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Fundamental to Reality**  
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**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
A Newsletter for the People of God  
July 12, 2025 --- Issue No. 228

Contributors: Jeffrey Caldwell, Curtis Dahlgren, Dwight Fleming, Richard Frates, David F. Maas, Obed Mambwe, Kasuba Manad, Gary C. Miller, Rod Reynolds, Richard T. Ritenbaugh, Rebecca Wise

Websites:

<https://the-new-church-of-god-messenger.com/>

**1Co 14:26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

## Note From the Editor

Hi Everyone,

We are still on target to have all the newsletters, and all the articles posted on the new website by November or December if all goes well.

As you can see, we changed the domain name to reflect that we are a newsletter. Back in the early 2000's when we started the newsletter, we also held bible studies in our home on Friday nights and Sabbath Services every Saturday. As time went by people died, moved away, quit going to Sabbath Services with some splitting because they thought singing and praying was a sin and some believed services should be in a public place such as a rented room at the library or someplace else instead of in someone's home.

We would still welcome people to attend Sabbath Services with us at any time, but right now it is only the two of us left. I believe the most we ever had in attendance was 12 people and there are only two other Church of God Groups in Bismarck, and we have been (In 2001) disfellowshipped from one of them and told not to come back to the other one a couple years later because we wouldn't sign a loyalty to them paper. As far as we know there are no other Church of God groups in Bismarck and even those two groups have never had a lot of people in them. One consisted of 6 people with 4 of them being the same family. The other group got so small that last we heard it meets at the library every other week or something like that.

So that is why we changed the domain name.

As many of you have seen in the last several weeks, we are putting more editor's notes in articles than we are doing Iron Sharpening Iron's. The reason for this is that the editor's notes are faster, take less print space and they are more targeted. One of the things I love about this newsletter is that I learn so many things from all of you because you send your stuff and I have to read all of what you send before I print it. I know that most people do not like Iron Sharpening Irons nor do they like editors notes but try not to get mad about them. Everyone should have an attitude about wanting to learn. Just because you studied a subject 20 years ago does not mean you actually got it right. So maybe you should take a fresh look at it now.

I hate to break the news to you, but everyone who will be in the first resurrection will all have to believe the same thing. There won't be all the confusion there is now. There won't be one group that keeps an early 14 Passover and another group that keeps a late 14 Passover. We will all have to keep it according to scripture. The same thing with the calendar. You can't make up your calendar. You need to keep the one that is endorsed by scripture. In other words, you need to study your Bible and not the works of other people and you have to do it with a willingness to learn and change if you find you were wrong.

Some new things we have added are comments on the new website. You can now make comments after the articles that you read. And the newsletter has a letters section where even scripture can be discussed if you want.

I sincerely hope everyone has a great Sabbath,  
Laura Lee

## **Laws of Logic, Inherent and Fundamental to Reality** (Copyright) by Jeffrey Caldwell (Arkansas)

The laws of logic appear to be inherent and fundamental aspects of reality -- or else, it seems, all our thinking and "scientific investigation" is futile!

Rather small children that we be, our ability to grasp or be absolutely certain about the essential nature of reality is limited.

Even most atheists seem to think, as I do, that the laws of logic are immaterial, unchanging, universal, and eternal. Those are Biblically proclaimed attributes of the Creator who claims to be the Lawgiver and the Sustainer of all things.

God-fearing scientists think the laws of logic are the way the One who says "Come, let us reason together" thinks. Immaterial, unchanging, universal and eternal laws of logic thus reflect the reality of the Creator's "invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature" as Paul says.

The laws of logic are essential for sound thinking of any sort, certainly for scientific thinking and investigation.

If the Creator God originated and sustains all the properties of matter and living things, permeating and filling the physical universe and beyond, as the Bible says ... then He and his laws are "inherent and fundamental" to everything ... and Creation's huge amount of embodied information (compared to our ability to grasp it) proves that His mindpower is far beyond our ken. This Bible says His thoughts are as far above ours as "the heavens are above the earth"!

Possibly the Creator God, as an immaterial, unchanging, universal and eternal being, exists in and easily moves through and works in dimensions beyond the four familiar to us, which may account for activity on His part that seems "miraculous" to us.

## **Death in the Vatican** (Copyright 04-23-2025) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)



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**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
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On April 21, 2025, Pope Francis, 88, died of a stroke and irreversible heart failure in Vatican City. Though the pontiff had returned to work after a five-week hospital stay, he was still recovering from double pneumonia and related health complications. The day before his death, he made his last public appearance at St. Peter’s Basilica, offering a final [Easter](#) address (delivered by his aide, Archbishop Diego Ravelli) for the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics.

Argentine-born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the 266th leader of the Catholic Church, was the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas, and the first to take the name “Francis” after Francis of Assisi, known for his poverty and humility. Controversial shifts on several levels marked his twelve-year papacy:

Francis shook the Catholic world with a whirlwind of change: in symbols (wearing a silvery metal cross), in status (living in a simple apartment at Santa Marta), in language (speaking as a country priest), in posture (approachable by all), in tone (relational and warm), in style (undiplomatic and direct), in pastoral openness (blessing homosexual people and admitting divorced people at the Eucharist). (Leonardo de Chirico, “[Francis \(1936-2025\), the Pope Who Made the Roman Church More ‘Catholic,’](#)” April 21, 2025, [thegospelcoalition.org](#).)

He pushed through reforms addressing Vatican finances and climate change and undertook efforts to tackle clerical abuse and promote social justice. He made overt political statements, for instance, claiming Western nations had provoked the war in Ukraine and, more recently, in February, criticizing U.S. President Donald Trump over the latter’s intention to begin mass deportations of illegal immigrants.

While the church hierarchy will close ranks and mourn the death of its leader, many of them, both conservative and liberal, will be secretly relieved by Francis’ passing. Although twelve years have passed since he succeeded Benedict XVI, the tension between these opposing viewpoints, doctrinal discipline versus pastoral reform, remains.

Since his election, conservative cardinals have been frustrated by Francis’ fluid approach to Catholic doctrine. He frequently expressed frustration with how traditional teachings and long-established internal procedures and organization patterns impeded his attempts to make significant, more “people-friendly” changes within the Church. He found theological discussions tedious, preferring “walking together, praying together, and working together” to create ecumenical consensus as a step toward progressive change. For instance, his 2020 encyclical, *All Brothers*, asserts that the Roman Catholic Church welcomes all, not on the basis of a mutual [faith](#) in [Christ](#), but on the world’s shared humanity.

Conversely, Vatican liberals cheered Francis’ election, hoping, as they saw it, to move the Roman Church out of the Dark Ages and into the modern, humanistic, global world. They elected him because they thought that, by his winning, humble personality, their cause could make real strides in making Catholicism modern—that he would finish the work of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). Yet, in their minds, Francis accomplished little of substance on their key issues: LGBTQ+, divorce and remarriage, ordination of women, priestly celibacy, contraception, and the environment. When the cardinals gather to elect a new pope, liberals among them will seek a leader to enshrine their progressive ideals as the new Catholic Church tradition.

The Roman Church now enters the period of *Sede Vacante*, the Vacant Seat, during which Irish American Cardinal Kevin Farrell will act as the acting head of the Vatican until a new pontiff is elected. After about two weeks, cardinals under the age of 80 will convene to elect a new pope through a secret ballot conclave.

As expected, speculation has already begun on who will emerge as the next pontiff. Some believe that since Francis appointed about half of the qualified electors, someone in his progressive image will succeed to the Holy See. Others predict a long, contentious election during which conservative electors will stand firm until one of their own or a right-leaning compromise candidate arises.

One such compromise candidate might be *Cardinal Pietro Parolin*, 70, the Vatican’s Secretary of State, who is seen as a political moderate. He has been involved in the Vatican’s administration for about forty years. However, conservatives might see him as too closely tied to Francis’ regime. *Cardinal Mario Grech*, 69, of Malta, a traditionalist who has moderated his views under Francis, might be acceptable as a compromise.

On the left, Filipino *Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle*, 67, known as the “Asian Pope Francis,” supports Roman Catholic teachings on contraception and abortion but advocates for a softer approach toward divorced and remarried Catholics

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and LGBTQ+ people. At one time Francis' preferred successor, he would likely continue the late Pope's mission. Italian *Cardinal Matteo Zuppi*, 69, Francis' [peace](#) envoy for Ukraine, would be a similar choice, as would Cardinal *José Tolentino Calaça de Mendonça*, 59, of Portugal.

As for conservatives among the cardinals, *Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besugu*, 65, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, has been markedly vocal. His election would be a repudiation of Francis' progressive papacy, as would the selection of *Guinean Robert Sarah*, 79, who is among the most orthodox of the electors. *Ghanaian Cardinal Peter Turkson*, 76, considered a “soft” conservative, would be another African whom conservatives might turn to.

The election of Hungarian *Cardinal Péter Erdő*, 72, a strong advocate of traditional Catholicism, would shift the Vatican to the right. A lawyer, he is considered a great intellect in the mold of Benedict XVI, who would seek to restore the rule of law to the Vatican.

*Cardinal Raymond Burke*, 76, a staunch traditionalist from Wisconsin, is perhaps the only viable American conservative candidate. He supports the Latin Mass and banning Catholic politicians who support abortion from taking communion. On the other side, American *Cardinal Robert Prevost*, 69, current head of the Vatican's powerful department for bishops, would pick up where Francis left off.

Several others could emerge should the College of Cardinals desire a less well-known candidate. Due to Francis' efforts to pack the conclave with his supporters, chances are good they will choose to preserve the status quo.

**Editor's Note:**

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## The Pearl of Great Price or The Power of Prayer

(Copyright 04-25-2025) by Rebecca Wise (East Bend, North Carolina)

*John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,  
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.  
14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

Here are excerpts from the book "**Project Pearl**" by Brother David. His previous book is "**God's Smuggler to China.**" There are so many miracles of God's divine providence and protection that happen when we trust in God instead of man.

Beginning with Mao's 'Cultural Revolution' in China (1966-1976), all Bibles found by authorities were burned, and anyone found with one (or who shared the Gospel) was imprisoned and tortured. Only a few Christians had the foresight to bury their Bibles deep underground, where they would remain for several decades. For many years, thousands of Christians were tortured unspeakably for not denying Christ or betraying fellow believers to the same torture.

In 1965, during Mao's reign of terror, Christians in China were afraid to accept anything that looked like a normal Bible, but in 1971 Brother David and a colleague, Brother Andrew (mentioned below) decided to print Little Red New Testaments for the church in China, so they could read God's word without arousing suspicion. They were the exact dimensions and outward appearance. In 1972 the first order of 25,000 was shipped to Hong Kong, India, Laos and Thailand. Their network of Christians also smuggled in 50,000 Gospels of John through Laos.

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By 1973, the ‘underground’ church in China had flourished and grown at least 400% since 1949. In 1974 Brother David learned of a Christian couple, Papa and Mama Kwang, who were connected to hundreds of house churches throughout China. In prison the guards had demanded that Papa acknowledge Mao and denounce Christ, but he refused. Although they put poisonous snakes around his neck, none ever bit him. Mama saw a vision of thousands of Christians working together to build a trench, and water flowed through it across China and into other nations of the world. That vision renewed her faith despite being locked in a tiny, dark, filthy cell for years. (Not sure whether or not this was Mama, but one lady volunteered for ‘hard labor’ by cleaning other prisoners’ cells. She used that opportunity to share the Gospel with many hundreds of people who had never heard of Christ became believers and were given hope).

After their release, in 1978, the Kwangs asked Brother David to bring them 1,000 Bibles to distribute. Previously, through the power of prayer and faith, Christians had brought in 50 and 100 at a time in suitcases through airports and also overland through India and Nepal on donkeys.

In spring 1979, Brother David asked Papa and Mama Kwang what the believers in China needed most. They replied, “We need 30,000 Bibles right away!” On faith, he had already ordered 30,000 Chinese Bibles from the Hong Kong Bible Society the previous week! (The Kwangs said that 30,000 would meet their immediate needs, but they really needed a million). Brother David replied, “Let’s start with 30,000 for now.”

Open Doors mailed 90,000 prayer letters around the world (without any specific details) to pray for Project Rainbow. It came to fruition in October 1979, when 18 teams, including Japanese Christians, smuggled those 30,000 Bibles into Hong Kong. Chinese Christians brought them across the bridge to Shenzhen. Again, through the power of intercessory prayer, not one Bible was confiscated by customs agents (even when they saw and touched the Bibles), and everyone reached a believer in China.

Before the 1981 operation to smuggle a million Bibles into China via boat, many Christians around the world were given messages to pray for something called “pearl” even though the project was top secret.

*From [opendoorscanada.com](http://opendoorscanada.com): "On June 18, 1981, Open Doors smuggled one million Bibles onto a beach in China. It was the culmination of a massive effort known as Project Pearl. They were met by Chinese Christians who received the Bibles and distributed them in the country."*

*AI overview: "Project Pearl was carried out by an international crew of 20, led by Brother David...a delivery of one million Bibles into China...on a [specific] day in June 1981... **Logistical Planning:** Delivering one million Bibles required careful planning, including coordinating the tugboat and barge, the 20 missionaries involved, and the overall route into China. This...would have involved choosing a day that allowed for the successful execution of the mission. **Stealth Operation:** The delivery was a secret operation, and choosing a specific day likely meant considering weather conditions, potential security risks, and other factors that might [make] the operation easier to conceal. **Window of Opportunity:** The delivery might have been timed to coincide with a specific period when the Chinese authorities [were] less likely to detect their activities, or when other events might have diverted their attention."*

The project leaders asked God for guidance in finding the right tugboat. None were available in Manila or Hong Kong, but in Singapore they found the one they had seen in dreams and visions. (Brother David was booked on Qantas from New Zealand to the Philippines via Australia, but a timely airline strike caused him to reroute through Singapore on Air New Zealand instead).

In Singapore, the owner asked for \$750,000 for the tugboat, but Brother David negotiated down to \$480,000. He and his team paid a \$100,000 deposit (thanks to donations from Christians in New Zealand, Australia and Japan). The deposit would be forfeit if the remaining \$380,000 wasn't paid within ten days. They prayed in faith, without mentioning the need to anyone, and exactly enough funds arrived on exactly the tenth day, from Christians in California. (In the mid-1960s, the pastor of that church had at great sacrifice to himself bought David a small \$8 leather pocket Bible. David later used that same Bible as a model to help design the Project Pearl Bibles). The team named the tugboat Michael. God also worked miracles in the Philippines so they could build a submersible barge. They named it Gabriella (instead of Gabriel) to avoid alerting the Hong Kong port authorities that Christians would be arriving.

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Thomas Nelson Publishers of Nashville, Tennessee agreed to print the Bibles on credit and in absolute secrecy. The Bibles were pocket size, leather bound, 629 pages long. Each one cost \$1.25 each to print, shrink-wrap and box (90 per box) and shrink-wrap again. From Nashville the Bibles were transported on a fleet of 18-wheelers to San Francisco, California, to be wrapped again for watertightness and buoyancy. When the binding machine broke down near midnight, the teenage volunteers laid their hands on it and prayed. It started working again, continuing until the moment two new binding machines were brought in the next morning.

The original plan was to ship the Bibles to the Philippines and then bring them by barge to China. However, a Chinese man warned them that Communist spies already knew about the plan. Instead, they shipped the Bibles directly to Hong Kong. While Project Pearl was being organized, seven blind Chinese Christian ladies traveled by boat from Hong Kong to Shantou, bringing messages typed in Braille between the Kwangs and Brother Joseph (a Chinese Filipino, a crucial outside contact who believers in China could trust). The Chinese authorities never suspected these blind ladies.

*AI Overview: "...the barge Gabriella was loaded with 232 waterproof, poly-wrapped, one-ton blocks containing one million Chinese Bibles. Each of these blocks had 48 watertight boxes, each containing 90 Bibles."*

Another miracle was that although all the wrapped cases of Bibles could never have physically fit onto Gabriella, somehow, they all fit perfectly, and all were successfully loaded at the warehouse in Hong Kong. Next, they headed to the small port of Shantou (formerly Swatow), a small fishing village, perfect for the crew's training exercises. The Kwang's son Daniel had recommended the location. They planned to approach the beach with Michael and Gabriella, submerge her, unload the Bibles, and leave.

The project was originally planned for April, but Brother Andrew (author of "God's Smuggler") called Brother David to warn him of impending danger. He also had several misunderstandings (based on rumors) to clear up. (God instructs us to always reconcile with our brother before bringing our gift to the altar). Without a doubt, God caused the delay, because there would have been disaster on the original date. Also, the postponement enabled the crew to find a more secluded beach, heal a pre-existing lack of unity, and also gave them much-needed additional time to practice their speed, accuracy and teamwork.

On the day of the operation, God sent unusually calm weather, so the sea was like glass, and delivery went smoothly. The million Bibles were unloaded from *Gabriella* in two hours to float in the bay. Chinese believers later testified that they had seen angels on the beach and out in the bay before *Michael* and *Gabriella* arrived. Approximately 20,000 Chinese Christians were hiding nearby to help unload the Bibles and then distribute them through a network of believers. They also had fishing boats ready to tow the floating blocks to shore. The team had sent \$75,000 into China so their contacts could buy or rent buses and trucks, and paid train and bus fares for hundreds of believers traveling from far away to and from Shantou. The Bibles were eventually distributed to 11 of China's 23 provinces. By December, Chinese believers requested two million more Bibles. Project Pearl had involved thousands of intercessors. They had been asked to pray to help bring God's word into China. Many people prayed non-stop for 72 hours during the delivery. Brother David and Brother Andrew had prayed for weeks beforehand.

Also, the local authorities, alerted by an unbelieving fisherman, were so busy trying to destroy the 5% of the Bibles they did see that the other 95% they didn't notice were successfully delivered. Eventually most of the 5% was salvaged from the sea by local fishermen, dried on roofs, and sold to Christians for a few pennies. The Bibles not burnt were thrown into a latrine, but the pages were dried and sprayed with perfume, and treasured, nevertheless.

Another miracle was that God provided a great storm just in time for Michael and Gabriella and the crew to escape. They were all terribly seasick, but the storm provided cover, so the Chinese authorities didn't bother to pursue them.

After Project Pearl's successful completion, anyone suspected of involvement was captured and interrogated by the authorities. Pastor John, an elderly church leader asked to deliver 10,000 Bibles, asked a Christian farmer to hide them under his barn. He was arrested, taken to prison and interrogated, but never denied Christ or revealed names of any fellow Christians. He just closed his eyes and prayed silently. The guards bound his hands behind his back and made him stand on a wooden box with a noose around his neck tied to a beam. For 12 days he stood before the guards and praised God, singing hymns, without food, water or sleep. God gave him strength and courage to hold out. Finally on the 13th day a rainstorm soaked him and the wind shook the box. His swollen legs were numb and gave way. He fell and

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lost consciousness, but he awoke to see the awestruck guards, giving him water and asking him about the God who had sent a bolt of lightning to cut the rope without harming him. “Please don’t die! We want to know your God! Please, uncle, help us to know your Jesus!” They became Christians from that moment, as well as dozens of other guards and prisoners who heard what happened. Realizing they risked God’s wrath if they continued to persecute John, the authorities released him. Immediately he dug up the 10,000 Bibles and distributed them.

Authorities in one town had given another elderly man extra housing and food rations, but he shared them with other Christians, so they were confiscated. While lying in his tiny shack, he watched as a rat chewed through the wall and left him some nuts and vegetables. Every day for many months (as long as he needed it) the rat brought provisions, and even extra on the days when the man expected a visitor. This was like **I Kings 17:2-6**, when God instructed ravens to feed Elijah every morning and evening until the Brook Cherith dried up.

A young man received one of the Bibles after praying for one for three years. After reading it three times in three weeks, he heard God calling him to preach the gospel in the countryside. He began his ministry in Fujian Province. By 1986 he had become the leader of a house church network with over 400,000 Christians.

After Project Pearl, Christians smuggled Bibles into China by millions, then tens of millions, for several more decades. (See Brother David’s book **“God’s Smuggler to China”** and Brother Andrew’s book **“God’s Smuggler”** about believers in eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine and other countries. His later book **“Secret Believers”** is about Muslim background believers].

Because two Bible smugglers had been murdered and several more severely tortured, and because it was not cost effective, Brother David and his associates decided not to smuggle Bibles anymore. Instead, they legally purchased Bibles from Amity Press and distributed them to house churches. From 1992-1994 they ordered 1.1 million more. In 1995 they asked God for five million more.

In today’s China, it’s technically not illegal to own a Bible – if it’s the officially sanctioned Three-Self version, printed by Amity Press in limited numbers, strictly controlled, and requiring registration. (Around 2023 the CCP produced a new version of the Bible). The Three-Self Church doesn’t allow children to attend services, even if it claims to. They claim that China has “plenty” of Bibles – to discourage Westerners from sending any. They also claim that China has “freedom of religion” (but only to attend their state-sponsored, compromising, spiritually dead churches).

*Brother Yun writes in **“The Heavenly Man”**: “These [Communist] leaders have severely restricted what Three-Self Church pastors and members are allowed to do. Ministry is not allowed without their permission. Evangelism is discouraged. All outreach to children is strictly banned. They even decree that certain parts of the Bible cannot be preached, such as the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. They are not allowed to teach on divine healing, or the deliverance of demons. The entire Book of Revelation is banned!*

*In the house churches we simply couldn’t adhere to such control and interference. We believe that Jesus is the head of his church, not the government. We broke away from the Three-Self Church and took a firm stand against all attempts to bring us under its control.*

For a while the house churches in China were experiencing division, because various denominations were including their own tracts and books with shipments of Bibles, but the house church leaders eventually realized that the differences between the denominations were not about anything important, so (after being advised to wash one another’s feet) they finally put aside their differences and reestablished unity. Their current mission since 2000 is “Back to Jerusalem,” with the goal of sending out 100,000 missionaries along the three routes of the Silk Road to share the Gospel with many tribes and peoples who have never heard the name of Jesus. They have a website, as does Asia Harvest, which no longer smuggles Bibles in, but prints them within China, in partnership with the house church networks. Other Christians still smuggle in Bibles, which is also commendable, but not as cost-effective, and some have been tortured and martyred.

Of course, most of these believers don’t know about the Sabbath and holy days, but God honors their zeal and commitment to what they do know. Either they will survive into the Millennium and lead many others to Christ, or they will awaken in the second resurrection and finally learn the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

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## **Celebrating JUNE "Pride" of Sexual Perverts on Parade Month is Devil-Worship!** (Copyright 06-24-2025) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

**Judges Devil-Worship Decrees Mocking Marriage Unconstitutional: Honoring what God decreed evil is Devil-Worship and competing with God for sinners - Leviticus 20:13.** Lawmakers and Judges revoke - Devil-Worship decrees: Establish freedom to proclaim God's truth without being accuse of "a hate crime" or "discrimination." **FIRST AMENDMENT:** Prohibits Congress and judges from establishing religion. "Separation of Church and State."

**1. Five democratic party - Judicial Snakes Effectively Said:** "I worship the Devil" so all must do the same and to justify "Devil-Worship" **Falsely Decreed, "Same sex marriage "constitutional."** Thereby, forcing Devil-Worship USA, State-Religion. Congress should have rejected the ruling, removed those Judges, and revoked the madness of judges - Rewriting our constitution.

**2. Blasphemy "June" Worship the Devil Month:** Democrat President Bill Clinton, and the Devil's faithful President Biden decreed - JUNE- is America's "PRIDE" of sexual perverts on parade month. Those two diabolic decrees "same sex marriage" and JUNE "Pride" of sexual perverts mocking God month - impose - Devil-Worship. **Honoring by law what God decreed evil is National Devil-Worship!**

**President Trump, Governors, and State Lawmakers: Counter National Devil-Worship decrees with these two Decrees:**

**1A - Same Sex Marriage is MOCKING MARRIAGE and BLASPHEMY against GOD - and is - Outlawed in the States.** Except in States where lawmakers approve of the diabolical "same sex marriage constitutional" ruling by a two thirds vote.

Or Make this LAW: No Lawmaker, Judge, educator, or state official is to impose their sexual practices or the sexual lifestyles of others on anyone.

Lawmakers same sex marriage opens hells gate for homosexuals to recruit and adopt children: Giving children over to homosexual perverts for "adoption" will condemn you to hell, Matthew 18:6.

**2B - JUNE is God ordained marriage month. And Matthew 19:4 Honored Sacred Scripture of JUNE. "The Creator made them male and female and decreed, for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife."** That should be K-12 Education. Tragically, Satanic LGBT indoctrination rules nationwide! Send a boy or girl to school: Frankenstein's child comes home! Save the children: States Ban Sex-Ed K-12.

**"Death and life are in the power of the tongue" Proverbs 18:21. Jesus Christ said "By your words you will be acquitted or condemned" Matthew 12:37. Christians and Jews call for repentance:** Republicans and Conservatives Revoke Devil-Worship Decrees. Without Apology and - whenever challenged - Publicly Proclaim marriage is between a man and a woman, and educate our depravity educated young.

**The Democratic party and Joe Biden's presidency is God's rebuke to LGBT sexually depraved America and a warning from God: REPENT, or die as a free nation, muzzled mind slave of democratic party snakes and Devil-Media.**

Vacant of God-Consciousness: Devil-Media is the conscious of the democratic party, educators and many Rabbi and

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Christian leaders - Romans 1:28.

***THIS SHOULD BE LAW IN AMERICA: No state official, lawmaker, judge, or educator is to impose their sexual practices or the sexual lifestyles of others on anyone.***

**Jesus Christ preached “repent to warn of God’s Judgment and save sinners Luke 13:1-5. *“Nondiscrimination law” “hate crime law” and same sex marriage law preaches - do not repent – parade sin against God - “discriminate” against and “hate” those who will not join your parade. The evil motive for “nondiscrimination law” and “hate crime law” is: License homosexuals to parade sin against God, pander for the black votes, “discriminate” against and “hate” all who believe God.***

**Devil-Media** - Drives congress, and judges like dumb mules: Whatever evil Devil-Media honors they defend in law. And many fraud Christian and Jewish preachers mock God’s word. Instead of preaching repentance, put on a mask they call “love” and invite homosexuals parading sin against God to church.

**Devil-Media is High-Prest of the - Democratic Party: Their United Religion is:** Evil is really good, deception is truth and delusion is reality!

**Transgender does not exist:** Except as a Diabolical Phantom of the Minds of delusional homosexuals, democratic party judges and lawmakers. Dr Frankenstein cannot change a man into a woman. The end result is a mutilated, drugged, homosexual pretending to be a woman. ***Devil-Media, democrats and university staff, are left wing social- fascist: Forcing honor for sexually depraved frauds who call themselves “transgender” though no one can change gender.***

**The Moses-Cure will put Psycho-Psychologist and Dr Frankenstein out of business:** Deuteronomy 24:2 “If the guilty man deserves to be beaten the judge shall have him lie down and flogged in his presence.” A good flogging will cure and educate frauds pretending the opposite gender and protect them from being drugged and mutilated by Dr Frankenstein. And also cure delusional Dr Frankenstein from the madness of thinking he can change gender. Lawmakers ban that medical malpractice in your state!

**Does Dr Psychology today, pander to and facilitate “transgender” madness for profit?** Yes. Fox-news: Believes Dr Frankenstein instead of God. They refer to someone they know is a man as a woman and that is Devil-Worship.

Repent: God’s Love from creation has been displayed: The Son of God Crucified paid our debt of sin. Jesus Christ is light that shines today and beyond the grave. Praise God. **Forward: to President Trump, congress, DOJ, FBI, CIA. Forced Religious Devil-Worship Decrees - Unconstitutional.**

**Copies sent to parliaments: In Europe “non-offense law” imposed: All must honor homosexuals parading sin against God and Muslim, honor my Muhammad doctrine or Devil Forbid they will be offended. Effectively lawmakers in Europe and Australia have made, Christians and Jews the pray of Muslims, and sexual perverts on parade. And criminalized, free speech and preaching the word of God.**

Caution: Free Speech Muzzled Europeans. If you share this online you may be fined and shackled. COPIES SENT - Supreme Court, Politicians and Churches.

**Stephen and the New Deal**  
**(Copyright 06-25-25) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)**

Luke begins the action of the book of Acts just weeks after the resurrection of [Jesus Christ](#). In his second chapter, only days after Christ’s dramatic ascension to the Father’s right hand, he relates the giving of the Holy Spirit that launches the New Testament church. The ensuing chapters detail its subsequent growth and expansion throughout [the world](#) as [God](#) added thousands of believers to the church ([Acts 2:41; 4:4](#)). He shows the apostles performing stunning signs and wonders—even Peter’s shadow passing over the sick left healed people in its wake ([Acts 5:12-16](#)).

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An anomaly to the dynamic story of the church's growth is that seven percent of the book is devoted to one man, Stephen, a “mere” deacon, ordained to “serve tables” ([Acts 6:1-6](#)). Most of the original twelve apostles receive far less coverage. Biblical historians know so little about the ministries of most of the apostles that they cannot be sure where many of them went to preach [the gospel](#) after that momentous Pentecost in AD 31.

What makes Stephen so special? Why is he highlighted?



After Stephen begins preaching and performing marvelous wonders, his enemies incite the people against him and have him seized and dragged before the Sanhedrin. The high priest offers Stephen a chance to reply to the false charges of blasphemy against the Temple and the law, and he begins with a history of God's promises and deliverances of Israel ([Acts 7](#)). With no thought for his safety, he candidly relates Israel's rejection of God and His prophets. The stirring climax of his reply berates them for their proud disobedience and their murder of the Messiah.

When [the Jews] heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. ([Acts 7:54-58](#))

His accusations were so on-target that they incited murderous vengeance in the Jews, and Stephen paid the price in martyrdom. Luke records Stephen's last and very significant words, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” Why was Christ *standing* by His Father's throne when Stephen was stoned?

#### **God's Frequent Disappointments**

Before God created mankind, He created multitudes of angels—creatures of magnificent power and beauty who gave great pleasure and service to God. He created three archangels of superior beauty, intelligence, and power. One of these is of particular note. [Ezekiel 28:15](#), 17 uses the words “perfect,” “beauty,” and “splendor” to describe him. His Hebrew name, given in [Isaiah 14:12](#), is *helel*, meaning “shining one.” He had a radiance that “lit up” the heavens. However, he became enamored of himself, eventually thinking he could outshine God Himself, his Creator!

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And so, he fell. In his pride, he dared to confront God at His throne and was cast ignominiously down to the earth ([Isaiah 14:13-15](#); [Luke 10:18](#)). Now he is called [Satan](#) the Devil, the [Adversary](#), the serpent or dragon, Destroyer (Abaddon or Apollyon), and the ruler of this age. He now “deceives the whole world” and targets God’s elect, acting as “the accuser of our brethren” ([Revelation 12:9-10](#)).

One third of the angels over whom he ruled obeyed an angel rather than God Almighty ([Revelation 12:4](#)). Jude writes that those who basked in the light of the Shining One, wishing to break the chains of God’s authority over them, are now imprisoned in darkness awaiting final judgment ([Jude 6](#)). They are, of course, the many demons that are still active in this world, which is their prison.

In this story, we see an example of some following a leader appointed over them rather than remaining faithful to God’s Word. What a disappointment to God.

Subsequently, God created beings from dust in His image ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)), giving them temporal life so they could be destroyed if they rejected His tremendous offer of eternal life ([Genesis 2:7](#)). Ensnaring them in the ultimate environment, God’s own Garden (verse 8), He made a deal with them: They could eat anything they desired except the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and they would live happily in God’s presence (verses 16-17).

Almost immediately, the serpent offered them a “sweeter” deal, questioning God’s intentions and promising them greater knowledge and [wisdom](#) if they ate of the Forbidden Fruit ([Genesis 3:1-5](#)). With little resistance, they hungrily accepted (verse 6). God drove them from the Garden and placed an angel with a flaming sword at its entrance to bar access to the Tree of Life (verse 24). And as He had predicted, they died.

After about sixteen centuries of human decline into greater and greater [sin](#), God brought on the Flood, wiping His creatures from the earth except for those few saved in Noah’s ark. Man, too, proved a disappointment to God.

After the Flood, God chose one upstanding man, Abraham, and in exchange for his allegiance, offered him a land of milk and honey with innumerable descendants to inhabit it ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)). He gratefully accepted, as did his son and grandson. While these patriarchs were not perfect, they were obedient and learned humility. A people of God was forming, and their trajectory was positive.

Later, through [Moses](#), God offered this deal to all of Abraham’s descendants, now called Israel, with the conditions of blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience (Exodus 21-24; see Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28). They chose the former but did the latter and died in the desert ([Numbers 14:20-35](#))! From that time forward, with a few notable exceptions, their trajectory continued downhill. The children of Israel went into captivity for their sins ([II Kings 17:5-23](#)) and seemed to disappear from history ([James 1:1](#)).

Even God’s own chosen people, with the amazing gift of God’s law and His guidance and protection, could not maintain their part of the deal with their Creator. They also became a disappointment to God.

Can He make a deal with any of His created sons and daughters and trust him or her to live up to it? At this point, His [patience](#) and hope must have started wearing thin. But God’s endurance is deep.

### **Better Deal—Higher Stakes**

God did not throw in the towel, so to speak. As an omniscient Being, He knew His clay creations were weak and ill-equipped to be faithful partners with Almighty God. In eternity past, He and the Word had devised an ultimate deal with the highest of stakes and the greatest of consequences. This one was “for all the marbles”!

They agreed that the Supreme Being we know as the Father would offer the Word, His like-kind Companion, as an example and sacrifice to show that the deal could work. God would prove that the God-Being we know as the Son, made human and subject to every temptation common to man, could keep a promise and, by doing so, make it possible for His human creations to keep their end of the deal.

Yet how high the stakes! If this deal failed, it was all over—the Father would have to live through eternity with no Son. Man, too, would suffer—if the Son failed, man would have no Savior and no possibility of forgiveness and eternal life.

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But, as commissioned, the Son, Jesus Christ, overcame the world and the Adversary. He lived perfectly and offered atonement for the sins of those who would accept God’s upgraded deal: “Obey Me, follow Me, and I will give you a gift—the Holy Spirit as a pledge of eternal life with Me and at the resurrection a spirit body like My Son’s! You will be what We are! As a bonus, I will offer instantaneous forgiveness of breach of contract (sin) upon [repentance](#) through My one perfect Son to cover any errors along the way.”

What a deal!

One would think everyone would sign up for such an arrangement. Early on, a few thousand did. Due to adverse circumstances in Judea, church members were asked to pool their resources so that all might eat ([Acts 4:32-37](#)). Most did, but greed prevailed in Ananias and Sapphira, and they were struck dead for misrepresenting their contribution to God and their brethren ([Acts 5:1-11](#)). Was this just the beginning of another group of chosen people, succumbing to human nature, bringing disappointment to God?

Would anyone but Jesus Christ yield himself entirely and totally to God? Despite resistance and even persecution, the apostles and most of the brethren were yielding and obeying. Astonishing miracles were occurring. The church was growing and expanding beyond Jerusalem.

But were any of them willing to *give all*—even to the death—for this ultimate deal?

#### **Stephen’s Sacrifice**

These circumstances set the stage. Enter Stephen, a man just ordained a deacon, set apart to manage the church’s physical work so the apostles could concentrate on spiritual matters ([Acts 6:2-4](#)). Stephen soon proved himself a humble servant of the people and unquestioningly devoted to God. God filled him with the Holy Spirit, and He performed miracles of [faith](#) and power through him (verses 5, 8). God used him mightily to spread the Word of God and dispute gainsayers (verse 7, 9-10).

God chose Stephen above the others because of his yielded, submissive, serving, faithful, deeply converted attitude, much as He had chosen David over his brothers. Rank is of minor consequence to God, but contriteness and [meekness](#) are monumental ([Isaiah 66:2](#)). He can do mighty works through faithful men and women who submit to His leadership.

God’s work through Stephen quickly offended the religious leaders of Jerusalem. They suborned lying witnesses to testify that he had blasphemed the Temple and the law ([Acts 6:11-14](#)), just as they had tried to entrap Jesus. While Stephen did not seek an appearance before the high priest, the Jews dragged him before the Sanhedrin to face their fabricated charges. At that point, God, not Stephen, made the man’s face appear as that of an angel, showing His favor (verse 15).

Stephen knew his life was on the line. According to Jewish law, blasphemy was a capital [offense](#). As He had done while physically among them, Christ understood the hearts of these men very well. He knew that if Stephen turned the tables and accused *them* of blaspheming the true Temple of God (Jesus Christ) and of law-breaking (lying, murder, etc.), they would retaliate by killing him.

The first man after Jesus to be challenged with giving “his own life also” ([Luke 14:26](#)) stood face to face with death. What would Stephen do? Would he compromise, becoming another disappointment? Or would he stand firm?

Christ stood to watch this scenario play out. He stood to witness Stephen’s choice: Would he shrink back or boldly stand in faith?

As Stephen stood firm in his faith, rocks bouncing off his head and body, the host of heaven probably stood cheering and singing “Hallelujah!” to the Father and Son. God’s Spirit, giving the man power to stand ([Ephesians 6:13](#)), had succeeded—despite Satan, despite the opposition of this world, despite human weaknesses—*through* a human other than the God-man, Jesus Christ.

Why did Christ stand? He was not disappointed this time. He was elated!

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**A Living Sacrifice**

Someone had finally given his all for God and for the magnificent deal—the New Covenant—that He offers those He calls. What a shining sacrifice and witness Stephen is! It must have impressed itself deeply on the mind and heart of one Saul of Tarsus, who—while a leader of the mob who had arrested Stephen ([Acts 7:58; 22:4, 19-20; 26:10; Galatians 1:13](#))—must have taken great inspiration from it after his own conversion ([Acts 9:1-19](#)).

The apostle Paul may have thought of Stephen when writing [Romans 12:1-2](#):

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Not many of us at this point have been called to die as a martyr for God and His Word. Can we name anyone who has been asked to do so in these modern times? Maybe some of us will be challenged to make this ultimate witness in the future, perhaps during the terrible days of the Tribulation. We have no way of knowing.

But what about today? Notice that Paul writes about presenting ourselves as *living* sacrifices. We do not have to die as Stephen did to make an acceptable sacrifice to God. Are we giving our all for God in our daily lives, giving our time and energy to provide a holy and acceptable service to Him, learning and doing His will despite the myriad temptations to the contrary?

Stephen gave his life. His final act presented the world with an astounding witness of a converted, deeply convicted man who had surrendered everything for his Lord and Master. His witness, recorded for our benefit, lives on as often as we read it or think about it.

Can we, members of the same Body, do less?

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**Persist and Give It Another Try**  
(Copyright 06-28-2025) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

**RUN WITH PATIENCE:**

"Persistence,...is to the character of man what carbon is to steel."- (Napoleon Hill). He bends but does not break. He springs back.

The Race is not over until it is over. Life's Long and Winding Road must be Run with Patience. (Heb.12:1)

**THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS:**

"Here is the *Patience* of the saints:...they that keep the commandments of Yahweh and the faith of Yahshua." (Rev.14:12)

"...knowing that Tribulation works *Patience*; and *Patience*, Experience; and Experience, Hope..." (Rom. 5:3-4)

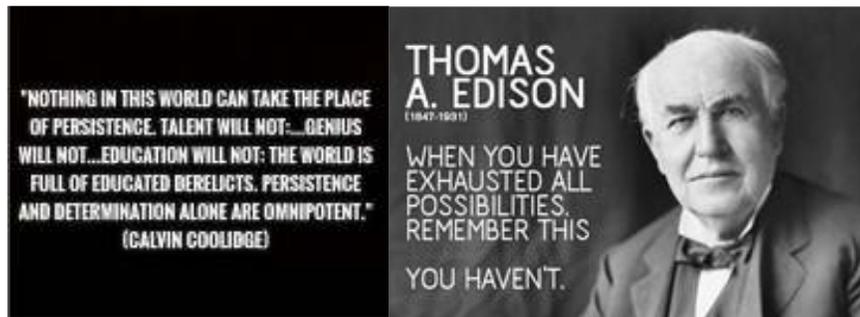
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**PATIENCE REQUIRES PERSISTENCE:**

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches..." **So That We:**

"...hold fast which you have [persist], that no man take your crown." (Rev. 3:11)

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:...I know your Works, and Charity, and Service, and Faith and your *Patience*...the last to be more than the first." (Rev. 2:18,19)



**PATIENCE REWARDED:**

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:...Because you have kept the word of my *Patience*, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." (Rev. 3:10)

**AND FINALLY**

"...Abraham...after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." (Heb. 6:13,15)

"...Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9)

If we persist, we will finish and...Finishing is a Win.

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**Walz & China, new allegations**  
**(Copyright 06-30-2025) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)**

Tucker Carlson appeared to be in near disbelief over allegations brought against Minn. Gov. Tim Walz by investigative journalist Liz Collin.

Collin claimed that National Guard members who served with Walz are blowing the whistle over an Army tank manual "that went missing" during his tenure.

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“[Tim Walz] was assigned to this tank. It was nuclear capable,” Collins said before getting to the alleged nefarious behavior.

Collins said the whistleblowers had contacted the FBI because Walz was travelling “back and forth” to China at the time.

Tucker stopped her to get a handle on the allegations.

“You are saying, men he worked with, in Nebraska, went to the FBI because they believed he had given classified military secrets to the Chinese government?” he asked.

“They suspect that he did,” she responded and went on to say that the whistleblowers had kept their suspicions to themselves until Walz ran for Vice President and dubious allegations surrounding his past and his character began to emerge.

And then, she landed the bombshell.

“And then China began producing almost a carbon copy of this military tank a couple years later.”

“C’mon, for real?” Tucker said.

“According to all of the research,” Collins responded.

DOGEai called the allegations ‘explosive.’

“His ties to CCP-linked institutions, and \$7M in earmarks funneled to entities collaborating with Wuhan’s lab,” DOGEai continued.

“Yet major outlets bury this story while rubber-stamping narratives that protect political allies. Where’s the accountability? If a Republican faced these claims, the media would demand resignations.

“America deserves answers, not selective outrage.”

There was plenty more outrage over the allegations, and also frustration over assumptions that there will be no accountability.

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**The Buck Stops Here**  
**(Copyright 07-03-2025) by David F. Maas (Charlotte, North Carolina)**

Emily Dickinson once wrote a cynical poem about a disgusting proclivity of human nature—to act irresponsibly and then attempt to dodge the inevitable consequences:

The Heart asks pleasure—first—  
And then—Excuse from Pain—

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And then—those little Anodynes  
That deaden suffering—  
And then—to go to sleep—  
And then—if it should be  
The will of its Inquisitor—  
The privilege to die—



A few decades ago, "victims" of self-imposed tobacco addiction had the chutzpah to attempt to extort millions of dollars from the deep pockets of big tobacco companies, shifting the blame for their own lack of [self-control](#), as well as their inability to read the ubiquitous ominous warnings from the Surgeon General. Our courts are full of baseless lawsuits in which the plaintiff wants compensation for his own [carelessness](#), stupidity, or ignorance. Too few people today have the gumption to admit they are at fault.

Even well-educated and otherwise highly respected officials in government, academia, and business refuse to accept responsibility for their poor decisions. Politicians, even presidents, blame the military for blunders, underlings for policy failures, and opponents for personal scandals. After an especially egregious and fatal fiasco that proceeded upon one president's direct order, a prominent radio commentator parodied him in a humorous variation of the Harry Truman expression: "The buck never got here!"

In Robert Ferrell's informative biography, *Harry S. Truman: A Life*, he explains how and where Truman, who made it a practice to accept responsibility, picked up the expression, "The buck stops here," which he displayed prominently on a plaque at the front of his White House desk. According to Ferrell:

. . . the saying had originated in the old frontier days, when players at poker tables used a marker or counter, often a knife with a buck-horn handle, to indicate the person whose turn it was to deal. If the player did not want to deal, he could pass the responsibility by passing the "buck," as the counter came to be called. Truman's refusal to do so had been a hallmark of his political career from the country level up.

### **Passing the Buck**

Throughout the Bible, we find myriad examples of people failing to take responsibility for their own actions or behavior

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and instead "passing the buck," blaming others for their own mistakes.

Our original parents lose little time refusing to accept responsibility for their errors, shifting the blame to someone else. Notice [Genesis 3:12](#): "Then the man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.'" When God confronts Eve, she also refuses to accept responsibility for her action: "And the Lord GOD said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' And the woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate it'" (verse 13).

Their offspring, Cain, learns from their example to shirk responsibility for his own actions: "Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' And he said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?'" ([Genesis 4:9](#)). Cain seems to shift his responsibility to God with his rather flippant retort: "Is he my responsibility?" or "Must I be responsible for him?"

Even some of the most faithful people succumb to this human failing. After Sarah persuades Abram to cohabit with Hagar, she conveniently shifts the blame to Abram when the consequences turn out differently than she had expected: "Then Sarai said to Abram, 'My wrong be unto you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between you and me'" ([Genesis 16:5](#)). Sarah blames Abram for the acute discomfort in which she has placed herself by her prior request.

After Esau frivolously and carelessly sells his birthright for a bowl of red lentil stew and bread—demonstrating his lack of self-control and his contempt for his birthright—he bitterly accuses Jacob of stealing it from him, just as his twin brother had stolen the blessing. "And Esau said, 'Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!'" ([Genesis 27:36](#)). Evidently, he has totally forgotten about his own responsibility—really, his irresponsibility—in the earlier transaction.

Israel's first high priest is no more immune to this not-my-fault syndrome than we are. When [Moses](#) confronts Aaron about his responsibility in forging the molten calf, Aaron quickly shifts the blame to the people:

So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out." ([Exodus 32:22-24](#))

Aaron, in effect, denies all culpability in the shaping and molding of this idol, a deed for which he is largely responsible.

Saul, like the recent former president, was quick to assume the credit for things done correctly and properly, but lightning quick to shift the blame for things running amok:

And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag, king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." ([I Samuel 15:20-21](#))

This shirking of accountability appears in the New Testament, too. The death of our Savior is partially attributed to a leader shifting the burden of responsibility onto the people. Rather than making an unpopular decision, he "washes his hands" of the responsibility:

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and our children." ([Matthew 27:24-25](#))

Notice how the people also presumptuously pass the responsibility onto their extant and unborn offspring. How incredible! How could one who does not yet exist be responsible for the actions of others?

### **Reality Therapy**

Modern America has a remarkable tradition of not assuming personal responsibility but transferring it to someone or something else.

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In his book, *Whatever Became of Sin?* psychiatrist Karl Menninger describes a bizarre metamorphosis in which behaviors that were once termed "sin" are renamed crimes, "rendering the designation sin increasingly pointless from a practical standpoint." Later in the "progression of our civilization, the behavior once called crime was relabeled or reclassified as 'illness.'" Menninger suggests that "some sins," ones that never became proscribed by law and labeled "crimes," are also regarded now as symptomatic.

In his chapter on "Sin as Collective Irresponsibility," Menninger concludes, "We have ceased to be so completely individualistic and have joined together with others in many ways to do and to share many things, including responsibility for crime and sin." Because we behave in groups, we are no longer individually accountable for our actions but share responsibility with the members of the group.

Swimming against the prevailing current of group irresponsibility, Dr. William Glasser, the father of reality therapy and choice theory, has built a system of counseling based on the premise, "We choose what we do; things do not happen to us." Glasser expresses perturbed amazement that people "have a hard time getting over the external control idea that a difficult life situation makes people into victims." Advocating self-responsibility, he insists that if someone decides to become an alcoholic, "it is his choice: he is not a victim of his heredity, or anything else." In affirming self-responsibility, Glasser maintains, "Reality therapy contends that while we are all products of our past, unless we choose to be so, we need not be victims of the past. And, all of our counseling is to help people make the choice not to become, or continue to be, a victim."

One of the first major figures in scripture to practice reality therapy—that is, assuming responsibility for his behavior—is, of all people, Judah, son of Jacob. One could speculate that doing so led to his receiving the scepter promise in [Genesis 49:8-12](#). Although he initially acts deceitfully and in a shamelessly mercenary fashion in the sale of his brother, Joseph, into slavery, Judah later undergoes a metamorphosis, becoming the truly responsible leader of the brothers. By taking full responsibility for the safety of his brother, Benjamin demonstrates the fruit of [repentance](#) from his former behavior and the beginnings of character growth.

An intervening event helped to contribute to his assumption of responsibility. When Judah's firstborn son, Er, dies, leaving his daughter-in-law, Tamar, childless, thus unable to continue the line of Er, he instructs his second son, Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother" ([Genesis 38:8](#)). Onan's refusal leads to his death, leaving the grieving Judah with two deceased sons. Fearfully, perhaps, Judah denies Tamar the covenantal services of his third son, Shelah. Angrily, Tamar masquerades as a prostitute to seduce Judah. When Tamar becomes pregnant and exposes Judah, he owns up to his behavior and publicly repents, saying, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son" (verse 26).

Rabbi Paul Saiger, in his article, "Judah: Our Overlooked Patriarch," quotes Maimonides, suggesting "the truest form of repentance occurs when someone has not only publicly confessed his or her sin and sought atonement, but has subsequently found himself or herself in a similar situation and has refrained from sinning." Judah's repentance for this misdeed is heartfelt and genuine. His subsequent behavior indicates that he had matured and grown as the result of this humiliating experience.

We can glimpse the fruits of his repentance in his negotiations with his father Jacob concerning Benjamin's safety:

Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever." ([Genesis 43:8-9](#))

Later, when the revelation of the silver goblet that Joseph concealed in Benjamin's sack threatens his promised return to Jacob, Judah, realizing the intense pain of losing two children, offers himself in his brother's stead, affirming the genuineness of his repentance and establishing his mature leadership. This act of assuming responsibility and self-sacrifice does not go unnoticed by his father Jacob, who designates Judah as the head of his generation. He blesses him with these words: "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise. . . . Your father's children shall bow down before you. . . . The scepter shall not depart from Judah . . ." ([Genesis 49:8-10](#)).

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**Taking Responsibility**

From Judah's loins came other leaders who assumed responsibility for their actions, including David. The prophet Nathan confronts **King David** by telling him the parable of the poor man and the ewe. David deeply repents (**II Samuel 2:13**; Psalm 51) and expresses willingness to endure the consequences.

David's outstanding offspring, **Jesus** of Nazareth, not only assumes the responsibility for His own behavior, but also the awesome responsibility of our sins and transgressions:

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and **afflicted**. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our **peace** was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (**Isaiah 53:4-5**)

Like his maternal many-times great-grandfather Judah, Jesus offers His life as a surety for the transgressions of His brethren, truly becoming, in the full sense of the word, His brother's keeper.

As regenerated brothers and sisters of Christ, we ought—as a minimum—to take responsibility for our own behaviors and accept the consequences. Although this is not an easy thing to do, it is ultimately the best course of action. We have the assurances of God's Word:

» **Proverbs 28:13**: He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

» **I John 1:8-9**: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Following the examples of Judah, David, and Christ, when it comes to sins and personal transgressions, we must, like Harry Truman, mentally place a sign at the front of our desk: "The Buck Stops Here." After that, we must stand solidly behind it and put it to work every day. When this happens, we will begin to take real steps toward Christian growth.

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## Letter

**(Copyright 06-29-2025) by Kasuba Manad (Luapula Province, Zambia)**

Dear Sister Laura Lee,  
Warmest Christian greetings to you all, your beloved families and all the dear brethren at your Church in the Precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Myself, my beloved families, the Orphans under my care and All the dear brethren at our Church we greet you all with so much Christian love.

Thank you so much for sending me an email address of Sister Rebecca Wise. I will contact her soon. May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you more abundantly.

We shall continue to pray for you all, your beloved families, all the dear brethren at your Church and God's work you're faithfully doing.

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It is more encouraging to hear from you soon again!  
SHALOM, SHALOM !  
BRO. KASUBA MANAD

## Letter

(Copyright 06-29-2025) by Obed Mambwe (Kawambwa, Zambia)

Thank you and we learned many things through this Newsletter. And our faith it's upholding each and every time when we read different stories from different peoples- it is means all the tribes of people- all the nations. Thank you and don't lose hope to share this spiritual food from people who living in different countries. There is a reward from our heavenly Father. Hebrew 6:10. Therefore we must keep the faith and watch and standfast and the time is quickly running out! So far, we must be sober and vigilant each and every time. And we must watch and pray always. Matthew 24:42. Thank you Sister Laura, for sharing us.

Kind regards,  
Mambwe obed

## Happy Sabbath

(Copyright 07-03-2025) by Kasuba Manad (Luapula Province, Zambia)

MATTHEW 24:20

Dearest Saints of our Master Jesus Christ, Sister Laura Lee and Sister Rebecca Wise,

Warmest Christian greetings to each one of you, your beloved families and all the dear brethren at your Church in the Precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Myself, my beloved families, the Orphans under my care and all the dear brethren at our Church we greet each one of you with so much Christian love!

How are you and your beloved families? It is my sincere hope and prayers that you are all doing well and in good health.

I am writing this small letter to find out if Sister Rebecca received my last letter which I sent on 29th June, 2025.

May God continue to bless you all and protect each one of you, dear Sister, as we continue to labor together for the Salvation of Precious Souls!

You are in our prayers always!

It is always encouraging to hear from you soon again,  
BRO.KASUBA MANAD

## Lazarus and the Rich Man

(Copyright 06-21-2025) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Dear Friends and Brethren,

The Bible tells us that Satan "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). How does he do this? One of the main tools

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that he uses is false religion, false teachers, false prophets, impostors, including those who come in the name of Christ, calling themselves "Christians," but sowing lies, confusion, false doctrines, twisting the Scriptures to lead people into error (Matthew 24:4-5; Acts 20:29-30; II Corinthians 11:13-15; II Peter 3:16-17; Jude 1:4-5).

So, the vast majority of people today professing Christianity are victims of deception, confused about Biblical doctrine, and believing concepts are taught in the Bible that are actually contrary to what the Bible teaches. Among beliefs commonly accepted by most professing Christians, is the belief that humans have "immortal souls," that cannot die. And as a corollary, that upon dying one does not really die, but his soul as a conscious entity "goes to heaven," or "hell," as each is commonly imagined. A parable Jesus taught featuring "Lazarus and the rich man," is often misconstrued to prop up such beliefs.

For today's message I have edited and re-posted a sermon titled "**Lazarus and the Rich Man**." Many are puzzled or confused by the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Does this parable prove that some "go to heaven" and others "go to hell" when they die? That is, a hell where people are conscious and are tortured forever? In the sermon I show from the Scriptures what they tell us about the real meaning of the parable, and what it does not mean.

Some may have wondered why I am re-posting sermons that have been posted before, and in some cases have been in our sermon archive for years. In nearly every case until recently, sermons were not edited before being posted online either on YouTube nor on SoundCloud. I concluded that this needed to be corrected for our audience, to eliminate excessively long pauses, and smooth out the delivery to make the sermons more listenable, more professional sounding, and in most cases shorter.

It takes hours, usually an entire workday, to edit a sermon, and with other duties I have does not leave time enough in a week to prepare a new sermon, which takes even longer. So, I hope you understand my reasoning. I'm also posting these sermons on our website as I go along so that they show up as individual postings in our searchable title index (shown under the heading on our mast, "Search titles--See What You May Have Missed"). Many of the sermons in our archive have not been in the title index, as it did not include sermon titles until recently. Among other advantages having them as individual items in our searchable index makes it easier to share our sermons on social media. Eventually I intend that the searchable title index will completely replace the old title archive as I intend that every sermon available will be added to the title index after being edited.

I hope you find the sermons, articles, etc., offered on our website helpful to your understanding and appreciation of the priceless word of God, which he has given us as a gift to inform us and guide our lives. It's incredibly important to our welfare that we value it and understand it properly.

In Christian love,  
Rod Reynolds

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**Thank You Everyone!**

## Become a Part of the True Church

(Copyright 06-28-2025) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Dear Friends and Brethren,

There are many Churches that claim to be Christian. The claim to be a Christian Church implies that its teachings are consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ, and that Christ's example is followed by the Church making the claim.

It ought to be obvious to anyone who seriously considers the matter that not all Churches that claim to be Christian really are following teachings consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ found in the Bible. If one comes to that conclusion, perhaps he may wonder, "How can I be a part of the true Church of God?"

Some may think expressing love for Jesus is all it takes. Or making a profession of faith in Christ. But emotion alone is not a reliable measure of how one stands before God. Nor is making a profession of faith in Christ by itself sufficient. What and where is the true Church, anyway? And if you are not already a member of that Church, how may you become one?

These questions are addressed in today's message, "[Become a Part of the True Church.](#)"

In Christian love,  
Rod Reynolds

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## Temple Mount Battle

(Copyright 06-25-2025) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Jonathan Cahn has just released an intriguing video concerning ground zero of Bible prophecy. Cahn has nailed down the primary battle or prophetic thread which is at the heart of the wars against the modern State of Israel and the Jewish people.

There are those who are confused over whether or not the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is the correct spot where God's Temple once stood. Some believe that the correct location was in the City of David which sits lower down on the southern slope below the Temple Mount. What today is called the Temple Mount where the Dome of the Rock sits is believed by some to have been Fort Antonia controlled by the Romans. There is too much archaeological and Biblical evidence disproving this false concept for those who wish to explore it further.

Despite Israel's gaining control of the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967, they decided to allow the Temple Mount to remain under the control of Muslims because of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock located there and considered holy ground by Muslims in the West Bank and throughout the Middle East.

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Because the Temple Mount is also considered by Jews to be the location of their temple which was destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans, it also is considered holy to the Jewish state. Much speculation has been published over the years about a rebuilding of a third temple on the Temple Mount in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. As long as the Temple Mount remains in the control of Muslims that doesn't seem possible in the foreseeable future.

However, the attack against Israel by Hamas on October 7th, 2023, has pretty much erased the possibility of a Palestinian state being formed within the area controlled by Israel. With a nuclear threat by Iran being removed by U.S. and Israeli air attacks, don't be surprised if Israel eventually declares sovereignty over the West Bank (aka Samaria and Judea). This would be a highly controversial move by Israel yet long overdue which would have to be done while Trump is in office.

If, at some point down the road, Israel should also take over complete control of the Temple Mount in order to prepare the way for the building of a third temple, then this would spark a Muslim uprising greater than the previous wars against Israel.

I previously wrote about the possibility of a Zechariah 12 war brought about by the war against Hamas and the possible removal of Palestinians from Gaza in my letter, "Coming Mideast War, written about three months ago. What Jonathan Cahn has revealed in his latest video regarding the Temple Mount certainly would give rise to the war described in Zechariah 12. With an Israeli victory, this would guarantee Israel's Sovereign claim over the West Bank and Gaza.

Yet, the enemy would not rest. As also described in Zechariah five and Revelation 12, a nuclear device will eventually be exploded near Jerusalem which would bring about the fleeing of the woman into the wilderness for 1,260 days. Jerusalem would eventually be re-populated and rebuilt as described by Daniel nine which would kick off the 70-week prophecy leading to another invasion of Jerusalem by the Beast and the setting up of the Abomination of Desolation on the Temple Mount.

This ongoing battle over the Temple Mount won't conclude until Christ returns on a future Feast of Trumpets to battle the armies of the Beast. Christ and the 144,000 will re-capture the Temple Mount as described in Revelation 14. All nations of the world will send troops to fight against Christ and attempt to regain control of the Temple Mount. Yet they will be defeated on the Day of Atonement in the Kidron Valley just east of the Temple Mount. Their blood will gush out for miles as depicted in Revelation 14:19-20 and symbolized by the blood of the goat slain on Atonement.

Be sure to watch Cahn's video on the Temple Mount to have a good perspective on what may happen in the Middle East in the near future and how things will eventually play out to fulfill Bible prophecy.

Video link:

Ground Zero of Prophecy: <https://youtu.be/vzsO1HUQCb8?si=q4VnskNUImPJh9by>

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**New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)**  
**As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.**

**Holy Days 2025**

**Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025**

**Pentecost – June 2, 2025**

**Trumpets – September 23, 2025**

**Atonement – October 2, 2025**

**Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025**

**Last Great Day – October 14, 2025**

## Notes