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**The Cover**

December 2011 – Volume 45 – Number 12.
SBN is available nationwide. Contact 287-371 (page 50)
"Whether we realize it or not, this type of unfaithfulness actually says that the Cross of Christ was not enough and needs something added."

QUESTION:

WHAT IS "SPIRITUAL ADULTERY" AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

ANSWER:

All Believers are married to Christ. We are to look to Him exclusively for all things, whatever that may be. This means that our Faith is to be in Christ and the Cross and nothing else. Failing that means that our Faith is in something else, and even though the something else may be good in its own right, still, it is not Faith in Christ and the Cross, which means that such a Believer is being unfaithful to Christ, which is "spiritual adultery." To be sure, such affects the Holy Spirit greatly. While He doesn’t leave us, and thank God for that, still, He is greatly hindered.

Considering that the Holy Spirit works exclusively within the parameters of the Finished Work of Christ, meaning that it is the Cross of Christ that gives Him the legal right to do all that He does, we start to see how serious all of this is.

The Lord doesn’t require very much of us, but He does require one thing, and that is that our Faith be exclusively in Christ and what Christ has done for us at the Cross.

EVERYTHING COMES THROUGH THE CROSS

The Believer must understand that while Christ is the Source of all things from God, it is the Cross that is the Means by which all of these things are given to us. To receive them, whatever they might be, the Cross of Christ must ever be the Object of our Faith. "Spiritual adultery," i.e., “unfaithfulness,” is a serious sin, to say the least. Whether we realize it or not, this type of unfaithfulness actually says that the Cross of Christ was not enough and needs something added. One can well imagine, considering the price that Christ paid, how great this insult is.

THE WORD OF GOD

Paul explains this in the first five Verses of the Seventh Chapter of Romans. He said:

“Know you not, Brethren (Paul is speaking to Believers), (for I speak to them who know the Law,) (he is speaking of the Law of Moses, but it could refer to any type of religious Law) how that the Law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? (The Law has dominion as long as he tries to live by Law. Regrettably, not understanding the Cross regarding Sanctification, virtually the entirety of the church is presently trying to live for God by means of the Law. Let the Believer understand that there are only two places he can be, Grace or Law. If he doesn’t understand the Cross as it refers to Sanctification, which is the only means of Victory, he will automatically be under Law, which guarantees failure.)”

THE MARRIAGE BOND

“For the woman which has an husband is bound by the Law to her husband so long as he lives (presents Paul using the analogy of the marriage bond); but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the Law of her husband (meaning that she is free to marry again).”

“AN ADULTERESS”

“So then if, while her husband lives, she be married to another man, she shall
“Wherefore, my Brethren, you also are become dead to the Law (the Law is not dead per se, but we are dead to the Law because we are dead to its effects; this means that we are not to try to live for God by means of ‘Law,’ whether the Law of Moses, or Laws made up by other men or of ourselves; we are to be dead to all Law) by the Body of Christ (this refers to the Crucifixion of Christ, which satisfied the demands of the broken Law which we could not satisfy; but Christ did it for us; having fulfilled the Law in every respect, the Christian is not obligated to Law in any fashion, only to Christ and what He did at the Cross); that you should be married to another (speaking of Christ), even to Him Who is raised from the dead (we are raised with Him in Newness of Life, and we should ever understand that Christ has met, does meet, and shall meet our every need; we look to Him exclusively, referring to what He did for us at the Cross), that we should bring forth fruit unto God (proper fruit can only be brought forth by the Believer constantly looking to the Cross; in fact, Christ must never be separated from the Work of the Cross; to do so is to produce ‘another Jesus’ [II Cor. 11:4]).”

“The BODY OF CHRIST”

“The FLESH” and the “LAW”

“For when we were in the flesh (can refer to the unsaved state or to the Believer who is attempting to overcome the powers of sin by his own efforts, i.e., ‘the flesh’), the motions of sins (denotes being under the power of the sin nature, and refers to the ‘passions of the sin nature’), which were by the Law (the effect of the Law is to reveal sin, which Law is designed to do whether it’s the Law of God or Laws made up of ourselves; that doesn’t mean it’s evil, for it isn’t; it just means that there is no victory in the Law, only the revelation of sin and its penalty), did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death (when the Believer attempts to live for the Lord by means of Law, which, regrettably, most of the modern church does, the end result is going to be sin and failure; in fact, it can be no other way; let us say it again! if the Believer doesn’t understand the Cross, as it refers to another man (presents the Believer as now married to Christ, and no longer under obligation to the Law).’”

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“Everything we receive from God comes to us by and through Jesus Christ and by the Means of the Cross.”

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

All of this means in brief that we as Believers are married to Christ. As such, and as stated, He is to meet our every need simply because He Alone can meet our every need. The moment we resort to Law, which refers to placing our Faith in anything else other than the Cross of Christ, this constitutes “spiritual adultery.” Considering that the modern church knows next to nothing about the Cross of Christ as it refers to our Sanctification, i.e., how we live this life, this means that their Faith is in something other than Christ and the Cross. It doesn’t really matter too much what the other thing might be, and granted that the other thing might be something very good in its own right, still, the Lord construes such as “spiritual adultery.” In fact, this is what deceives Believers.

That in which they have placed their faith is good in its own right, and because it is good, and even Scriptural in its own way, it deceives them into believing that this is the right way to go. But, let us say it again.

Everything we receive from God comes to us by and through Jesus Christ and by the Means of the Cross. He does not give us and, in fact, cannot give us anything other than by and through the Cross. Consequently, our Faith must be registered completely in Christ and what He did for us at the Cross. That being done, the Grace of
God, which works exclusively by and through the Cross of Christ, can flow to us in an uninterrupted manner. Otherwise, we cut off the Grace of God, which means we cut off all Blessings. Listen again to Paul. He said:

**THE “YOKE OF BONDAGE”**

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free (we were made free, and refers to freedom to live a Holy Life by evidencing Faith in Christ and the Cross), and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. (To abandon the Cross and go under Law of any kind guarantees bondage once again to the sin nature.)”

**“CHRIST SHALL PROFIT YOU NOTHING”**

“Behold (‘mark my words!’), I Paul say unto you (presents the Apostle’s authority regarding the Message he brings), that if you be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. (If the Believer goes back into Law, and Law of any kind, what Christ did at the Cross on our behalf will profit us nothing. One cannot have it two ways.)”

**A DEBTOR TO THE LAW**

“For I testify again to every man who is circumcised (some of the Galatian Gentiles were being pressured by false teachers to embrace the Law of Moses, which meant they would have to forsake Christ and the Cross, for it’s not possible to wed the two; as well, it’s not possible to wed any Law to Grace), that he is a debtor to do the whole Law (which, of course, is impossible; and besides, the Law contained no Salvation).”

**“YOU ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE”**

“Christ is become of no effect unto you (this is a chilling statement, and refers to anyone who makes anything other than Christ and the Cross the Object of his Faith), whosoever of you are justified by the Law (seek to be justified by the Law); you are fallen from Grace (fallen from the position of Grace, which means the Believer is trusting in something other than the Cross; it actually means, ‘to apostatize’)” (Gal. 5:1-4).

**“SPIRITUAL ADULTERY,” THE GREATEST HINDRANCE**

As unfaithfulness in the bond of marriage is so serious that most marriages never survive such, and considering that the Holy Spirit, in essence, refers to unfaithfulness to Christ as “spiritual adultery,” we should understand how serious this problem is. In fact, it is meant by the Holy Spirit for us to see the seriousness of such action.

The tragedy is that none of us quite understand that “spiritual adultery” is just as bad in the spiritual sense as physical adultery is in the natural sense. Irrespective, however, of what we say or think, the Truth cannot be denied.

Paul tells us that we are married to Christ and, as such, we are to be faithful to Him, and exclusively, which means to place our Faith and trust exclusively in Christ and the Cross.

**MARRIED TO CHRIST**

Paul deals with this, as well, in his Second Letter to the Corinthians. He said:

“Would to God you could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. (In effect, the Apostle is saying, ‘indulge me.’) For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy (refers to the ‘jealousy of God’ [Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Nah. 1:2]): for I have espoused you to one husband (not jealous of the Corinthians’ affection for himself, but of their affection for Christ), that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (They must not commit ‘spiritual adultery,’ which refers to trusting in things other than Christ and the Cross.)”

**THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST**

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety (the strategy of Satan), so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (The Gospel of Christ is simple, but men complicate it by adding to the Message.)”

**“ANOTHER JESUS”**

“For if he who comes preaching another Jesus (a Jesus who is not of the Cross), whom we have not preached (Paul’s Message was ‘Jesus Christ and Him Crucified’; anything else is ‘another Jesus’), or if you receive another...”  

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spirit (which is produced by preaching another Jesus), which you have not received (that’s not what you received when we preached the True Gospel to you), or another gospel, which you have not accepted (anything other than ‘Jesus Christ and Him Crucified’ is ‘another gospel’), you might well bear with him. (The Apostle is telling the Corinthians they have, in fact, sinned because they tolerated these false apostles who had come in, bringing ‘another gospel’ which was something other than Christ and the Cross)” (II Cor. 11:1-4).

In fact, the far greater majority of the modern church is proclaiming “another Jesus.”

WHAT DOES “ANOTHER JESUS” ACTUALLY MEAN?

“Another Jesus” means that they were proclaiming Jesus, but were ignoring the Cross. In fact, those interlopers then were promoting the Law of Moses, claiming that it must be kept alongside accepting Jesus. And, if the people did not accept the Law of Moses, meaning that the men would be circumcised, etc., they were not Saved, or else, they were not a complete Christian. Today, it’s a little different.

It is not so much the Law of Moses that’s being promoted presently, but rather, something in the place of the Cross.

The modern church, at least after a fashion, is preaching Jesus, but it is Jesus, the “good Man,” or the “Miracle Worker,” or the “great example,” or the “great teacher,” etc. All of this means that they are claiming that man can reach his potential if he will only change a few habits, etc., and, thereby, be more like Jesus. In fact, the modern church is ignoring the real problem of man, which is sin.

SIN

We must ever understand that man is in trouble, and I mean terrible trouble, not so much for what he does, even though that is very, very important, but mostly for what he is. Millions today think they are going to Heaven because they do not commit adultery, do not steal, etc. While it’s certainly good that they don’t do these things, none of that are the criteria. The criteria is that mankind is a sinner, and that his problem can be addressed only by Jesus Christ, the Saviour, meaning that man must admit what he is, a sinner, and, thereby, accept Christ as his Saviour and Lord (Jn. 3:16; Rev. 22:17).

When it comes to the Believer, we must, as well, admit that our real problem is sin, but this the modern church will not do. As stated, it claims that the real problem of the modern Christian is just that he simply needs to change his habits and become a better person.

While all of us need to be a better person, still, it’s Jesus Christ the Saviour from sin that can make us such, and only Jesus. Let me say it again.

The problem with the modern Christian is “sin.” The only cure for that problem and the only answer for that problem is that we place our Faith in Christ exclusively, and what He did for us at the Cross, understanding that the Cross of Christ is the only answer for sin. When this is done, and I might quickly add, maintained, meaning that our Faith ever remain in Christ and the Cross, then the Holy Spirit, Who Alone can bring about His Fruit within our lives, will begin to do His Work.

If the Believer places his faith in anything else, and I mean anything else, such as the Lord’s Supper, fasting, Water Baptism, good works, giving money to the Work of the Lord, performing good deeds, his church, his religious denomination, etc., such a Christian is, in fact, living in a state of “spiritual adultery.” While the other things mentioned are good things, and in which every true Believer will engage himself, still, the Object of Faith must always be, and without exception, and continue to be, the Cross of Christ (Rom. 6:1-14; 8:1-2, 11; I Cor. 1:17-18, 23; 2:2; Gal., Chpt. 5; 6:14; Eph. 2:13-18; Col. 2:14-15).

HOW SERIOUS IS THIS MATTER OF “SPIRITUAL ADULTERY”?

I will answer that by asking another question, “How serious is unfaithfulness as it regards marriage between a husband and wife?”

If I remember correctly, it was in late winter of 1992. We were then having two prayer meetings a day, which continued for ten years, and to which I continue to personally subscribe.

That particular morning, as four or five of us gathered for prayer, I began to petition the Lord for particular things in my own personal life, which I felt I
needed. In a very short period of time the Spirit of God covered me greatly.

The Lord took me away from my own personal needs, although they were many, to the condition of the church, and I speak of the church world as a whole. He took me to the First Chapter of the great Prophet Isaiah. I will quote both Text and notes from THE EXPOSITOR’S STUDY BIBLE that which the Lord gave me as it regards the church. He said:

“The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel does not know, My People do not consider. (The meaning of this Verse seems to be, ‘My People do not consider Me, do not reflect on My relation to them as Lord and Master.’)”

“THEY ARE GONE AWAY BACKWARD”

“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children who are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. (According to Isaiah, holiness is the most essential element of God’s Nature; hence, he would call Him ‘the Holy One of Israel.’)

“In their forsaking the Lord, Judah did not renounce His worship, but actually continued it; however, it was reduced to a mere formality. The people ‘honored Him with their lips, while their hearts were far from Him’ [Isa. 29:13].)”

“THE WHOLE HEAD IS SICK, AND THE WHOLE HEART FAINT”

“Why should you be stricken anymore?

you will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. (The statement of Verses 5 and 6 not only describes moral character, or rather the lack thereof, but also the severity of future just but unavailing punishment. Israel refused to repent notwithstanding such punishment.

“The ‘head’ and ‘heart’ of Israel respectively represented the intellectual and moral natures. Israel had turned away from God in both her mind and heart.

“The deadly ‘bruises’ and ‘sores’ of Israel, while but a spiritual analogy, still, could not be cured by anything except the Lord)” (Isa. 1:2-6).

If these Passages described the condition of the church in 1992, and they most definitely did, then how much worse is the situation now? “Spiritual adultery” is the problem!

WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING TO THE CHURCHES

Regarding the Messages of Christ to the seven Churches of Asia, which, in fact, typify the Church Age from the Early Church unto the present, in every one of these Messages He closed it by the admonishment, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the Churches” (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

The short phrase, “He who has an ear,” refers to those who truly want what “thus saith the Lord.” In other words, they are listening for the Voice of the Holy Spirit. The modern church is now in the Laodicean Age. In other words, the Message of our Lord to the church at Laodicea describes the time in which we now live. It is the closing Message, meaning that the Dispensation of the Church is almost over. The following is the Message to this church, which, in effect, is the Message to the modern church. Our Lord said:

“And unto the Angel (Pastor) of the Church of the Laodiceans write (this is the ‘apostate church’; we do not know when it began, but we do know it has begun; it is the last church addressed by Christ, so that means the Rapture will take place very shortly); These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness (by contrast to His Church, which is not faithful and true), the beginning of the Creation of God

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"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the Churches.’’

(Jesus is the Creator of all things).

"LUKEWARM"

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot (characterizes that which is prevalent at this present time): I would you were cold or hot (half measures won’t do).

“So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot (if a person is lukewarm towards something, it means he hasn’t rejected it, but at the same time he has by no means accepted it; in the Mind of God, a tepid response is equal to a negative response), I will spue you out of My mouth. (There is no prospect of Repentance here on the part of this church, or Restoration. In fact, there is Divine rejection.)”

"HAVE NEED OF NOTHING’’?

“Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing (they equated the increase in material goods with Spiritual Blessings, which they were not); and knowest not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked (the tragedy lay in the fact that while this church gloated over material wealth, she was unconscious of her spiritual poverty; again indicative of the modern church!).”

"GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE"

“I counsel you to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich (what they needed to ‘buy’ could not be purchased with money, but only with the Precious Blood of Christ, which price has already been paid; but the modern church is not interested); and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear (refers to Righteousness which is exclusively of Christ and the Cross; this tells us that the Laodicean Church is extremely self-righteous; not having the Righteousness of Christ, they are ‘naked’ to the judgment of God); and anoint your eyes with eyesalve, that you may see. (The modern church is also spiritually blind.)”

"REPENT"

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chas- ten (implies a remnant): be zealous therefore, and repent. (The modern church desperately needs to repent for its rebellion against God’s Divine Order [Christ and the Cross] and for following cunningly devised fables [II Pet. 1:16].)”

THE “VOICE” OF THE LORD

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock (presents Christ outside the church): if any man hear My Voice (so much religious racket is going on that it is difficult to ‘hear His Voice’), and open the door (Christ is the True Door, which means the church has erected another door), I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. (Having been rejected by the church, our Lord now appeals to individuals, and He is still doing so presently.)”

THE OVERCOMER

“To him who overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My Throne (the overcomer will gain the prize of the Throne, which can only be done by one ever making the Cross the Object of his Faith), even as I also overcame, and am sat down with My Father in His Throne. (This presents Christ as our Substitute, going before us, and doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the Churches. (In plain language, the Holy Spirit is saying, ‘Come back to Christ and the Cross!’)” (Rev. 3:14-22).

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT SAYING TO THE CHURCHES?

I firmly believe, and with all of my heart, that the
“COMMUNITARIANISM?”

Americans must take the time to learn what the Communitarian philosophy is all about in order to understand the agendas in modern politics and religion. Communitarian principles (which are really just a “softer” version of communism) are being taught in a number of universities in this country, both secular and Christian. A Communitarian adopts and advocates concepts such as a cooperative spirit of community, selfless commitment to community service, and the duty to work for “the common good.” The ideals of this philosophy are coming in today as a new sort-of “salvation” for the human race, a new way to solve the world’s problems and have peaceful governance on Earth.

INDIVIDUALISM?

While it is true that, on the surface, a commitment to one’s community can sound very “good,” “Christian” even, there is a menacing evil behind Communitarianism’s bighearted ideals. Lying beneath its face is a subtle spirit/a subtle fortitude against individualism, which ultimately, will come against an individual’s right to worship and follow the god of his choosing. America was founded on principles, which guarded an individual’s rights, so that he/she may have the freedom to pursue his/her own definition of life, liberty, and happiness (as long as such did not impede the rights of others). The freedoms we have in America have allowed Christians to worship and follow the Lord in ways that those in other countries must risk their lives to do on a daily basis. Our individual rights and freedoms in this country are a blessing beyond measure for which we should praise God and strive to protect. Yet, we are being brainwashed to belittle their worth. Amazing how often some of the worst evils, at first, appear “good.” If you can get people to put the so-called “greater good” of the community first, they will often neglect personal convictions, leadings, and callings from God. Niki Rao-pana, the co-founder of the Anti-Communitarian League (ACL), an online research center, has said, “I’m preparing to write a series of articles introducing readers to the most important aspects of this complex and confusing theory that leads to a global Communitarian order. . . . Georg William Friedrich Hegel was a German theologian and philosopher who formed a theory of history to help dispute the American principles for individual freedom based in natural law. Amitai Etzioni is a German-Israeli immigrant who came to the US to further Hegel’s synthesis.” In the New Age mind, “natural law” is considered a form of “god” as well.

ECUMENICAL!

Someone has said, “the worst thing that can happen to a preacher is that he becomes civilized.” Again, the danger in becoming too enmeshed and dependent upon a group or society is that it can cause one to forsake complete loyalty to Christ. The Lord required the Jews to separate totally from the culture and ways of the surrounding nations just as Believers today are supposed to separate, spiritually-speaking, from the world and its endeavors. How could the Jews have been part of a global community? And likewise, how can God’s true Followers today become part of ecumenical religious efforts, which have nothing to do with the true Gospel? “And what concord has Christ with Belial? or what part has he who believes with an infidel?” (II Cor. 6:15). When the Antichrist imposes the “mark of the beast” upon those under his domain, will you choose to become part of his community or separate and follow God?

Continued on page 14
PREACH THE WORD

What is extremely alarming is the degree this community-oriented thinking has already infiltrated the church. It has gone so far that service to the community is now considered to be an indicator of whether one is a Christian or not! The modern church should keep in mind Christ's Words, “... You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve” (Lk. 4:8). Of course Christians care about the poor and needy, but such does not define a follower of Christ. Over the years, our ministry here has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to poverty-stricken countries all over the world in order to feed the hungry, build churches and schools, and set up medical facilities. But, this was all done while a strong Gospel message was being preached from God's Word. The preaching of the Word is the true Christian commission. You see, man’s need is not really physical things; man’s need is Salvation and Deliverance from the bondages of sin. What good is a new house for a man still in bondage to drug addiction or an emotional disturbance? A new house cannot deliver him, and his life will still be miserable. What good is it to feed someone a meal when he will turn right around and have his sinful lifestyle prevent him from keeping a job? Once a man is Saved and set free, however, he will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to work a job and put food on his table. Then, the Lord can lead, guide, and provide for all his needs. The Lord may also guide a fellow brother in Christ to help him. God does speak to His People about who to help and when. If you have given your heart to Jesus, He will guide another Believer to you if necessary.

TRANSFERENCE OF FAITH

The Lord accomplishes all these provisions by the Leading and Guiding of the Holy Spirit, but sadly Christians today are not being taught to let the Spirit lead. They are being taught to depend on community social programs. This transfers faith from belief in God to belief in man. Nowhere does Scripture tell us to rely on other men. All social/community programs are made up of flawed human efforts, which have no guarantee of success or fulfillment of their promises. It's a part of maturing and growing in the Lord to become dependent upon Him alone. If we look to man to provide for us, we've lost sight of our True Saviour. We must come to trust that our needs are all met through Christ and what He did for us at Calvary. “The LORD redeems the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate” (Ps. 34:22). “... Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him” (Ps. 2:12). See, when the church joins the world in social programs to solve humanity’s problems, the Holy Spirit can no longer lead. Even if the unsaved world wants to do “good,” all they can ultimately do are the works of Satan. Until a man is Saved, he will do the bidding of Satan without even meaning to. In his fallen state, a man can be nothing more than a servant of unrighteousness. Once the Lord becomes his Father, however, the Works of God can be accomplished as the Holy Spirit empowers him through his Faith and reliance upon the Lord! “... Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the LORD of Hosts” (Zech. 4:6).

CHRISTIAN SOCIALISM

Today’s world-centered, non Spirit-led, church, however, is illustrating a different kind of service, service designed to please man rather than God. They emphasize organizational behaviors rather than true Biblical beliefs, in short, “deeds instead of creeds.” They actually train their servers to hide the “offensive” truths of the Gospel so that more people will come into the fold. Again, behind their facade of “good works” is simply just another version of the century old “Christian Socialism,” which now fits-in perfectly with the modern Communitarian philosophy. When churches do away with strong theological preaching from behind the pulpits, the deceiver (Satan) may then come in with his brand of the gospel. Knowing he cannot eliminate the concept of God, he redefines God as being this cosmic New Age force of “love,”
as we mentioned in last month’s article. He introduces the concept of a non-judgmental God who could never send anyone to a horrifying place called Hell. Satan whispers to the modern church that if we love our neighbor, we will never offend him by telling him that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Only Way to Eternal Life (when the exact opposite is true). Instead, the enemy says, we should just respect all religions, beliefs, and values as if they are just as valid as our own Biblical teachings. Never mind the Bible says, “Thou shall have no other gods before me.” Just ignore that. After all, that is just in the Old Testament, not for the modern church-goer. Today, we can even learn to honor and esteem worshippers of Allah. After all, aren’t we supposed to love everyone? What’s wrong with bringing all of the world’s religions together into one big happy family, finding common ground, and doing good works? What’s wrong with bringing the whole world into unity? Just think how many times a day we hear Satan preach this lie through various media. But, as Christians, we should be asking – unity of what? and for what reason?

COMMUNITY?

The modern church, you see, is actually playing the critical role for the Communitarian ideal to work because “community” needs to become a part of the religious consciousness of people. People will usually come to accept something on a religious level before they will support it on a political level. Communitarians want their philosophies to be considered “Christian.” This is why its concepts are being taught in the church. Rick Warren’s “3-legged stool” fits into the Communitarian ideal perfectly as it calls for government, business, and church cooperation. In our February article we mentioned Tony Blair’s statement that “religion is the new politics.” Robert Phillips, of the Carnegie Council, writes, “Pope John Paul’s great vision of communitarianism and a New Global Order has yet to receive the recognition it deserves in furthering the understanding that humanity is built on religious values, without which transformations in totalitarian regimes would have been impossible. . . Communitarianism presents an encouraging universal notion of freedom, transcending the one-sided stances of Marxism and libertarian capitalism and promoting the vision of a unified human destiny.”

If Americans do not wake-up quickly, we will find ourselves past the point of no return!

When Christ and His Disciples went out to minister and spread the Gospel, there was no consensus. Rather, it was “Thus says the Lord!”

A BURDEN FOR SOULS

What if, instead of preaching the Gospel on Mars’ Hill and correcting its citizens for their idolatrous worship of other gods (Acts 17:16-34), the Apostle Paul had appealed to the citizens so-called “better nature,” asking them to join him in working for peace? What if, like so many of our modern “preachers,” Paul had reasoned to himself: “After all, we all worship God and want the same things in life, right? So, let’s join together and work for the ‘greater good’ of Rome.” What an unimaginable loss for the cause of Christ that would have been. But, thank the Lord, we know that no such thought entered Paul’s mind!

Continued on page 16
Scripture makes it completely clear Paul was troubled and burdened at the knowledge of their lost condition. Scripture says Paul’s spirit was “stirred within” as he saw the city given over to idol worship. Any man who is truly called of God will have a burden for souls. Day and night, it will be the cry of his heart! Where are these men of God today? The Gospel is about souls, not religious efforts and goals!

Frances Swaggart

1  (http://www.rense.com/general77/sele.htm)  
2  (http://www.crossroad.to/Quotes/communitarian/niki.htm)  
(Communitarianism, the Vatican, and the New Global Order by Robert L. Phillips, CarnegieCouncil.org)
Mark 8:27-30 – “And Jesus went out, and His Disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi (places Him about forty miles north of the Sea of Galilee, and about forty miles south of Damascus): and by the way He asked His Disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am? (Constitutes Who He really was, and the drawing out of the Disciples, as to Who they thought He was. The Greek Text says, ‘He kept on asking,’ meaning that the question so startled them that at first they did not answer.)

“And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elijah; and others, One of the Prophets (their answers were strange, but reflected the thinking of much of Israel at that particular time).

“And He said unto them, But whom say you that I am? (Concerns the greatest question that could ever be asked. It is a question that all must ultimately answer.) And Peter answered and said unto Him, You are the Christ (Peter actually said, ‘You are the Messiah,’ because that’s what the Word ‘Christ’ actually means; it was the Great Confession).

“And He charged them (commanded them) that they should tell no man of Him (relates the fact that it was now obvious that Israel had rejected Him, and consequently, there was no further point in projecting the issue)."

The question of Jesus Christ to His Disciples, “Whom do men say that I am?” is the most important question in the world. How one answers this question will determine their eternal fate, “Heaven” or “Hell.” How one answers this question will tell you if one is truly Spiritual or just religious. The problem in the modern church is that many know about Christ, but don’t know Christ.

WHO JESUS CHRIST IS TO ME

I cannot answer the question of Jesus Christ as it regards the reader, as I have no way of knowing your heart, as Salvation is a personal and individual act. However, I can answer the question as it regards my own life. To me, this Man is Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, and this is what He has done for me:

• He has Saved me from sin, and given me Eternal Life.
• He has baptized me with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other Tongues.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

• He is the One Who healed me of the most severe form of migraines.
• He is the One Who has sustained me and kept me safe in His Arms when I was broken and wounded.
• He is the One Who has given me joy and peace.
• He is the One Who has brought me through the storms of life.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

• He is my strength when I am weak.
• He is my eyes when I cannot see.
• He is my legs when I don’t think I can take another step.
• He is my compass, when I don’t know which way to go.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

• He is my Hope, my sure Foundation, an ever-present Help in time of need. He is my Elder Brother, He is my King, Provider, Doctor, and
Continued from page 17

Lawyer. He is my great High Priest, my Mediator, and Intercessor.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

Isaiah said, “He is a nail in a sure place” (Isa. 22:23). He is my Strong Tower, He is my Shepherd Who “makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me by the still waters and restores my soul” (Ps. 23). He is my Rod and Staff that I lean on in times of distress and travail.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

He is the Branch, the Bread of Life, the Comforter, Counselor, and Cornerstone. He is my Deliverer, He is Faithful and True, the Gift of God, He is my Blessed Hope, He is the Horn of Salvation, and the Hope of Glory.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

He is the Righteous Judge, the Lamb of God, the Light of the world, the Lily of the Valley, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, He is the Living Stone, He is Living Water, He is my Master, my Mediator, my Passover Lamb, and the Prince of Peace.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

He is Prophet, Purifier, Redeemer, He is the Resurrection of Life, He is the Rock, the Root of David, the Rose of Sharon, the Son of David, the Son of God, the Star out of Jacob. He is my Teacher, He is my Truth, my Way, my Wisdom. He is my Great Physician, my Balm in Gilead.

Who is this Man? He is Jesus Christ my Saviour. That’s Who He is to me and I pray you can say the same.

THE TIME OF THE QUESTION

This event, as recorded in Mark, Chapter 8, took place about six months before the Master’s Crucifixion. Please understand, His Disciples had been with Him now for three years. They had seen the Miracles, they had sat at His Feet as He spoke as no man had ever spoken, as One having Authority not of this earthly realm. Yet, at this moment He would probe His Disciples as to their own personal belief and understand as to Who He was, and what His True Mission on Earth was.

ASSOCIATION VERSUS RELATIONSHIP

One must never forget that association doesn’t always mean that one has a relationship. Untold numbers in the modern church “associate” themselves with Christ, but they have no true relationship, in other words, they
may be religious but they are not Born-Again. Too many church goers are interested in dating Christ, but not marrying Him. We must be vigilant that we don’t become complacent as it regards our relationship with the Lord. Jesus Himself said in His Sermon on the Mount, “But seek you first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mat. 6:33).

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

The question, “And by the way He asked His Disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?” constitutes Who He really was and the drawing out of the Disciples as to who “they” thought He was.

The Greek Text says, “He kept on asking,” meaning that the question so startled them that, at first, they did not answer.

The answer to this great question, as to who He actually is, constitutes the entirety of His Ministry, from the Incarnation to His glorious Resurrection and Ascension. If the Disciples had a misunderstanding about this great Truth that Jesus is God manifested in the Flesh, then they would misunderstand everything else as well.

As Christ was drawing out His Disciples, we as well must be drawn out by the Holy Spirit, we too must not have any misunderstanding concerning Who Christ is, “God manifested in the Flesh,” and what He did, “die on Calvary’s Cross to redeem man from the curse of sin.”

Someone once asked me the question, “What is the New Covenant?” The answer is very simple, the New Covenant is Jesus Christ and Him Crucified for the sins of humanity.

MOSES

To further explain the idea of being “drawn out” let’s look at Moses for a moment. The name “Moses” means “to draw out,” or “to be drawn out.” As an infant he was “drawn out” of the water, at the age of 40 he was “drawn out” of Egypt, at age 80 he was “drawn out” from the backside of the desert. Then he was anointed to “draw out” the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Let the reader understand that the Lord is in the “drawing out” business. We are drawn out of sin to Salvation. Then we are drawn out by the Lord to the mighty infilling of the Holy Spirit, and then the desires to “draw us out” to a closer fellowship and deeper relationship.

“SOME SAY”

The Disciples answered and said, “Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others one of the Prophets.”

This answer shows us how blind Israel was to Christ even though He was in their midst. Many had seen the Miracles, many had heard His Words spoken in Power and Authority, yet they still did not believe He was their Messiah.

Edward Bickensteth, a noted Bible Scholar who lived many years ago, said this: “The Great Body of them (Israel) were offended at His poverty and humility; for they thought that the Messiah would appear among them with royal state as a temporal king.”

Israel’s problem was they couldn’t accept the fact they needed a “Saviour” before they could have a king, and why was this the case? They simply couldn’t believe that a carpenter’s Son from Nazareth was their Messiah. How many in the modern “seeker sensitive” church and “Emergent Church” is in the same boat? They really don’t believe in Jesus Christ or the Bible anymore, for if they did they wouldn’t be ordaining homosexuals or condoning abortion, and following the ways of the world.

“BUT WHOM DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

Notice how the Lord brings the question down to a personal level. You see Salvation is personal. It all comes down to the individual. You must know the answer to that question yourself. You can’t make it to Heaven because your mother or father is or was a Christian, you must know and accept Jesus Christ as the only means of Salvation.

“YOU ARE THE CHRIST”

In the Greek, Peter actually said, “You are the Messiah” because that’s what the word “Christ” actually means. Who is this Man? He is God’s Son and man’s Redeemer. He is the Mender of broken hearts. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is a Father to the fatherless. He is the only One Who can break the chains of sin and liberate mankind. He is all knowledge, hope, and peace. He is the Bread of Life and the Great Shepherd who watches over His Flock. He is Grace and Mercy, He is Everything, He is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Your Evangelist,

Donnie Swaggart
## Nationwide – Satellite Listings

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“Preaching The Cross
24 hours a day, 7 days a week”

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PLEASE NOTE: Time Warner airs infomercials from 3-7 AM (ET)

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<th>OVER THE AIR DIGITAL CHANNELS</th>
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<th>STATE</th>
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Until a channel comes to your area, enjoy your favorite radio and television programs by visiting www.sonlifetv.com.
You can already view “live” services and prerecorded programming on-line!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour (ET)</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Jimmy Swaggart</td>
<td>Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors</td>
<td>Jimmy Swaggart</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 AM</td>
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<td>3:00 AM</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
<td>Living Waters w/ Gabriel Swaggart Pre-recorded</td>
<td>Living Waters w/ Gabriel Swaggart Pre-recorded</td>
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<td>The Message of the Cross (Live)</td>
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<td>The Message of the Cross (Live)</td>
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<td>9:30 AM</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<td>Today's News and Current Events</td>
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### TV PROGRAMMING

**CC**: Closed Captioning

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<td>12:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Living Waters w/ Gabriel Swaggart Pre-recorded</strong></td>
<td><strong>Living Waters w/ Gabriel Swaggart Pre-recorded</strong></td>
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<td>A Study In The Word</td>
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<td><strong>The Message of the Cross (Pre-recorded)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CC</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<td><strong>The Message of the Cross (Pre-recorded)</strong></td>
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<td>FWC Music</td>
<td><strong>Crossfire w/Gabriel Swaggart (Pre-Recorded)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Crossfire w/Gabriel Swaggart (Pre-Recorded)</strong></td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
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</table>
December, 2011

The Evangelist

Letters
FROM OUR
AUDIENCE

All letters are current and have been edited for space.

I FOUND SKY SATELLITE, CHANNEL 599, HERE IN THE U.K.

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I woke up one morning at 4:30 a.m., as I could not sleep anymore. I flipped through the TV channels for something soothing so that I could be able to sleep again. I found Sky Satellite, Channel 599, here in the U.K., and there was music so soothing and so touching followed by you Brother Swaggart preaching. I did not sleep again until morning because I enjoyed every minute I spent on TV. It’s been about 3 weeks since I discovered this channel, and I was wondering why I had never found it, because I love Gospel music. On this channel there is what I call TRUE WORSHIP! Thank God for you because since then, I watch this channel every day and I really enjoy you Brother Swaggart singing and preaching. I personally thank you for bringing us close to Jesus and rejuvenating our spirits.

U.K.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE SERVICES

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I want to praise and thank God for all of the Ministries at SonLife Broadcasting Network. Thirteen years ago my eldest son committed suicide and I blamed God for not taking care of him. I turned my back on God, and didn’t want to know Him anymore. I am now 72 years old, and I watched the International Youth Conference Services, and I wept to see these young people worship and come to the Lord. That brought me to my senses, and I repented and asked God to forgive me. I can’t thank you enough for your teachings. I found my Jesus again, just where I had left Him, and praise His wonderful Name I’m forgiven, I’m back in the fold because of your wonderful teaching. I couldn’t have done it without your Network.

God bless you all.

E-MAIL

DURING A SHARE-A-THON, I GAVE MY LAST $25 IN FAITH

Dear Brother Swaggart,

Two months ago, I was jobless with two children to feed. I had been looking for work for months to no avail. I was receiving $85 a week for unemployment. Two months ago, during a Share-a-thon, I gave my last $25 in faith. A few days later, I was called about a job! Praise God! However, this job was only a temporary job and it ended at the end of the month. I was praying and asking God to bless me with a permanent job that pays $22,000 a year. Last month I doubled my giving to $50, and last week I was offered a job with a different company that pays over $33,000 a year! God has blessed me so much! Now with this new job, I will be able to move my children out of housing, get off of public assistance, and support the Work of the Lord even more. God has never failed me.

God bless you!

NEW YORK

THANKS FOR THE EXPOSITOR’S STUDY BIBLE

Dear Brother Swaggart,

Just wanted to say thanks for The Expositor’s Study Bible, I just received yesterday in the mail. For a couple of weeks I wrestled with whether or not to purchase it since I already had a Study Bible. But, from the minute I finally did order it, I had such an excited feeling and I could not wait to receive it. I told my wife to take a look at it to see if she liked it, and I would get her one. It took her reading one verse and she was sold! I can’t wait for Bible-thon, I’m getting her one and ordering the Crossfire Edition for my 15 year old son. Jesus is alive, and now more than ever the Bible is alive!

ARKANSAS

THANK YOU FOR PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH OF THE WORD

Dear Brother Swaggart,

First I want to say thank you for your faithfulness to the Kingdom of God. The Scripture in Philippians 1:3-6 comes to my mind, because I thank God for each of you that are involved in Jimmy Swaggart Ministries. Thank you for proclaiming the truth of the Word, and for once again preaching the Message of the Cross of Christ. I don’t find your comments harsh at all. I am so tired of going to church and playing “patty-cake,” and hearing
a washed down, “seeker-friendly” message. I want to hear the truth. Satan has sold us a lie and the church is in a mess. It is full of people who are bound and living in spiritual adultery, and the message coming from behind our pulpits is one of a watered-down Gospel who depicts a God Who accepts sin as long as a person has good intentions. Thank you for speaking the truth. Please keep teaching and preaching it straight!

E-MAIL

YOUR MUSIC KEEPS ME LOCKED ON JESUS

Dear Reverend Swaggart,

I have watched you all my life and I attended a Camp-meeting in Phoenix about 25 years ago. I have always been a fan of your music, but today it means more to me than it ever did. My son died May 9, 2009, and I play your albums to go to sleep at night. Since my son’s death, the Devil has been coming after me at night. Your music keeps me locked on Jesus and keeps my mind from wandering into dark places. Your deep voice and your songs are sweet, and the choir sounds like Angels singing. I play your music whenever I can at my Bible study class to share what God has given you with my friends.

ARIZONA

I HAVE PRAYED FOR YEARS FOR A MEDIA CHURCH

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I have hereditary neuropathy, and have been unable to go to church for 3 years now. I can’t express the thrill when I found SonLife Radio Network. I have prayed for years for a Media Church for people like me. Praise the Lord!

FLORIDA

THE BEST PRESENT EVER

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I am writing to let you know what a tremendous blessing The Expositor’s Study Bible has been in my life. My mother and father bought it for me a couple of years ago for Christmas, and it has been the best present ever. I love God’s Word, but this Bible has been brought to life for me. I cannot tell you how much this has enhanced my life and my personal reading time with the Lord’s Word.

My husband and I also just absolutely love your Television broadcast. We are blessed and touched every single time we watch.

Thank you for all you, your family, and this Ministry mean to countless lives around the world. God bless you many times over.

NORTH CAROLINA

THE WORD OF GOD

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I just want to say how much I appreciate the teaching from your program and Sister Frances’ program. It’s wonderful that I can listen and learn from the teachings of such knowledgeable Christians, and that will not teach it unless it lines up with the Word of God. What a blessing! I am on DirecTV®, and if I miss the program in the morning I can watch it that evening.

Thank you Brother Swaggart for doing God’s Work, and all the other Ministers also.

God bless you.

MISSOURI

THERE IS A STRONG VOICE OF THE VICTORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Dear Brother Swaggart,

Thank you for the truth you present to a backslidden Nation. My husband and I will be, by the Grace of God and His Provision, doubling our monthly giving to SBN. We are so glad that in these last days, these perilous times of which the Bible has warned us ahead of, there is a strong voice of the victorious Message of the Cross of Christ. We had witnessed a few churches that went “seeker-friendly” for the numbers sake. But, the Power and Anointing of God’s Holy Spirit was not welcome. We can see where man’s rule is taking us.

We love all your staff there, your Ministers, and especially the Swaggart family.

NORTH CAROLINA

MY FAMILY THANKS YOU SO MUCH FOR SPREADING THE WORD OF THE CROSS

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I found your programs on the Internet about a week ago, and I have not turned it off since. My family thanks you so much for spreading the Word of the Cross. We enjoy your programs and feel the Holy Spirit each and every time. My daughter is 14, and when she comes in from school she will say, “It’s time for Swaggart Ministries.” We watch until bedtime!

Your Ministry has brought so much to us and we thank you all so very much.

MISSISSIPPI

ONCE I WAS FAR OFF, BUT NOW I’VE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Dear Brother Swaggart,

Because of your Ministry, I was brought into the True Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. What’s really amazing too is that I was always terrified of racism and the South most of my life, being a black man, so I didn’t want to know anything about the South or a Southern preacher. But, God gave you the Revelation of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified, Salvation, Sanctification, the Cross, and the Holy Spirit, and I’m free. My life is great, no longer captive by churches and religion and devil doctrines, set free from being an outsider. Once I was far off, but now I’ve been brought near by the Blood of the Lamb.

Thank you, I really love and respect you.

E-MAIL
“BACK TO THE BASICS” – PART I

Jeremiah 6:16 – “Thus says the LORD, Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. (True rest and healing is to be found in ‘the old paths’ and ‘the good way,’ that is, the Gospel as taught in the Bible. ‘Stand you in the ways,’ refers to the ardent seeking of the Ways of God.)"

BACK TO THE BASICS

The term “back to the basics” is a phrase utilized by many groups of people. It describes the need to go back and rediscover truths and practices that produced great results. In most cases, the people that need to return to the basics have somehow left the very thing or things that once made them great. They have diverted down a side path, usually unintentionally, and have failed to maintain basic principles that once made their endeavors fruitful. What used to be normal practice and thought for them has somehow become obsolete. To recover their past victories and vitality there is a need to openly and honestly evaluate where one has been and where one is going.

It is my heartfelt belief that the Church of Jesus Christ has left the very “basics” that make Christianity great. We have deterred down the wandering path of religious practice and have left behind the truths and practices that change our lives, strengthen our faith, cultivate our dependence upon God, and enable us to live a victorious Christian life. For the most part I feel we have lost our way and need to, with a great sense of urgency and desperation, return to the Scriptures to locate and retrieve what we have lost. At the same time we must cast aside all hope and means in anything other than God’s Prescribed Order, as described in His Word, to find once again the vital benefits of relationship with God. In Jeremiah 6:16 the Lord through the Prophet Jeremiah said, “. . . Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and you shall find rest for your souls.” It’s time for the church to return to the basics, the old paths, the Ways of the Lord. Only then will we find His “rest” for our souls.

THE PATH OF JUSTIFICATION

In the Book of Romans, Paul the Apostle moves through the whole process of the Christian Faith. Romans is the greatest single explanation of the Christian experience that exists in a single volume. In the first three chapters of Romans, Paul proves that all men stand guilty of sin and worthy of eternal damnation as a result of sin. Then, with all the world of men condemned, Paul describes God’s Solution to man’s dilemma. He reveals that the Righteousness of God cannot be earned by labor or religious function. Man can only rise from the depths of depravity by faith. That faith must be placed exclusively in Jesus Christ, the revealed Son of God, Who loved us and gave His Life as a payment to God for your sin and mine.

JUSTIFICATION IS A LEGAL DECREE

When a man places His Faith in Jesus and what was accomplished by Him for mankind at Calvary, God in turn declares that person not guilty, or innocent of all charges. This Verdict of God is referred to as Justification. It is a legal Decree made by God before the eternal Court of Heaven. Therefore, God’s Answer to man’s dilemma is a legal Work. It is based upon an Edict announced by God in Heaven whenever any man, from the heart, accepts the one true Way of Salvation.

This Verdict of God might be compared to the legal
work of adoption. When a child is “legally” adopted, he or she stands before a court of law. That court, based upon its power and right, declares that the parents who have petitioned before the court for the right of adoption are now the legal guardians of that child. The parent or parents have a greater right of authority over the adopted child than even a “birth” parent due to the decision and stated verdict of the court. Those parents who are adopting, receive a legal decree from a judge or governing body, and have the legal right and privilege to act on behalf of the adopted child. When one places their Faith in Christ (His Person and His Work) God declares them legally justified, not guilty, innocent of all charges. Thus, Justification is never earned, it is declared as a result of properly placed Faith!

IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES WITH JUSTIFICATION

Not only is the payment for our sins freely received by faith, but, in addition, God imputes directly into our account the Righteousness of Christ’s Perfect Life. Thus, Righteousness is achieved, not by works, but by Faith. This is not righteousness brought about by the righteous efforts of any man, but rather, this is the Righteousness of Christ, applied to the life of the Believer, as a result of simple wholehearted Faith. Now the words of Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9 make sense. He says there, “For by Grace are you Saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” In Romans 3:21-22 he declares that Righteousness cannot come by works when he states, “But now the Righteousness of God without the Law is manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; (22) Even the Righteousness of God which is by Faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them who believe. . . .”

The church needs to realize once again that the basis of their relationship with God is God reaching down to man not man working upward towards God. There is nothing we can do to achieve to the holiness demanded of a thrice-Holy God. Therefore, we believe, and we freely receive God’s Verdict. That Verdict is the foundation of my relationship with Christ. As long as my Faith remains in God’s Plan I am assured of God's Verdict – “not guilty, innocent of all charges.” As the songwriter B. E. Warren said,

“Hallelujah what a thought, Jesus full Salvation brought,  
“Victory, Victory.  
“Let the powers of sin assail, Heaven’s Grace can never fail,  
“Victory, Victory.”

CAMPMEETING SESSIONS

Don’t fail to be with us at the upcoming Easter Camp-meeting. We will be teaching special pre-campmeeting sessions. Be sure to call ahead and register, the dates and times are below.

• SPECIAL TEACHING SESSIONS:  
  Monday, April 2:  1-4 p.m. • 6-8 p.m.  
  Tuesday, April 3:  1-4 p.m. • 6-8 p.m.  
  Wednesday, April 4:  9 a.m.-12 noon  
  7 p.m. Campmeeting Begins

Loren Larson  
President
THE GREAT COMMISSION

Mark 16:15 – “And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world (the Gospel of Christ is not merely a western Gospel, as some claim, but is for the entirety of the world), and preach the Gospel to every creature (‘preaching’ is God’s method, as is here plainly obvious; as well, it is imperative that every single person have the opportunity to hear; this is the responsibility of every Believer).”

This Verse that I will be using as my Text for this article is known as “The Great Commission,” in that it was given by the Lord Jesus Christ to all who are His Followers, with the sole purpose being that of World Evangelism. God has Called Crossfire Youth Ministries to reach the four corners of this globe, and by the help and Grace of the Lord, we will do it. As many of you know, we are living in uncertain times. This beloved Nation of ours is in a mess, Spiritually speaking, and it will not get any better until the Lord comes back, bringing His Heavenly Headquarters down from Planet Heaven to Planet Earth, and then all the Earth will be changed back to its rightful and original state. But until then, we must be about our Father’s Business.

HOW CAN I HELP FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Before I answer that question, I would like to share something with you that has become a priority in my Ministry. As many of you know, I am the Youth Pastor of Crossfire Youth Ministries, and have been so for the last nine years. God has given me a burden for our youth, a tremendous burden at that. My calling is to see as many young people brought out of spiritual darkness into the Light, which is Christ. As well, my calling is to see as many young people delivered from the bondages of Satan, which are many, and to see them baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other Tongues. And God has given Crossfire an opportunity to share the Message of the Cross over television, radio, and over the Internet and, in fact, reaching all over the world.

Which leads me to say this: Everywhere I travel, in regards to meetings held all over the country, I always inquire of the Pastor of their youth program that is being held at that local body. To my shock, many Pastors are completely honest with me and tell me that they really don’t have much of a youth program at their Church, simply because they can’t either afford to hire a full-time Youth Pastor, or they have no one that will step up and volunteer to help with the youth. I heard someone say not too long ago that the youth is not the Church of tomorrow, but rather is the Church of today. That struck me to the core, for that is a very true statement, and when the local congregation passes on due to age, in most cases, that local assembly will dissolve and be no more.

“I WISH YOU COULD BE OUR YOUTH PASTOR”

I was ministering at a particular Youth Conference some time ago with young people coming from all over the area to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We saw many Saved and baptized with the Holy Spirit that weekend. As the Services came to a close, young people surrounded me thanking me for the Messages that the Lord had given to me to minister. But what really got to me were the words of one Pastor and Youth Pastor, which was told to me personally. They pulled me off to the side where no one was around, and they began to relay to me the following request, “I wish that you could be our Youth Pastor.” I will never forget that. With tears streaming down their cheeks, they pleaded with me if there was someway that I could Minister to their youth every week.

This is where you come in. I want to encourage you to gather your youth that is in your Church, and gather them around the television, Internet, or even radio, and tune in to the Crossfire Services that are aired every Thursday night at 7 p.m., CST. We have had many e-mails, letters, Facebook messages, and even Twitter messages, from Youth Pastors, and even Pastors, telling me that they will move their Youth Services from their normal night to Thursday nights just so they can hear what is being preached. In other words, your Youth Group can now be a part of Crossfire Youth Ministries. And even though you might not be here with us in the natural, you are linked up with us to reach this world for Christ. And we are only as strong as the links that are connected with us.
The young people will hear anointed praise and worship, anointed preaching, and will have the opportunity to accept Christ as their Saviour. Because of television, radio, and the Internet, we have the opportunity to do what those two Pastors asked of me at the close of that Youth Conference. And as well, it doesn't cost anything money wise.

IF WE DO NOT REACH THE YOUTH, SOMEONE ELSE WILL

We've got to understand that if we do not reach the youth for Christ, someone else will reach them for the Powers of Darkness. If you are a Youth Pastor reading this article, or even a Senior Pastor, there is one thing that you can do to help reach the youth for the Cause of Christ, preach the uncompromising Word of Almighty God, which is the Message of the Cross! It is the only Message that will offer hope to a generation that is being targeted by Satan. It is the only Message that will offer Peace that surpasses all understanding in the midst of a storm. It is the only Message that will give that young person the Answer to all of life's problems, and will provide them with a Path of unlimited Victory that they desperately need.

Join with us every Thursday night at 7 p.m., CST, on the SonLife Broadcasting Network as we bring the Message of the Cross to the youth of this world!

In Him,

Pastor Gabe
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- Janet Paschal . . . LIVE (22-29M)
- An Evening With Janet Paschal (22-33M)

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are valid through December 31, 2011.
Biblical Doctrine is not in anyway endangered by the textual variations. I’ll quote Sir Fredrick Kenyon, a leading authority in the field of New Testament criticism, “No fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith rests on a disputed reading. . . .” He further states, “It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: Especially is the case of the N.T., the number of manuscripts of the N.T., of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other book in the world.”

The manuscripts are supported by various versions and early Church Fathers. It was lawyer, Judge, and Historian, Sir David Dalrymple who questions, “Suppose that the New Testament had been destroyed, and every copy lost by the end of the third century, could it have been collected together again from the writings of the Father’s in the second centuries?”

After great investigation he concluded, “That question aroused my curiosity, and as I possessed all the existing words of the second and third centuries, I commenced my search, and up to this time I have found the entire N.T., except eleven verses.”

“God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the Prophets, [2] Has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He has appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds” (Heb. 1:1-2).

Rest assured the Bible is the infallible, inerrant, inspired, and authentic Word of God. It is totally reliable.

“All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in Righteousness” (II Tim. 3:16).

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

The uniqueness of the Bible is expressed through its eyewitness accounts.

“This is the Disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true” (Jn. 21:24).

John 21:24 is an example to us that God gave the Gospel writers firsthand exposure to the events of Jesus’ Ministry and understanding of those events which uniquely qualified them for their writing task.

Paul wrote to the churches on practical matters:

“I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you” (I Cor. 4:14).

And:

“I wrote unto you in an Epistle not to company with fornicators” (I Cor. 5:9).

Paul knew he was expressing what the Holy Spirit directed him to write.

“If any man think himself to be a Prophet, or Spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the Commandments of the Lord” (I Cor. 14:37).

God used Paul to declare his revealed wisdom:

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches; comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual” (I Cor. 2:13).

What Paul wrote was to be received as Divine Instruction. Peter said of Paul:

“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is Salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him has written unto you” (II Pet. 3:15).

In John’s Epistle letters he explained he did not write to the churches to reveal any new instructions from God:

“Brethren, I write no new Commandment unto you, but an old Commandment which you had from the beginning. The old Commandment is the Word which you have heard from the beginning. [8] Again, a new Commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in Him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true Light now shines” (I Jn. 2:7-8).

He did not write because his readers were ignorant of truth that Christ had already revealed.

“I have not written unto you because you know not the Truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the Truth” (I Jn. 2:21).

He wrote to Believer’s who clearly knew truth and encouraged them to obey. It is clear that New Testament writers worked in perfect harmony with truth that had already been revealed of and by Christ.

NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS

In brief, how we received the New Testament gives us wonderful assurance of God’s Word and Truth He expressed to us. We have many fragments of the New Testament Text that were written in the Second Century A.D. Some fragments are on Ostraka (scraps of pottery) and
Talismons (pendants, bracelets and other early objects early Christians wore to ward off evil spirits). These fragments contain only short quotations and give us little information about the original Text.

In the Third and Fourth Century after Christ we find the New Testament written on Papyrus (paper made from papyrus reeds). The earliest papyrus is stored at John Rylands Library in Manchester, England. Although the fragment is only 2.5 inches by 3.25 inches it contains a portion of John 18:32-33, 37-38 and dates back to A.D. 125.

Seventy-six leaves of papyrus known as the Chester Beatty Papyrus are located in Chester Beatty Museum in Dublin and at the University of Michigan. Each of the leaves is 6.5 inches by 11 inches and contains approximately 25 lines of writing. It contains most of the Apostle Paul’s writings. Experts estimate it to be written around A.D. 200.

The Bodmer Papyrus is another important manuscript written around A.D. 200 and contains Chapters 1 through 14 of the Gospel of John and fragments of the last seven Chapters. It is located in Cologny, Switzerland in the private library of Martin Bodmer.

When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered at Qumran, papyrus fragments from cave 7 contain fragments of Mark’s Gospel, according to professor Joe O’Callaghan of Barcelona.

In the Third and Fourth Centuries New Testament copies were all written in capital letters and run together. These manuscripts were written on Vellum (parchment) uncial. The Scribes used uncial style of writing up until the Ninth Century then began to use small, cursive Greek script. There are 2,700 manuscripts written in this style also called minuscule.

The earliest complete manuscript of the entire Bible that is still intact is the Codex Sinaiticus (www.codexsinaiticus.org). It was discovered in 1859 by Constantine Von Tischendorf at the foot of traditional Mt. Sinai.

King James I of England received a gift from the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Constantinople in 1624 of the entire Bible written in Greek, along with the Apocryphal books and I and II Clement and the Psalms of Solomon. The Codex Alexandrainus is an uncial manuscript that dates to around A.D. 400.

TRANSLATIONS INTO COMMON LANGUAGE

There is other evidence to consider such as the early Church Fathers often quoted New Testament Scriptures on their writings; however, they did not always quote accurately and often paraphrased. These quotations still serve as an important witness to the original Text.

382 A.D. – LATIN Vulgate – In A.D. 200 there were many Latin speaking Christians and the Bible began to be translated to Latin. There are no Latin manuscripts that survive from that time.

In the Fourth Century Pope Damasus I commissioned Jerome to produce a standard text of the Latin Bible using “common language” based on old Latin versions. This became know as the Latin Vulgate. Jerome compared Latin manuscripts to Greek manuscripts that were available.

Considered one of the greatest manuscript collectors was Pope Leo X. Under his recommendation a scholarly edition of the Bible was edited and completed by Cardinal Ximines of Spain. It became known as the Complutensian Polyglot (means to set forth in many languages). The editors of this edition claim they used “very ancient and correct” Greek manuscripts that Pope Leo X provided for their work, however, we can’t be sure which manuscripts these were and if any survived the Papal wars of Renaissance Italy.

GREEK MANUSCRIPTS

1516 A.D. TEXTUS RECEPTUS – Swiss printer Froben persuaded Erasmus of Rotterdam, a noted Bible Scholar, to come to Basel Switzerland and prepare a manuscript in Greek. Manuscripts from Basel University were used and the manuscript was completed in 1516. Erasmus’ text became the Textus Receptus (received text) of the New Testament and served as a basic guide for the translators of the King James Version (KJV).

Two hundred years later, Scholars began to replace Erasmus’ text with printed texts based on earlier Greek manuscripts, which they assumed were better than the Textus Receptus. In 1831, Charles Lachmann published such a text. It was called a “critical text” because it set aside the Textus Receptus and constructed a text from what he considered to be the most ancient witnesses.

Constantine Von Tischendorf, whom I mentioned earlier, collected ancient manuscripts and issued several Greek editions. He added notations and variant readings in the margins.

Tregelles tried to develop an improved text, seeking the best reading at each point where selected manuscripts diverged. He evaluated the Greek manuscripts by the age of the variant readings, not the age of the manuscripts themselves. Westcott and Hort, after classifying the Greek texts according to the age of the variant readings, concluded there were four basic types: Syrian, Western, Alexandrian, and Neutral. Their Greek text of the New Testament was entitled “The New Testament in Original Greek.” Soon after publication it replaced Erasmus’ text as the Textus Receptus of the New Testament.

TEXTUAL STUDY

Textual study has made some notable advances since the days of Westcott and Hort. Now Scholars agree that early Textual history of the Greek NT was more complicated than they supposed in the Nineteenth Century. Although many Scholars still follow the findings of Westcott and Hort, today many Scholars believe the assumption that the earliest Text would be the purest, may not be true. Westcott and Hort knew nothing about the papyri or their readings and were unsuccessful in tracking the text back beyond the Second Century with the approach of Text types. Many Scholars now believe that the internal evidence (content) should carry more weight than the text in determining which readings are the most reliable.

We can approach the Greek NT with confidence. Not one word in a thousand is seriously uncertain, and no established doctrine is called in question by any of the continuing doubts about correct reading.
Experience the Difference!

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Tuesday ........................................... 1-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.
Wednesday ....................................... 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CAMPMEETING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
(Located in Family Worship Center)

Wednesday ....................................... 7 p.m. ............... Jimmy Swaggart
Thursday – Saturday ........................... 8 a.m. ............... Bob Cornell
                                                  10 a.m. .......... Loren Larson
                                                  2 p.m. .......... Marty Martinez
Thursday ........................................... 7 p.m. ............... Donnie Swaggart
Friday ............................................ 7 p.m. ............... Jimmy Swaggart
Saturday .......................................... 7 p.m. ............... Donnie Swaggart
Sunday ............................................ 10 a.m. .......... Jimmy Swaggart
                                                  6 p.m. .......... Gabriel Swaggart

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

It hardly seems possible that another year has rolled around, but it has. Yet, I thank the Lord more than anything else for what He has helped us to do, and is helping us to do. We give Him all the praise and the glory.

We are now reaching well over 50 million homes in America alone with SONLIFE BROADCASTING TELEVISION. Another 14 million in the United Kingdom, plus several million more homes in Central and South America. And then millions more in Africa, Asia, and Europe, once again, for which we give the Lord all praise and glory.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY . . .

As most of you know, the Crossfire Ministry of Family Worship Center, which caters to teenagers and young adults, has a worldwide outreach. Perhaps the following might be of interest to you, as it already is to many.

Many Churches are too small to have a full time Youth Pastor. So, in that case, the young people are just left out.

Why not tape the Thursday night Crossfire Service, and then set up a screen at your Church, and play the Service for your young people? The program is geared to young people exclusively, and above all, is proclaiming the True Gospel of Jesus Christ. So much that caters to the youth presently, isn’t!

There is no cost for you doing this, and as scores are now doing, it will help you to organize a Youth Group in your Church, join in on whatever night you desire, for your young people to be blessed.

If you are interested, please call Gabriel for further information. His number is (225) 768-3072. You may also e-mail him at crossfire@jsm.org.

YOUR SUPPORT

How grateful we are to those of you who are so faithful with your giving as it regards THE SONLIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK. Our airtime alone now is somewhat above two million dollars a month. That’s not counting the payroll for 255 people, the utilities, equipment, maintenance, etc. -- just airtime.

As most of you know, we have two to three days in the middle of the month dedicated to this effort, which we refer to as the “Share-a-thon.” Let me make it as simple as I can.

Whomever you may be, and wherever you may be, if THE SONLIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK, i.e., FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER, is a blessing to you in any way, then you owe some support to help us continue to come into your homes, hearts, and lives. We need this help each and every month, actually, we are struggling to make ends meet. And, if each one of you would do what you ought to do, as some of you most definitely do, then the need would be readily met. I’m going to trust that you will do that. “If you are fed, be led . . .”

CHRISTMAS

The offers we are making in this Magazine, we think are the finest offers ever. Many, if not most, of these offers are at half price. I would pray that you would take full advantage of it and order now.

If you wait too long, then the ability to get it to you in plenty of time for Christmas is very limited. So, get your credit card or debit card out of your pocket, go to the phone, and place your order now. Make sure
you know what you want, get the order number, so you can have everything ready when the operator answers the phone.

A GREAT MOVE OF GOD

I feel in my spirit a great Move of God is already in the works. It will be, I believe, the last great worldwide Move before the coming Great Tribulation. And, as well, the Rapture of the Church will take place somewhere in this intermediate time. In other words, we are coming down to the very end of the Church Age, and the very beginning of the fulfillment of Endtime Prophecies. The Lord, I also believe, is going to give the church one more opportunity as it regards the Cross of Christ. And I say the following with great sadness, but I also believe it to be true.

The church presently is in worse condition spiritually than it has been at any time since the Reformation. Less people are truly being Saved, truly being baptized with the Holy Spirit, truly being healed, etc., and despite all the wild claims. But, the Holy Spirit is about to do a thing that is going to make demons tremble. It’s going to be a harvest of souls like the world has never known before. And the Lord has plainly told me that this Ministry (Jimmy Swaggart Ministries) will play a great part in this great Move of God. And, I most definitely believe that each of you holding this Magazine in your hands fall into the same category. You too will play a great part in this last great worldwide move. One other thing please.

In order to take on new Cable Systems and new Satellites, and we’re speaking of the entirety of the world, I need for every single Believer who stands with this Ministry, to do your very best financially each and every month. Many of you do, but many of you don’t. I would pray that those who fall into the latter category would rectify the problem and make it right. In plain, simple English, we need your help today more than ever before. And, as well, thank you so very, very much for those of you who do help us on a regular basis and, in fact, stand as the backbone of this Ministry.

EASTER CAMPMEETING

The dates are Wednesday, April 4 through Sunday, April 8, 2012.

If you can, are you making plans to be with us in the Easter Campmeeting? I believe you will admit, at least those of you who were with us, that the last Easter Campmeeting was at least one of the best we’ve ever had, and possibly the very best. They’re getting bigger all the time. I would urge you to make your reservations as quickly as possible. Despite the fact that new hotels are being built constantly, actually one right across the street from the Ministry, still it seems that they are filling up for various different events. So, to make sure that you have a room, please look on pages 34 and 35 or go to our Website under the Easter Campmeeting, and you will see the hotels listed that are giving us a price break. I hope you will take advantage of that.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Swaggart
“Modern preachers simply do not know how to tell Believers to live for God.”

Message of the Cross of Christ is what the Holy Spirit is saying to this modern church. The modern church has a modicum of understanding respecting the Cross of Christ as it regards Salvation; however, it has no understanding at all as it regards how the Cross of Christ refers to our Sanctification, in other words, how we live for God on a daily basis. And yet, ninety-nine percent of the Bible is given over to telling us how to live for God. In fact, ninety-nine percent of everything that Paul wrote in his fourteen Epistles, once again, refers to how we live for God. And, it was to Paul that the meaning of the New Covenant was given.

Most definitely yes, a plethora of information is given regarding Salvation, as should be obvious, but almost all of the Bible, which is for Believers, is given over to telling us how to live for God.

Considering that, it becomes obvious as to how much the church has drifted off course, when the truth is, the modern church simply doesn’t know how to live for God. It cannot know until it properly understands the Message of the Cross as it regards Sanctification. Not understanding this Message, it is living in a state of “spiritual adultery,” which is dragging it even deeper into a morass of sin and shame.

Modern preachers simply do not know how to tell Believers to live for God. In fact, the modern church has become so inundated with humanistic psychology that, anymore, it little knows the True Word of God. Please understand the following:

One cannot have both humanistic psychology and the Message of the Cross. One or the other must go. Either one cancels out the other. Sadly, and regrettably, the modern church has opted for humanistic psychology, and in doing so, it is destroying itself. This is the reason that in the Eyes of God the modern church is “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” “Spiritual adultery” is the problem.

TO SUM UP

If the Believer doesn’t understand the Cross of Christ as it refers to Sanctification, in other words, how we live for the Lord on a daily basis, the only other alternative is “spiritual adultery.” And, to be sure, even as physical adultery destroys a marriage, likewise, “spiritual adultery” will destroy the marriage of the Believer with the Lord. It cannot be otherwise!

(This message was derived from the book, “Brother Swaggart, Here Is My Question About The Holy Spirit.”)
AN EXCELLENT TESTIMONY

A dear brother wrote just the other day saying, “Brother Swaggart, I have been studying Commentaries for the past 30 years. And I can say, that your Commentaries help explain the Bible, help me to understand the Word as never before, and are consequently, the most interesting of any that I’ve ever read or studied.”

At this low, low price, actually half price, every last one of you ought to take full advantage of this, and make sure you have every Volume. Incidentally, we have 32 Volumes. Take advantage of this most excellent offer, because it won’t last forever.

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