogans, those goals,” he said. “But at that point, all these governors and school boards had painted themselves into the corner, and I think they felt it was too damaging to their political careers to get out. What they failed to consider is how damaging it would be to the children and to our Constitution.”

Dr. Sandra Stotsky, English professor emeritus of the University of Arkansas and former Senior Associate Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Education, was on the Common Core validation committee from 2009-2010.

The decision to adopt Common Core standards was made by, in most cases, state boards of education,” Stotsky said. “They are the responsible group. The groups that were bypassed in this very narrow decision-making kind of process were, first of all, parents; second of all, teachers; third of all, state legislators; and fourth, local school boards and committees all over the country. They knew essentially nothing about what their state boards of education were committing themselves to and these state boards of education did not ask, in any case that I have asked about, they have not shown that they, in any way, tried to find out what the strings were that were attached to Common Core, or what Common Core standards were actually all about.

HUMAN CAPITAL

Education historian and New York University research professor Diane Ravitch said that advocates of Common Core believed that the standards would “automatically guarantee equity.”

In a speech to the Modern Language Association, Ravitch said: “Some spoke of the Common Core as a civil rights issue. They emphasized that the Common Core standards would be far more rigorous than most state standards and they predicted that students would improve their academic performance in response to raising the bar.”

When did public education become a civil rights issue? Let’s call it what it is: Common Core is a bold push into socialism—a transitional phase between capitalism and communism—that is devastating the American educational system.

McGroarty explains this drastic swing that views the individual radically differently than our Founding Fathers did:

Our founders were of the view that each individual was the ultimate earthly sovereign and that people can direct their own lives, and raise their own children, make their decisions and chart their own course in life. And traditional education in
America supported that idea—supported the development of a child into an adult who could pursue the truth—and especially through the study of literature, could hone their analytical thinking skills and their abilities to empathize with others. And that’s kind of the traditional view of education in America.

[Common Core] kind of turns that on its head and looks at the individual as human capital who has to be educated in order to meet the needs of corporatism—big corporations that want workers, not really the exact number of workers they need, but an abundance of workers—more than they need. And it doesn’t further the goals of a country that is premised on citizen-directed government; it doesn’t further the goals of entrepreneurship; it doesn’t further the goals of capitalism.

Jane Robbins, an attorney and senior fellow with the American Principles Project, agreed. In her five-part video series, Stop The Common Core, Robbins said:

It’s a progressive school-to-work dream to think that government finally will have all the tools in place to plan for future labor markets. Progressives, or socialists, as they have been historically known, have long sought to create a managed economy …. Through our schools, the next generation will be conditioned to accept that government has the right to direct them to serve the economic priorities of the nation, or any other priorities the government deems best. In other words, government will no longer be their servant, but will become their master, and the individual will exist to serve the purposes of society.

The standardization goals of Common Core for our public schools are part of a global agenda that is hurting our children now. Parents write to me and ask, “What is happening in my child’s classroom?” After attending a forum on Common Core, one parent emailed me and said he was nearly brought to tears thinking about the future of his children. “They will never know the America I know,” he said. That just breaks my heart.

MOORE SAID THAT COMMON CORE IS ‘ANTI-FAMILY AND ANTI-RELIGIOUS’ AND POINTED OUT THAT ARTICLES ABOUT GOVERNMENT AGENDA ITEMS ON HEALTHCARE AND THE ENVIRONMENT ARE REPLACING CLASSIC LITERATURE...

UNPREPARED

The Common Core State Initiative targets how and what children learn. Since testing is the way these so-called rigorous new standards are measured and how teachers are evaluated, then the standardized tests drive the curriculum—currently English language arts and math. So, let’s take a look at what’s happening to those subjects.

As previously mentioned, Stotsky was on the Common Core validation committee from 2009 to 2010. Also on that committee was Dr. James Milgram, a professor of mathematics at Stanford University who is an internationally-known mathematician.

Both Stotsky and Milgram were frustrated because they repeatedly asked for but never received the list of other countries benchmarked with the U.S. in the subjects of math and English.

In her YouTube video, “Common Core National Education Standards,” Stotsky explained why she refused to validate Common Core.

“We could not find out what countries we were benchmarked with in mathematics or English language arts, and [Milgram] could tell, from the topics that were mentioned in the mathematics standards, by grade 8, U.S. students would be about two years behind their peers in high-achieving countries. It’s less easy to tell in the English language arts. I would certainly agree, in general, that Common Core’s standards were not to be preparing American students for authentic college work in a subject.”

Stotsky went on to explain in her video how Common Core has reduced the number of literary texts, “particularly those written before the 1970s,” because the mandate is for at least 50 percent informational reading and writing.

“That division of reading instruction also diminishes the ability of students to develop critical thinking skills, which is another false claim of the Common Core standard,” Stotsky said. “It will not improve critical thinking skills; it will reduce the ability to develop critical thinking skills because students will develop how to read between the lines of the complex literary text they once were taught how to read.”

Dr. Terrence Moore, a history professor at Hillsdale College, is also concerned about the reading content now replacing historic documents and classic literature under Common Core.

On Feb. 20, 2014, he joined our panel on Frances & Friends along with Stotsky, Milgram, Robbins, and McGroarty to share his concerns.

“The Common Core, at least as far as the English standards are concerned, and as later will be the case for the history standards, which are right around the corner, is the attempt to take away the great stories of the American people and replace them with the stories that fit the progressive liberal narrative of the world. As
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THE TRUTH ABOUT CATHOLICISM [15-634]
Is Catholicism Christian? Are Catholics saved? Regrettably and sadly, if one believes the Bible, then no, Catholics aren’t saved. While there are many Catholics who do definitely come to Christ, if and when such happens, to maintain their position in Christ, they are going to have to leave Catholicism.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RELIGION OF ISLAM [15-622]
The world needs to know the truth about the religion of Islam. Unfortunately, the world seems to escape this information. Of all the religions of the world, Islam is a threat beyond compare. The teaching given in this DVD is a must for every believer. You should know what Islam really is.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MASONS [15-633]
Many believers think that the Masonic Lodge is a Christian organization. But, in fact, the teaching of Masonic teaching is anti-Christian. This DVD will give you an insight into that which is believed by the Masons and the far-reaching influence of this organization. Frances & Friends panel member, Bob Nations, expands upon this all-important subject.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MORMONISM [15-606]
Mormonism is one of the fastest growing religions in the world. The great question is, “Is it a religion?” If everything else is right, and our Lord is portrayed wrong, then the religion itself is wrong, such as Mormonism.

THE TRUTH ABOUT JEHOVAH’S WITNESS [15-607]
Christians should know and understand the method of false doctrine. The teaching taken from Frances & Friends will spell out the direction of those false ways. Every believer needs to know the truths that are wars in propositions. People have the lack of knowledge. We are very proud to be able to offer material on this all-important subject that will be a blessing to any believer.

THE TRUTH ABOUT COMMON CORE [15-648]
In this two-episode series, Frances Swaggart and her distinguished panel of educators discuss the subject of the Common Core State Standards Initiative, now adopted by 46 states to standardize public school curriculums. Learn how this educational reform is hurting students.

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such, the architects of the Common Core are nothing less than story killers. They are deliberately killing the greatest stories of the greatest nation in history.”

Moore said that Common Core is “anti-family and anti-religious” and pointed out that articles about government agenda items on healthcare and the environment are replacing classic literature, including any references to the Bible, historical sermons, or even texts inspired by religious tradition.

Fictional classics that did survive the standards have been, in some cases, reduced to excerpts. Pieces of books like To Kill A Mockingbird are now read alongside articles such as “Shaking the Heavens in Ferguson, Missouri,” published in the New York Times.

The Common Core math standards are even more disturbing. Today’s child, under Common Core, can say 1+1=3, and his answer will not be counted wrong as long as he can show how he arrived at his incorrect answer. That’s frightening.

In a discussion about America’s educational ranking in the world—some say 5th, 6th or 7th—I asked my panel of distinguished educators if they thought Common Core was purposely dumbing down American students. Milgram said yes.

This is a long term problem, of course, and it’s not 5th, 6th or 7th—it’s 21st, 22nd, 23rd and it’s actually probably lower than that in mathematics,” he said. “Then the question becomes, does Common Core show any interest or potential to improve that? And oddly enough, the answer is absolutely not.

What happens is that we’ve gone back to another of these programs that we know absolutely failed because the evidence is overwhelming, and that’s the new math in the 1960s. And that’s what they were doing in the new math in the 1960s and, of course, there was a huge reaction against that in the 1970s, and the new math disappeared. But now we’re back, with a known failed program, and the idea that you don’t learn the basic algorithms, you learn all the things around them, and you produce your own individual algorithms for doing calculations, which may or may not be correct. All of this is back and it’s what the kids are dealing with now, and it’s not what mathematics is all about.

 COMMUNIST CORE

Still, the creators and proponents of Common Core insist that these standards will make U.S. students competitive in the global workplace. But is this the reality or the rhetoric?

Lily Tang Williams is one of many parents standing up against these standards. Read carefully her testimony before the board of education in her state of Colorado:

I am Chinese immigrant. I do not buy into Common Core. I am here to oppose it strongly because I can tell you Common Core, in my eyes, is as same as Communist Core I once saw in China. I grew up under Mao’s regime, and we had the Communist dominated education—nationalized testing, nationalized curriculum, and the nationalized indoctrination. So, I grew up in their system. I come to this country for freedom, and I cannot believe this is happening all over again in this country. I don’t know what happened to the America—a shining city on a hill for freedom—what’s going on in this country?

So, I wanted to let you know to say that when you say, ‘Oh, we want our kids to be high scoring on the tests like Chinese kids, they will be global ready, they will be career ready, but I’m telling you, Chinese children are not trained to be independent thinkers. They are trained to be task machines, they are trained to be massive skill workers for corporations, and they have no idea what happened in Tiananmen Square 1989 when Communist government ordered soldiers to shoot its own thousand students. Is this what we want in America?

I understand testing is necessary to improve education, but it’s not the way we have now—top down federal government hold the stick, international corporations hold money—okay, we have both carrots and stick to offer to our students. Parents, we’re out of carrots. We’re supposed to have control of our kids’ education, and we have trust our teachers and students and parents to work together—individual rights, individual liberty—that’s what I come to this country for.

I don’t know if you board members voted for Common Core, to adopt the standards; did you know what’s going to happen later? Do you know what’s going to be in the U.S. AP History test? American exceptionalism, gone. America’s liberty and values of Founding Fathers are gone. Capitalism is gone; only mentioned three times. Is this what we want our kids to be, a task machine—workers, cheap workers—for corporations? No. America is great. Don’t compare yourself
to China. That’s why lots of Chinese, desperate trying to come here to be free, and they all tell you, ‘Do not go after Chinese Communist education.’ Their system produced great test-takers, great machine workers, but not individuals with critical thinking mind, with interventional skills. They do not challenge their parents, they are brainwashed. I was brainwashed so bad, it took me 10 years in this country to get out of it. So please, look at again Common Core and help us any way you can get out of it.

Listen to what this parent is saying. Common Core is doing the thinking for our kids. It’s dumbing them down. They cannot reason anything in their minds. They just acknowledge and agree with what that teacher says.

And what about the teachers? How are they dealing with Common Core?

Stacie Starr, a national award-winning teacher in Ohio, made the painful decision to resign because of Common Core. At a public education forum in her county she said:

When I think about education today, it’s very upsetting. We’re becoming presenters of materials and not teachers. They’ve taken away all of our creativity within the classroom between us, as educators, and the students. It’s interesting when you ask students to think for themselves; they’re so used to material just given to them, given to them, given to them. And you ask them a question to express themselves; they look at you in a robotic look. They cannot think for themselves, and it is really sad …. What I got into education for was to change lives. I wanted to make a difference. I have been able to do that and I cannot do that in the setting in which it is being done right now. I am actually going to resign from teaching after this year because of what education has become … We are losing kids … we’re not preparing them for the real world. Just because they can pass an assessment does not mean that they are going to be successful in life.

Ms. Starr is not alone. There are many others choosing to end their teaching careers early because of extra Common Core duties that eat into a school day—duties that, for some teachers, include data collection.

“Progressives such as Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton who are pushing this movement are not looking out for your child because your child is being brainwashed in the public school system …”

According to Jane Robbins, schools that agreed to Common Core (to receive Race To The Top money) also had to agree to build identical school data systems—identical so that data could be easily shared—to federal specifications. Although it has not yet happened, the National Education Data model would pull data such as disciplinary history, religious affiliation, family income range, and medical history.

Parents who think charter, private, or home schools are the answer should also be aware that Common Core is touching these options as well. Since the primary architect of Common Core, David Coleman, is now the president and CEO of the College Board, the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or SAT, is being revised to align to Common Core. So, students outside of the public school system will have a difficult time passing the SAT without knowing Common Core teaching methods, and acceptance into college is largely based on SAT scores.

What we’ve entered into is a global school.

YOU ALREADY HAVE COMMUNISM

Progressives such as Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton who are pushing this movement are not looking out for your child because your child is being brainwashed in the public school system to be a compliant, non-thinking citizen. Is that not the fruit of communism?

Remember the sobering words of Nikita Khrushchev: “You Americans are so gullible. No, you won’t accept communism outright, but we’ll keep feeding you small doses of socialism until you finally wake up and find you already have communism. We won’t even have to fight you; we’ll so weaken your economy until you’ll fall like an overripe fruit into our hands.”

Grassroots America has got to stand up and say, “We are not going to accept this. We are not going to have our kids placed under this Common Core agenda.” And it is an agenda—it’s a global agenda for our schools, and it’s a global agenda for the church.
COMMON CORE FOR THE CHURCH?

The same changes to standards in our public schools—replacing classic literature with government texts; replacing passionate teachers called to educate with “technicians” who distribute information; and replacing true knowledge with test scores—the same things are happening in the church today.

Think about what I am saying. Countless churches have traded the King James Bible for watered down rewrites like The Message. Pastors, who are called of God, have switched their message from the Word of God to embrace false doctrines, such as the Purpose-Driven Life and Word of Faith to increase the size and so-called success of their congregations.

This ilk that is in the body of Christ today—this is the Common Core of the church world and it is producing fake Christianity.

And just as students under Common Core will not be properly equipped to face the world, neither will Christians who fail to discern the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the moving and operation of the Holy Spirit.

Do we have enough Christians left in the world who love the Lord enough to stand up and fight against what’s happening in our churches and in our schools?

I pray that we do. 🙏

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THE BREAD, THE FLESH, AND THE WINE  

I Chronicles 16:1-3 — “So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God. And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord. And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine.”

David was now king over all Israel. He had been anointed king over Judah only first, and then seven years later he was finally anointed king over all Israel.

The first task as king of a united Israel was to bring the ark of God home to its rightful place of abode.

THE ARK OF GOD

The ark of God was symbolic of Israel’s power, strength, and glory. The ark represented the very presence of God. As the presence of God was Israel’s strength, so today the strength of the church is the presence of God. Without the presence of God, the church is nothing more than a religious gathering that will accomplish nothing for the work of God or for the needs of the people.

The Holy Spirit in I Chronicles 16:1 states: “They offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.” This is something that one must not gloss over but pay very careful attention to for the burnt sacrifices and peace offerings were no doubt whole burnt offerings and, as stated, peace offerings—all of which typified Calvary. This tells us that without the Cross, you can’t have the presence of God, for it is through Christ’s sacrifice on Calvary’s Cross by which the Holy Spirit is able to work.

Calvary is the foundation of Christianity. We must never take that great truth lightly. For every benefit we have as believers comes to us only through Calvary.

Actually, in II Samuel 6:13, it states that when David brought the ark to Jerusalem that the priests who bore the ark on their shoulders would stop every six paces (about 18 feet) and offer up sacrifice and then David offered up sacrifices.

This tells us that the way into the Holy City was a way of blood. The stained streets of Zion, the rivers of blood,
the slaughtered heaps and the blaze of altar fires would appear excessive to the carnal mind. However, to the spiritually-minded it portrays the sacrifice paid by Jesus Christ on Calvary’s Cross. All of these animals, offered up in great abundance, state the great price paid for our redemption. The blood of animals was a stopgap measure to cover man’s sin.

Hebrews 10:4 says: “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin.” But John, upon seeing Jesus, would say, “Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Let me say it again: Every benefit afforded to the believer only comes to us through the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the emphasis of all ministry and faith must be placed on the Cross, not just for salvation but also for sanctification.

**DAVID BLESSED THE PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**

We will see in this in this act the proof of the fact that all blessings come to us through and by the means of the Cross of Christ. Let me stress this truth even more: Every single thing that you need comes through the Cross. Healing comes through the Cross. Joy and peace come through the Cross. Prosperity comes through the Cross. Victory comes through the Cross.

The text bears it out; David blessed the people with the following:

- **A loaf of bread.** The bread was a type of Christ. In John 6:35, Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to Me shall never hunger; and he who believes on me shall never thirst.”

- **A good piece of flesh.** This speaks of Christ’s perfect body—without sin—offered up on Calvary’s Cross. II Corinthians 5:21 says: “For He (God) has made Him (Christ) to be sin for us (the Greek says ‘sin offering’) Who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- **A flagon of wine.** This speaks of the joy of the Lord, which comes to us when we give our hearts to the Lord.

The bread, the flesh, and the wine all represent Jesus Christ. Therefore, the blessing is Jesus Christ. There is no greater blessing for humanity than the bread, the flesh, the wine—Jesus Christ.

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**EVERY BENEFIT AFFORDED TO THE BELIEVER ONLY COMES TO US THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST**
A MISCONCEPTION OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

BY GABRIEL SWAGGART

Luke 9:23 – “And He said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me”

SELF-EFFORTS

Much of the Christian world relies heavily upon their own efforts to bring about sanctification, which means that they will always come up short. They believe that now that they are saved and sometimes even filled with the Spirit, they have the power within themselves to overcome sin and to live a holy and righteous life before God. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, Paul, the great apostle to whom this word of the Cross was given, wrote an entire epistle regarding works righteousness—the epistle to the Galatians. He shot down the Judaizers’ belief that Gentiles could be saved, but once they were saved, they had to hold to the law of Moses for the rest of their lives in order to earn their stripes, so to speak, from God. His very words were, “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Gal. 2:21).

The whole works mentality is a fallacy and will cause untold problems to arise in the life of the believer. The reason is that if we are looking unto our works to sanctify us, then this will only cause the sin nature to rear its ugly head one more time. It will then cause us to spiral out of control into a web of sin from which we cannot hope to escape on our own (Rom. 7:7-20). At the same time, it will cause a person to become self-righteous, as in, “Look at what I do or don’t do,” and “I’m special because I do not do what so-and-so is doing.” Remember, it was not the Romans who crucified Christ, but rather it was the self-righteous religious leaders who nailed Him to that tree. In my opinion, self-righteousness is the greatest sin of all, for it denies the Cross of Christ outright and claims that works can earn brownie points with God. To deny the Cross of Christ as the means of sanctification puts them on a path that will not turn out the way that they think. People who are self-righteous say that they know all about the Cross or that we need to look past the Cross, and we need to go on to something else.

“YOUNG PEOPLE DON’T NEED THE CROSS”

Several years ago, just as I was starting out in youth ministry, I had one youth pastor tell me very bluntly that young people do not need the Cross; they need something else. I sat there for a moment and
pondered such a stupid statement. I then answered him by asking him a question. I asked him, “If young people do not need the Cross, what else will we give them?” The answer is that we have nothing to offer them except works, self-effort, and trying harder. None of those items mentioned will ever bring about what is needed in the lives of believers—young and old alike.

I’m not trying to demean the brother, but he is dead wrong when he says that our youth need something other than the Cross. The only thing that the youth of this generation needs is the Cross of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. They cannot survive on the doing of religious activities, and they cannot survive by relying upon what the world has to offer.

The only answer for the drug problem, pornography problem, lust problem, homosexual problem, alcohol problem, and any other problems that they will encounter is the Cross. Without it, man is left to his own abilities, strength, and education, which can never set the captive free. Only the Cross can deliver from all unrighteousness.

THE RESURRECTION

Let’s address something that we hear constantly regarding the Cross and the resurrection. Many write to our ministry and self-righteously demand to know the reason we only preach the Cross and not the resurrection. Let’s dissect this for one moment.

To put it plainly and simply: The resurrection is one of the greatest happenings in all of mankind’s history. It is one of the most stupendous events to have ever taken place, but there could have been no resurrection without a death. There can be no resurrection without the Cross. Furthermore, the resurrection was never in question. The Word of God says, “And He (Jesus) began to teach them (His disciples), that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again” (Mk. 8:31) (also found in Matthew 16:21-28 and Luke 9:22-27). He was telling them even then, just days before His crucifixion, that He was going to die, but that He was not going to stay dead; He was going to be resurrected.

Many have claimed that we do not preach enough on the resurrection, or they say, “Why do you keep talking about the Cross and not the resurrection?” The fact is that the resurrection was never in doubt. The Lord was going to rise again, and the reason was because through His death at Calvary’s Cross, He atoned for all sin.

If one single sin had been left unatoned, then Christ would have never been able to come out of that tomb. However, seeing that what He did at Calvary satisfied the demands of the broken law, the grave could not hold Him, for He defeated death, hell, and the grave, and He rose victorious over all sin. So, we see that the resurrection actually ratified what Christ did at the Cross because He paid the price for sin.

SATAN’S LEGAL RIGHT TO HOLD MANKIND IN CAPTIVITY

Though we have stated this over and over again, we must address ourselves to it once again. The legal right that Satan had over man to keep him in captivity was the problem of sin. However, when Christ died on the Cross, He took away that legal right from Satan, and he no longer has any legal right to hold anyone in captivity who will simply believe. To prove this, we go back to the Bible.

The Bible gives us an inside glimpse of what took place after the death of Christ on the Cross. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:8-10, “Wherefore He said, When he ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same also who ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.)”

This means that after His death, Christ went down into paradise (not the burning side of hell), where all the sainted dead went and were held captive by Satan. From there, He led captivity captive, meaning that He liberated those in paradise, and He then rose from the dead victorious over sin, Satan, death, hell, and the grave.

WHAT THE RESURRECTION GUARANTEES

As well, the resurrection of Christ guaranteed several things for all who would believe:

1. It guaranteed that death was totally and completely defeated. Even though we still taste death on this earth, due to the finished work of Christ on the Cross, it solidified the fact that there is coming a great resurrection of those who have passed on while believing in Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:54).

2. His resurrection guaranteed our coming resurrection, which will give even sainted dead a glorified body, and “we shall be like Him” (I Jn. 3:2).

3. His resurrection also guaranteed our justification. This is found in Paul’s epistle to the Romans, “Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:25).
This means that Christ was delivered up as a result of our offenses and, consequently, He had to atone for all of our failures. He was raised from the dead for our justification—to justify us through His shed blood on the Cross. The Bible says that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins (Heb. 9:22).

Due to His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, we can be declared legally justified by God through faith in Christ and what He did at the Cross. This means that we are not guilty, but innocent, as though we have never sinned a day in our lives, and it also means that we are perfect.

So, to those who claim that we do not preach the resurrection, we do. We do because the Cross includes the resurrection, and this great event was never in doubt. He was going to rise again, and it guaranteed our resurrection in that coming glad day. We must comprehend the importance of the resurrection, but it has to be understood that this tremendous event took place all because of the Cross.

“THE CROSS MAY WORK FOR YOU, BUT IT DOES NOT WORK FOR ME”

The last misconception that I would like to address is the idea that the Cross doesn’t work for everyone. Nearly every week tens of thousands of letters flood our offices here at the ministry, whether by regular mail, email, or through our social media outlets. They are questions, comments, and suggestions from nearly every single country on the planet. One of the statements that we see on a regular basis is, “The Cross may work for you, but it doesn’t work for me.” That statement could not be further from the truth. In fact, it is the complete opposite of the truth, for the Cross always works; it’s you and me who don’t work too well.

Let’s put it this way: Many think, and I was one of them, that at the very moment that we begin to place our faith in Christ and the Cross, Satan is going to go away, and the problems and bondages will be no more, the wind will be at our backs, and it will be nothing but smooth sailing from here on out. No, my friend, the Cross does not work that way.

The Cross is not some magic wand that they can wave at any time in their lives, and their problems and bondages magically disappear—no matter how much they want to believe that. Neither is it a quick fix. Yes, it is a fix, but it is not a quick fix. It is rather a process. Incidentally, it will take an entire lifetime for the Holy Spirit to daily take out that which is bad and put in that which is good. This is the place where many believers quit, for they didn’t expect the Devil to fight them this hard.

This article will conclude in the May issue of The Evangelist.
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Jimmy Swaggart

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## CHANNEL LISTINGS

**PREACHING THE CROSS**

**24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK**

### UNITED STATES (REGIONAL) CABLE LISTINGS [CONTINUED]

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### UNITED STATES OVER-THE-AIR (DTV) LISTINGS

For those of you who are not familiar with digital television, these are free “old fashioned TV channels” that are able to be picked up with a digital tuner and antenna. Most new televisions are equipped with built-in digital tuners or you can purchase a tuner from your local electronics store (Best Buy®, Radio Shack®, etc.). As well, you can purchase the proper antenna at your local electronics store. Many viewers under the broadcast signal of the television station can use a small, digital antenna inside the home. For those on the outer edge of the signal or to receive the best signal, an outdoor antenna may be required. Both indoor and outdoor antennas are available for less than $50!

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### OVER-THE-AIR (DTV) LISTINGS

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Watch SBN anytime, anywhere with the SonLife Broadcasting Network app.

Available for **FREE** at:
### INTERNATIONAL CABLE & SATELLITE LISTINGS

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FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

Thanksgiving Campmeeting 2016

JIMMY SWAGGART
donnie SWAGGART
GABRIEL SWAGGART

LOREN LARSON BOB CORNELL DAVID BORG JOHN ROSENSTERN JIM WOOLSEY

CARL BROWN MIKE MUZZERALL DAN BURRITT

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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

WEBCSI&S PRECAMPMEETING SESSIONS
(Located in the SonLife Radio Building)

Monday ......................................................... 1-4 PM & 6-8 PM
Tuesday ............................................................ 1-4 PM & 6-8 PM
Wednesday ..................................................... 9 AM – 12 PM

CAMPMEETING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
(Located in Family Worship Center • Please Note the Changes to the Service Times)

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<td>2 PM</td>
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<td>Gabriel Swaggart</td>
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ACCOMMODATIONS

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<td>225.366.6776</td>
<td>Hampton Inn Commercial Rd., Port Allen, LA</td>
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<td>Chase Suites Hotel Corporate Blvd.</td>
<td>225.927.5630</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites Siegen Holiday Circle</td>
<td>225.778.5722</td>
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<td>Comfort Suites Valley Creek Dr.</td>
<td>225.923.3377</td>
<td>Hyatt Place Bluebonnet Blvd.</td>
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<td>La Quinta Inn Reiger Rd.</td>
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<td>DoubleTree by Hilton 4964 Constitution Ave.</td>
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<td>Microtel Inn &amp; Suites Reiger Rd.</td>
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<td>Wyndham Gardens Bluebonnet Blvd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embassy Suites Hotel Constitution Ave.</td>
<td>225.924.6566</td>
<td>Renaissance Bluebonnet Blvd.</td>
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<td>Fairfield Inn by Marriott 7959 Essen Park Ave.</td>
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<td>Hampton Inn Reiger Rd.</td>
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<td>TownePlace Suites by Marriott 8735 Summa Blvd.</td>
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FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER 8919 WORLD MINISTRY AVENUE, BATON ROUGE, LA 70810-9099
VISIT TO FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER WAS THOROUGHLY ENJOYED

DEAR EVANGELIST: My granddaughter, some friends, and I visited your Family Worship Center. Your ushers, personnel, Brother Swaggart, and Ms. Frances were very kind to us. We thoroughly enjoyed your service and your inspiration on the lives of many people. We watch you daily, support you financially, and will definitely visit again even though we are from Mississippi. God bless your ministry, and I will pray for your ministry to continue spreading around the world.

—Mississippi

BELIEVER HEALED AFTER RESPONDING TO PRAYER FOR THE SICK ON SBN

DEAR EVANGELIST: Today I was not able to attend my home church due to illness. I love SBN, and as I stood by the TV, Brother Swaggart asked for people who needed prayer to come forward. Later in the service the worship team sang, and as I praised the Lord, warmth touched the very spot in my back that was causing pain. I was healed! Later, Brother Swaggart stated that people watching the program continued to get healed throughout the service after prayer was offered up. I am a testimony to that prophecy! Thank you for SBN!

—Ohio

SBN LISTENERS IN WALES NOW PREACHING MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

DEAR EVANGELIST: We love listening to all of SonLife radio and SBN. Wanted you to know that we live in a small village in Wales, and so far four churches are getting together to reach out to our valley area, from the mountains down to the sea! The Message of the Cross is being preached, hallelujah! Each Saturday we are going to have an outreach meeting together. God bless you all, we are praying for SBN. Thank you for your encouragement, you all are such a blessing!

—United Kingdom

TAKING THE WORD OF GOD TO AFRICA WAS NOT IN VAIN

DEAR EVANGELIST: I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. You do not know me, but I remember you—20 years ago when you used to come to Malawi, Africa, in the city of Blantyre and share the Word of God. As a little girl, I memorized 66 books of the Bible and some verses. At the end of summer school, I was given a Bible of my own for the first time. I am writing all this to say thank you, sir, from the bottom of my heart because that moment made me fall in love with Jesus and His Word. Now I am 38, and I just preached my first sermon, glory to God! I hope this will encourage you knowing that your visit in Malawi was not in vain. I love you and may God bless you till we meet again here or in eternity.

—Indiana

READING BIBLE ALOUD TO GRANDSON INSTILLS A LOVE OF GOD’S WORD

DEAR EVANGELIST: When my grandson was 4 years old, he had some behavioral issues. One day he was screaming and totally out of control. I took him to the bedroom and told him we were going to stay there until he calmed down. My Bible was on my nightstand, so I opened it and started reading it out loud. He stopped all his screaming, so I put the Bible down and told him if he was through screaming, we would go back into the living room. He asked me, “What was that book you were reading? I want you to read some more.” That instilled a love in him for the Lord. He is now 14 and reads his Bible often. He has taught me things from the Bible that I had never seen before, praise God!

—Email
BELIEVER IS BLESSED BY THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

DEAR EVANGELIST: Thanks for preaching the Message of the Cross. My dad preached it for years, and he is 88 years young and still going strong! I love the teaching of the message, and I listen and am blessed on my way home from work every morning and at home on TV. Sometimes I will be in my truck just shouting going down the highway to and from work listening. Without the Cross of Jesus and His blood, salvation is not possible. There is no other way. Also thanks for teaching on the sin nature, you do not know how many people or preachers won’t believe it or preach it. God bless and never stop!

—Mississippi

TEXAS COUPLE GETS TO ATTEND SERVICE AT FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

DEAR EVANGELIST: Every Sunday my husband and I watch the live service and we say how much we would love to be able to attend a service in person. Well, the Lord worked it out that this past weekend we had to go to Crowley, Louisiana, where the main office of the company my husband works for is located. We stayed in Baton Rouge and attended Family Worship Center yesterday. What a blessing! The Lord has blessed us in so many ways, and I thank Him for SBN. When I pray, I thank Him for those blessings, and I pray for SBN. I have never felt the Holy Spirit like I do when I watch SBN. I thank God for the Swaggarts and for SBN, and I will continue to support SBN.

—Texas

NANNY FROM BRAZIL RECEIVES PORTUGUESE EXPOSITOR’S STUDY BIBLE

DEAR EVANGELIST: I was privileged to present, as a Christmas present, a Portuguese Expositor’s Study Bible to my daughter and son-in-law’s nanny who is from Brazil. She is here on a special visa to work with American families and was thrilled to have a Bible in her native language as she is learning English as a second language. God bless Jimmy Swaggart Ministries for this golden opportunity to help a young lady along in her Christian walk who might not otherwise have a Bible in her language here in America. Thank you!

—Georgia

THROUGH HER LOSS, WIDOW FINDS COMFORT IN MINISTRY’S MUSIC

DEAR EVANGELIST: Brother Swaggart, I just wanted to tell you how much your album, All I Need is Jesus, has meant to me. Several years ago I lost my husband of 54 years, and the loss I feel is great. But your songs on this album comforted me so much, and still do. He was a believer who loved the Lord, and I know he is with Him now. I just wanted you to know how much your ministry blesses me!

—California
COMMENTARY PLUS BONUS CD/DVD COMBOS:
I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS HOMESICK BEFORE (15-578) & AND JABEZ CALLED (15-663)
YOURS FOR ONLY $20

COMMENTS PLUS BONUS:
If you want to understand the Bible, then avail yourself to these commentaries. Every single believer ought to have a set. If you cannot get them all at one time, then get one a month or something of that nature. Anything that will help one to understand the Word of God to a greater degree is valuable indeed. So take advantage of this, especially considering that we will also give you the following:

A. I’ve Never Been This Homesick Before – over an hour of Holy Spirit-anointed music by this evangelist.

B. Plus, we’re going to give you the CD/DVD combo by Gabriel called, Jabez Called On The God Of Israel. This is one more great message, plus some of the greatest music in the world.

You are getting TWO bonuses with every commentary that you get, so whatever you do, take advantage of this most excellent offer. Please understand that if we exhaust our supply of Gabriel’s combo, we reserve the right to substitute.

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Spiri
tual Warfare

Spiritual Warfare Part III

by Loren Larson

Ephesians 6:10-14 — “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armure of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore.”

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

In last month’s article we continued our introduction to spiritual warfare. In order to operate successfully against the spiritual forces arrayed against us, the believer must learn how to sit, or rest, in righteousness established by faith in Christ’s sacrifice.

Secondly, the believer must learn to walk in the power of faith and grace, ever keeping the Cross as his or her object of faith. This enables the believer to walk in righteous living and truth. It also opens the believer to the never-ending filling and refilling work of the Holy Spirit.

The third section of Ephesians is what we have been building toward. If the believer knows how to sit and is properly versed and active in how to walk then, and only then, might they find the ability to successfully face the powers of darkness which are arrayed against us. Then, and only then, will the believer be truly able to stand.

STAND

The concept of standing must be understood in the light of one who is standing to maintain something already established. The word itself means to stand fast against an enemy or against opposition.

The story of David and Goliath comes to mind. To stand does not mean to run down into the valley and defeat the giant. To stand indicates that the battle is already won, that my foot is on the neck of the defeated giant and that his decapitated head is held high in victory in my hand.

To stand means to stay, to remain firm, or to hold one’s position. The believer is not standing in order to gain a victory, he is standing in order to declare and maintain the victory already won. We stand by faith in the face of opposition that is attempting to cause us to doubt that the giant has already been defeated.

By standing in the truth that we know we are equipped spiritually to withstand. To withstand means to have the power to resist or to overcome. As we face the spiritual forces arrayed against us, we are to sink down into the full armor of God, we are to dress ourselves in the full provision of God, and we are to fight the fight of faith in the protection that the whole armor of God provides.
THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

The Bible says in II Corinthians 10:4 that the “weapons of our warfare are not carnal.”

What weapons do we have that help us to stand that are not of human or fleshly origin? Let me suggest that some of our weapons are listed right here in Ephesians 6, verses 14 through 18. These are weapons that we cannot conjure up or manufacture, and they are weapons we are to stand in.

First is the power of truth. If believers know how to live for God by faith in the Cross, then they are standing in the truth.

Second, if they are believing in Christ’s Cross relative to God’s redemption plan, then they are standing in the righteousness of God.

Third, if they continually rely on the Cross, then they will be comforted and led by peace that passes all understanding, which will prepare them to face the enemy without fear.

Fourth, as they hold to truth, righteousness, and peace, they will be shielded from the direct attacks of the enemy by raising the shield of faith.

Fifth, when their minds and thoughts stay centered upon the power available through God’s true salvation plan, then no debilitating doubt about their relationship with God, or the way in which God works, will penetrate their hearts to destroy their faith.

Sixth, the believer has the availability of the Word of God, which has the ability to cut down the enemy’s attack against his faith. Knowing and understanding the Bible is a must if the believer is to accurately and with proper efficiency “swing” the sword of the Spirit.

And the seventh weapon is the ability that we have to access the throne of God by prayer. As we take every need, every desire, and every issue to the Lord, then we learn that He is ever faithful to accommodate all aspects of our lives. As we lift our needs to Him, then He willingly, lovingly, and with all wisdom intervenes perfectly into the issues of our lives. Through the proper use and application of this armor and this heavenly weaponry, believers will find themselves both clothed in the armor of God and standing in the equipping grace of God.

JESUS PAID IT ALL

Jesus has paid the price on Calvary that we might first sit, then walk, and finally stand. He has furnished us with the armor and every weapon that is required to walk victoriously over the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Believe in His precious finished work, and you, too, will find the supernatural ability of the Lord to help you sit, walk, and stand.

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Just wanted to say how much I have been blessed by the Romans course. I felt the Lord leading me to WEB and specifically to this course. I have learned so much and needed this course so much. It has strengthened my walk in the Lord and I would recommend it to everyone. The actual online course materials, videos, and quizzes were easy to follow and use. Brother Larson is a wonderful teacher and it was just like I was in the class. Many times the anointing power of God would come down in my home while I was watching the video, and I would be so touched by the presence of the Lord.”

— Lori Camara
Believers shouldn’t be surprised the Bible has difficulties within it. The Bible is a revelation of the mind, will, character, and being of a great, perfectly wise, and Holy God. God is the author of this revelation, but it was given to man.

Finite humans are imperfect—intelligently and in knowledge, character, and spiritual discernment. It is hard for the finite to fully comprehend the infinite. It is hard for ignorant man to contemplate utterances of perfect knowledge. Spiritual things must be spiritually understood and can only be understood by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Inspired by God

Oftentimes, false doctrine can be easily distinguished from truth by properly understanding the context of Scriptures. The interpretation one espouses may be based more on subjective opinion rather than on the contextual evidence found in Scripture.

Difficulty in doctrine or a grave objection to doctrine does not in anyway prove the doctrine to be untrue.

Also, one has to account for all the fulfilled prophecies the unity of the books of the Bible its inexhaustible depths and the Bible’s unique power to change the hearts of its believers when comprehending how Scripture is applied to our lives by faith.

Lexical Semantics (The Study of Words)

1. Etymology. The study of word histories. The study of the development of the word to its first known usage and compared to its use in a sentence. It is best to study how words are used in their immediate contexts, in other places in a book, in books by the same author, especially Paul’s writings, by other Bible authors, and to question if there are Old Testament concepts for New Testament words. Extra biblical sources to assist in this kind of study are Hebrew and Greek lexicons. In The Expositor’s Study Bible, Brother Swaggart oftentimes explains difficult words within his notes to help the reader better comprehend the context of a verse.

2. Polysemy. Different meanings from the same word. For example, in its written form, the English word wind can mean a rush of air, or it can mean to wind up a clock. Used one way, it is a noun and used another way, it is a verb. Its meaning is determined by the context. Another example is the Hebrew word davar, which can mean “thing” or
matter.” In a different context, davar can mean “word” or “speech.” The key is context.

3. Syntax. The relationship of words in a sentence. This can add light on the meaning of words. The sentence structure, grammar, the verb forms, and voice all play important roles. The use of grammar and parsing of words may help to bring out the meaning of words.

4. Figure of speech. The use of words in a sentence to give directed meaning. Ideas that are forceful and hard to present can be conveyed naturally by using figures of speech. Here are some examples of how figures of speech are used through out the Bible:

• Metaphor. Designed to make a direct comparison. In the book of Isaiah, for example, Egypt and Babylon are used as metaphors of bondage or an evil place. And in Luke 22:31, Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to have Peter, “that he may sift you as wheat.”

• Simile. An explicitly stated comparison using the words like or as. In a simile, that which follows the word like or as is usually a commonly known experience.

• Synecdoche. A part representing the whole, or a whole representing the part. For example, Brother Swaggart tickles the ivories when he plays the piano. In John 3:22 Jesus is said to be baptizing, yet in John 4:1, He is not described as baptizing; His disciples were doing it.

• Metonymy. Using the same name for one thing to describe another. For example, the body of Christ is also the church.

• Personification. A thing or a quality represented by a person. For example, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself” (Mat. 6:34)

• Apostrophe. Words are expressed in an exclamatory tone to an actual person. The presence or absence of the person is unimportant. For example, David’s cry over his son Absalom in II Samuel 18:33: “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!”

• Ellipsis. An idea not fully expressed, so the reader must supply the rest of the words to get the idea.

• Euphemism. A word phrase is substituted because the direct form of the word is too harsh or offensive. The word sleep, for example, is sometimes used for the word death.

• Meiosis. A negative statement is used to declare an affirmative truth. I Thessalonians 2:15 says of the Jews “they please not God.” That means they angered Him.

• Hyperbole. A conscious exaggeration for effect, a rhetorical overstatement. In Luke 14:26, Jesus said we must hate our father and mother in comparison to Him.

• Irony. To express something other than, or the exact opposite of, the literal meaning for effect. There are three types of irony:

• Rhetorical. As in, “fools for Christ.”

• Sarcastic. Irony intended to hurt. David’s wife Michal intended to hurt him when she criticized his dancing before the Lord (II Sam. 6:20).

• Satirical. Irony intended to get a point across in a mocking way. For example when Jesus called the Pharisees “blind guides.”

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

As we “study to show ourselves approved” (II Tim. 2:15), it is important that we endeavor to examine God’s Word for God’s intended meaning.

There are times when God will give us a “rhema” word for application to our immediate personal needs—a personal revelation and answer to prayer that will come from our Lord directly to us for a specific need in our life.

An example of this for me was nearly 20 years ago when I suffered a debilitating stroke, and I needed understanding of why this happened to me. I was in excellent health and had no family history of stroke. My doctors could not explain the cause of my stroke. But they were pleased that I already practiced exercise and good eating habits and felt those habits would be beneficial in preventing another stroke.

In the meantime, I was left in an abyss of confusion. I was called of God and now unable to walk? I had been anointed with oil and prayed for by believers for healing, yet I saw no improvement in my condition. I witnessed healings for others, including a miracle that God did for my wife.

For days, I sought the Lord earnestly but nothing, as far as healing, was taking place! One day I was reading the Word to simply find comfort and pow! a rhema word jumped off the page of the Bible and then it all made sense to me. Here I was, a former athlete and health nut, unable to tie my shoes, and God showed me why He took me through this amazing experience. Right before God miraculously healed me, I Corinthians 1:4 was my answer: “Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

I had to experience His loving comfort before I could minister the same to others. What great wisdom our Lord has for us when we read His life-giving and healing Word.
Romans 10:3-4 — “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. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”

**We have no problems** seeing the wickedness of the world. Most have no desire to seek God’s righteousness. We sometimes see those we deemed as “unrighteous” unsuccessfully seeking to establish their own righteousness. However, many are shocked when we say that most who call themselves Christians are in fact ignorant of God’s righteousness. Let’s look at four different types of righteousness.

**Unrighteousness**

The first one is unrighteousness. Simply put, this is the absence of God’s holiness. This person lives his or her life in a manner clearly unacceptable to God. Paul addressed the universal state of mankind in Romans 3:10: “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”

**Relative Righteousness**

This person evaluates his righteousness based upon how he stands relative to the behaviors of others and not whether or not it lines up to God’s Holy Word. This is the person who says, “I may not be perfect, but I’m definitely not as bad as that failure over there.” Even blood-bought saints fall into this type of righteousness once in a while. Beware, this type of “relative righteousness” justifies sin.

**Self-Righteousness**

Self-righteousness is confidence in one’s own righteousness. He is his own source of righteousness. In the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, the Pharisee felt that strict adherence to the law made him superior to all others. Jesus was not moved by the Pharisee fasting twice a week or giving tithes of all that he possessed. Instead the publican, who wouldn’t even lift his eyes to heaven, was declared justified as he prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13).

Paul would continue to come against self-righteousness.

**Self-Righteousness is a constant temptation**

True Christians rightfully proclaim that they are saved by grace. Yet most will then go on to attempt to establish their own righteousness. You can’t be saved by grace and then sanctified by works, saved by God and then sanctified by self, saved by relationship and then sanctified by religion. The means by which we are saved is the means by which we are sanctified. We need to continually guard ourselves against Satan’s subtle attack on the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ.

**Self-Righteousness is no righteousness at all**

Ever since Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves in an attempt to hide their nakedness, man has endeavored to earn his own righteousness. Cain sought to please God through the labor of his own hands only to find that God could not accept an offering tainted by man’s fingerprints. Isaiah summed up God’s view on self-generated righteousness: “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Is. 64:6).

**Imputed Righteousness**

The only righteousness acceptable to God is imputed righteousness. “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom 4:3). The means by which Abraham was declared righteous was solely on the basis that he believed God. When we asked Christ to be our Lord and Saviour, He took away our sins and gave us His righteousness. That was imputed righteousness.

“And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Philippians 3:9).

We didn’t earn it. We couldn’t earn it. Are you going about establishing your own righteousness, or have you submitted to the righteousness of God? 🙏
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GUILT

by Dave Smith

Genesis 3:7 — “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

The spiritual eyes of Adam and Eve were opened and they realized that their sin resulted in guilt. For the first time they experienced shame, embarrassment, disgrace, fear of punishment, sorrow, confusion, and lack of confidence. They had lost the light of God’s purity and innocence, and they were exposed to the judgment of God.

They tried to avoid this by sewing fig leaves together and covering themselves. Today we try to cover our sin by getting involved in religious activities and doing good works. Like the Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14), we think that if we do more good things than bad ones we can make up for our sin. And if our sins are not as serious as those of someone else, or fewer in number, then God will accept us.

“And he said, I heard a voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Gen. 3:10).

Adam and Eve then tried hiding from God. We do this by trying to avoid God, the Bible, and preaching and teaching against sin. Our society and a large part of the church is doing everything it can to get rid of or water down God’s truth so that people are not offended by, feel comfortable in, or overlook their sin. There is no telling how many people are using alcohol, drugs, medications, food, and religion to escape “the sorrow of this world” (II Cor. 7:10).

We try to tell ourselves that we are inherently good instead of a sinner, and all we have to do is let the good in us come out. All we have to do is improve ourselves by trying a little harder, or changing a few bad habits. But nothing we can do can change our sin nature and our heart.

“And the man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, what is this that you have done? And the woman said the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat” (Gen. 3:12-13).

Finally, Adam and Eve tried to blame God, the other person, and the Devil, and we do the same thing. We attempt to blame God for making us the way we are, which would make Him unfair. That might carry some weight if we were only responsible for the sin of Adam and Eve, but we are also responsible for our own sins that we have freely chosen to commit. We try to blame our circumstances and other people so that it is not our fault. We claim to be a victim and therefore not responsible. We also attempt to redefine our sins as diseases or other things beyond our control.

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Gen. 3:21).

God has provided a solution for sin and the resulting guilt. He killed an innocent animal and made coats of skins to clothe them. This is a picture of the eternal life God has given us through the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross (Rom. 6:23). But even though the full price for forgiveness was paid on the Cross, each person must receive it for himself. When this is done, the guilt of sin is replaced with the peace with God.

If you realize you are a sinner and need to get saved, or if you have unrepented sin in your life, please pray this prayer and believe it from your heart:

Dear Lord Jesus, I realize that I have sinned. Please forgive me based on the fact that you died for my sins on the Cross. I ask you to come into my life as my Saviour and Lord, and help me to live for you. Amen.
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THE RESPONSE

We are getting more emails presently from foreign countries than we ever have as it regards SonLife television. And we’re getting them from countries that you would never think would be possible, such as Iran, etc. One lady wrote the other day from the U.K., saying, “Sister Swaggart (she wrote to Frances), I don’t know how much response that you are getting over here, but everyone that I see and talk to is watching SonLife Broadcasting.” How we thank the Lord for that.

And above that, which is the most important, we’re getting emails from people who are giving their hearts to Christ, seeing their lives changed, and experiencing the new birth, and there is nothing in the world like it, as most of you know. What I’m trying to say is that by the grace of God we are reaching a great part of this world for Christ, and how we thank God for the privilege. And yet as I constantly say, and I will keep saying it: We could not do it without you. Thank you so much for praying for us, and for supporting us financially. I’m asking you to do, or continue to do, the following:

- Pray for us daily, please!
- Tell others about the SonLife Broadcasting Network. It would be the greatest favor you ever did for that person.
- Support the work financially as God enables you to do so.

I realize that many of you are already doing this, but I would hope to get all of you doing this, of which I say.

AMERICA

This upcoming election, still several months away, just might be the most important election that this nation has ever known. And it may be the last election to get this country back on even keel. Therefore, you need to pray that the Lord will lead you as it regards for whom you vote. This is critical!

I am told that some 25 million evangelicals did not vote in the last presidential election. That must not be this time. We have a tremendous responsibility, and I feel like it’s a God-given responsibility to vote in these elections, and especially now. How you vote is your business, but that you vote is all-important. And I’m asking each and every one of you, over which we have any influence at all, to vote and make your vote count. Pray about it. Ask the Lord for whom you should place in the highest office of this land. And remember the following:

*If My people, which are called by My name, Shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, And turn from their wicked ways, Then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, And I will heal their land* (II Chron. 7:14).

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OFFERS

I’m speaking of the offers, of course, given in this magazine. A lady wrote the other day and said: “Brother Swaggart, when I order things from other ministries, all too often what I get back is not worth looking at. Everything we get from your office is first-class, not only in its production, but, as well, as far as the content is concerned. In other words, I don’t waste my money.

I was very pleased to get such a testimony. We do everything we can to give you material that is the very finest, as the lady said, not only in production, but as well in the content. In other words, if it’s music, it’s the best. If it’s teaching, it’s that which will open up the Word of God to you. As well, we cut the prices to the bone, so much so in fact that my people are constantly screaming at me that I’m not charging enough. Yes, we could charge more, but I realize that would cut many people out from being able to get the product. I want you to get the Bibles, the commentaries, the books, the music, in fact everything that we offer, and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it will bless you and help you.
FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER MEDIA CHURCH

Somebody asked me the other day, “How many do you have now on the roll?” I honestly don’t know. When they started adding it to the computers, they did not put a program in that stated exactly when we began and how many we have, at least of which I am aware. But I would think surely that it’s numbering close to 200,000. And we are so very, very glad to have each and every one of you.

Someone asked what it cost to join. It doesn’t cost anything. Of course it takes money for us to bring the gospel 24 hours a day, seven days a week into your home. So we would urge you to pay your tithe if you feel led of the Lord to do so. And please believe me, I know the Lord will bless you. That is only a request, not a demand.

The only real requirement we have, and it’s very important, is that you be born again. And I certainly believe that all who would want to become a part of the Media Church is most definitely born again.

Some would ask if they could be members of the Family Worship Center Media Church, and, at the same time, belong to another church. You most definitely can. What you do otherwise is your business. So, pray about it, and do what you feel the Lord would have you do.

One more thing—it doesn’t matter where you live in the world. We have people from all over the world who are members of the Family Worship Center Media Church. And wherever that might be, we would welcome you.

THE BIBLE COLLEGE ONLINE COURSES

I believe we have one of the finest online biblical systems in the world today to help people understand the Word of God just a little better. Hundreds and even thousands are signing up for these courses, and you should as well.

If you love the Word of God, you should take advantage of this which the Holy Spirit has put together. Loren Larson has worked tirelessly on this to make it what it is, and we think it’s one of the best systems available.

For more information, I would urge you to call the office and tell the operator that you want some more information regarding the online courses available at World Evangelism Bible College & Seminary, or visit online at webc.edu. You’ll be glad you did.

In the Master’s Service, yours,

Jimmy Swaggart
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(07-561) The Road to Unlimited Victory
(07-560) Willful Ignorance
(07-556) Ask for the Rain
(07-575) Faith Which Works by Love
(07-577) Let Us Draw Near
Donnie Swaggart
Office: 225.768.8300
Email: info@jsm.org

APRIL 8-10, 2016 – COLUMBUS, MS
Pastor James Verdell
All Nations Ministries
1560 Hwy. 69 S., Columbus, MS 39702
662.425.6626
¬ FRI 7 PM | SAT 7 PM | SUN 9 AM & 6 PM

APRIL 23-24, 2016 – DANVILLE, VA
Pastor Jason Cook
Riveroak Church of God
120 Riveroak Blvd., Danville, VA 24541
434.793.9648 | www.riveroakcog.com
¬ SAT 6 PM | SUN 10:30 AM & 6 PM

SPECIAL EVENT: APRIL 29, 2016 – DALLAS, TX
SBN Presents Donnie Swaggart
Naomi Bruton Theatre
The Black Academy of Arts & Letters
Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center
1309 Canton Street, Dallas, TX 75201
www.donnieswaggart.org
¬ SAT 7 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

Bob & Sharon Cornell
Office: 225.768.3887
Email: bobc@jsm.org

APRIL 8-10, 2016 – PEORIA & OTTAWA, IL
Pastor John Wagner
Heritage Christian Center of Greater Peoria
632 Groveland St., Creve Coeur, IL 61610
309.361.4557 | www.heritagechristiancenter.net
¬ FRI 7 PM (Sharon Ministering) | SAT 10 AM
Heritage Christian Center of Ottawa
900 Hitt St., Ottawa, IL 61350
815.434.0507 | www.heritagechristiancenter.net
¬ SAT 6 PM | SUN 10 AM

MAY 20-22, 2016 – DENVER, NC
Pastors Jason & Summer Collins
Lakeside Church
6636 Pine Ridge Dr, Denver, NC 28037
740.620.8583 | www.mylakesidechurch.com
¬ FRI 7 PM | SAT 10 AM - 12 PM (Teaching Service)
SAT 7 PM (Sharon Ministering)
SUN 10:30 AM & 6 PM (Sharon Ministering)

Loren Larson
Office: 225.768.3890
Email: info@webc.edu

APRIL 22-24, 2016 – HOUSTON, TX
Pastor Tony Pittman
Oak Meadows Community Worship Center
6105 Allendale Road, Houston, TX 77017
832.421.4117 or 832.454.8583 | tonyopittman@gmail.com
¬ FRI 7:30 PM | SAT 10 AM - 12 PM (Teaching Service)
SAT 7 PM (Sharon Ministering)
SUN 6 PM | SUN 10 AM

MAY 6-8, 2016 – WICHITA, KS
Pastor Jim Hashbarger
Berean Assembly
1215 West Carey Lane, Wichita, KS 67207
316.636.7618 | www.bereanassembly.org
¬ FRI 7 PM | SAT 6 PM | SUN 10 AM & 6 PM

JULY 8-10, 2016 – GARLAND, TX
Pastor Charles Lincoln
Christ Unveiled Ministries
1622 East Miller Road, Garland, TX 75041
972.926.5203 | www.christunveiled.org
¬ FRI 7 PM | SAT 10 AM - 12 PM (Teaching Session)
SAT 7 PM | SUN 9 AM & 11 AM

Gabriel Swaggart
Office: 225.768.3072
Email: crossfire@jsm.org

SPECIAL EVENT: APRIL 22, 2016 – ALBUQUERQUE, NM
Gabriel Swaggart Rally
Kiva Auditorium
401 2nd St NW., Albuquerque, NM 87102
¬ FRI 7 PM

SPECIAL EVENT: MAY 20, 2016 – COLUMBUS, OH
Gabriel Swaggart Rally
Mershon Auditorium
1871 N High St., Columbus, OH 43210
¬ FRI 7 PM

SBN Presents Donnie Swaggart
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¬ SAT 7 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

Gabriel Swaggart Rally
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401 2nd St NW., Albuquerque, NM 87102
¬ FRI 7 PM

Gabriel Swaggart Rally
Mershon Auditorium
1871 N High St., Columbus, OH 43210
¬ FRI 7 PM
Bob Cornell
Office: 225.768.3887
Email: bobic@jsm.org
MAY 28 & 29, 2016 – COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
Pastor Eric Harding
Finished Work Worship Center
2380 Montebello Drive West, Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719.244.4939 | fwwc.cs@gmail.com | www.fwwc.cs.com
- SAT 2 PM (Teaching Session) & 7 PM | SUN 10:30 AM

David Borg
Office: 225.768.3890
Email: davidborg@jsm.org
APRIL 22-24, 2016 – NORTHFIELD, MN
Pastor Steve Roberts
Gospel of Life Family Church
2010 Jefferson Rd., Northfield, MN 55057
507.259.2644
- FRI 7 PM | SAT 7 PM | SUN 10:30 AM

Sharon Cornell
Email: bobic@jsm.org
MAY 28, 2016 – EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA
Revival Fire!
Hosted by The Lamb Sisters
Ramada Edmonton Hotel & Conference Center (Wildrose Ballroom)
11834 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
780.433.9951 | www.lambssisters.org
- SAT 1:30 PM

MAY 21 & 22, 2016 – LINCOLN, NE
Pastors Mark Niemeyer & Mark Springer
Cross of Christ Ministries
Holiday Inn Southwest Lincoln Ballroom
2500 Tamarin Ridge Rd., Lincoln, NE 68512
(Niemeyer) 402.834.0087 | (Springer) 402.366.0053
- SAT 10 AM & 7 PM | SUN 9:30 AM

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Genesis 12:3 — “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house, unto a land that I will show you.”

The Message of the Cross

The Call of Abraham
by Jimmy Swaggart

The Revelation
The Cross
The Call of God
Whatever it is that God calls us to do, it is always bigger than we think. In our day and age, we can’t think outside the box. We are too focused on ourselves and our selfish desires. And yet, the Cross of Christ is not only a message of salvation, but also a message of love and forgiveness. The Cross of Christ is not only a message of death, but also a message of life. It’s a message of salvation for all people, regardless of their background or beliefs.

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You can reach the world with the Gospel.

The Expositor’s Study Bible

BIBLE-THON

COMING UP:

TUESDAY  MARCH 1
FRIDAY   APRIL 1
MONDAY   MAY 2
THURSDAY JUNE 2
FRIDAY   JULY 1