

SMELL THE ROSES and LIVE YOUR DREAMS

Not A Nightmare!

John and Mary smiled, and with a spring in their steps, walked down the aisle and into their future at a country church. The joyful scene had the fragrance of a rose garden. Let's fast-forward a few years: The ravages of time brought strife, the attitude of gratitude quietly slipped away, and frowns replaced smiles.

A broken barometer in their home registered **STORMY**. They were filled with romantic optimism after a blind date but found that **love is blind and marriage is the eye-opener**. John, with head in the clouds, was star-struck after meeting the stunning, elegant, **Ms. Knockout** but no longer felt goose-bumps in spite of her **Wow** and **Dazzle** factors, eye-catching appearance, and other eyebrow-raising traits of magnificence that surpassed all his fantasies.

"We should sell our TV," said John, as he slouched in his recliner. "We produce a soap-opera here every day!"

Mary sitting in a rocking chair realized their stand-off would not change if both did not stop doing certain things. Dripping with acid and barking like junk-yard dogs did not bring peace in their cold war. Often there is a **stalemate** with no communication. Which **mate** is **stale**? Just look in the mirror! John found it hard to let his light shine after blowing a fuse. Emotionally divorced people do one thing together, **argue**. They said "I do" but now say "I don't." They secretly longed for the magical moments they once knew. Truly, we do not appreciate what we have until it is gone.

With simmering resentments, while sweating in the dog house, John prayed and then tried to learn something from dogs that do not complain about food, unruly children, or lack of money. But thought John, due respect should be shown to the one that brings home the bacon and dog food!

A blacksmith, who could break almost any chain, except those he made himself, landed in jail and waited for an opportunity to escape. At midnight with no guards in sight he tried to break free but could not. He then noticed his personal trademark on the chain he made. Wrong choices of the past create crises in the present. A strong-hold refers to anything with a **strong hold** on us. Eat, drink, and be miserable lifestyles forge the strongest chains but God gives a second chance (Jonah 3:1). Both finally realized that **the largest room in their world is the room for improvement**. To stop cancer, stop smoking, and to avoid marital woes, quit acting like wrecking crews. Their constant arguing, petty bickering, and **verbal bullying** showed they were **emotionally divorced**. Both had more hang-ups than a dry cleaner so they called for a cease-fire and agreed that pointing fingers would perpetuate misery and leave a vacuum unless they did positive things. We are **partners** with God. We do our **part** and God does his **part**. They hit the **restart** button and **RESOLVED TO BREAK 10 BAD HABITS TO STOP LIVING THEIR NIGHTMARE!**

#1. They Stopped Grumbling & Lightened Up:

Grumbling is the spice of life for dysfunctional people but it zaps their joy. John worked from 9 to 5 until 65 and then entered the **empty nest, couch potato** stage of life and joined **Do-Little & Sit-More**. Signs of ageing made him humourless, bored, depressed, and irritable. His knees buckled but his belt didn't and his back went out more than he did. The old lady he helped across the street was his wife.

John spent his time doing impersonations of bread, **loafing**. His hostility escalated to include in-laws and unresolved friction points created intractable gridlock. He claimed to be a Christian but had little mouth and impulse control. Mary's dream-boat became a battle-ship with non-stop verbal volleys so marriage was no bed of roses.

John shot from the lip: "I get a strike every time in bowling by pretending the pins are

your relatives!”

In spite of hot-flashes, Mary tried to avoid flashpoints by not adding oxygen to their verbal fire-storm. She had accepted John for better or worse not for lunch but now was mired in domestic servitude while he sat. The treadmills of life wear us out. Bitterness and the smell of wrong attitudes replaced the **rose garden fragrance** they once experienced.

John was fixated on a newspaper article as the aroma of frying steak wafted through the house.

“Honey!” he called excitedly, “This article says people don’t quit laughing because they are old but are old because they quit laughing! We will never rekindle our love with **Oscar, the Grouch** of Sesame Street, as our example.”

Laughter is good medicine for self-pity and depression so put your troubles on hold, throw caution to the wind, and break out with a smile. If you stay sad you will soon become mad. With a holier-than-thou attitude, we build walls and isolate ourselves in a cubicle of our own making but we need each other in this global village. My dad said, “You can’t even get to the grave alone.” Showing love in action by helping the less fortunate will relieve depression.

Mary sat in a foreboding mood on the warpath and responded like the *Queen of Mean* marinated in vinegar: “The Bible says in the last days we shall have tribulation so I will tribulate.” “**Your Outlook Stinks,**” said John.”

This way of life is best expressed by **Johnny Cash** in “**Cry Me a River**” or **Elvis**, who found a new place to dwell, down on **Lonely Street, Heartbreak Hotel**. We must show ourselves friendly if we want friends (Pr 18). Our cups are neither half-full nor half-empty but running over so we can’t help but slop some over wherever we go. God’s will is the attitude of gratitude which excludes grumbling for there is no such thing as a thankful grumbler or a happy selfish person. If Scrooge smiled, his face would crack!

We cannot lighten up without Jesus, **The True Light**. Some use silence and negative body language to convey messages believing their spouse is a mind reader so it is time to enhance our speaking skills. Imagine the boredom of cooking seven days a week? Take your mate on a date and don’t spend all on cars, junk, and machinery. Laugh at your mistakes. “A merry heart is good medicine but a doom and gloomy spirit dries the bones” (Pr 17). Have you forgotten how to smile? Let’s turn the frown around! Some say people are **incomplete** until marriage, and then they are **finished!**

Very few will attend your pity party as you work yourself into an altered state of consciousness. Stop complaints and give compliments. When given a lemon you can make lemonade or eat it and become a sour-puss. Don’t envy the fleeting fame of those behind the veneer of polished exteriors. Tabloids show photo-shopped, sensual, suicidal, methed-up, falling mega-stars. Life is like weaving a tapestry, God sees the top side and we see the underside. Storms such as sickness, grief, natural disasters, and things beyond our control are certain so all we can do is pray and leave it in God’s hands. “Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning” (Ps 30). These dark and stormy nights of the soul can last a while but the sun will shine and you will smile again. God gives beauty for ashes, oil of joy for mourning, garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness, and peace in the midst of storms and stacked stresses (Is 61). God’s eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches us too.

Don’t feel guilty for having a bad day for we all have emotional ups and downs. Our bodies are incapable of producing enough adrenaline to keep us on a perpetual high so encourage each other on those down days. Others cannot be our **full-time anti-depressants** so decide to be up-beat and look on the bright side of things. Anger and irritability can be symptoms of depression. Young at heart seniors can *Rock and Roll* by putting wheels on their rocking chairs.

God loves us just as we are: thieves, murderers, white, black, rich, Muslims, poor, gay, straight, crooked, liars, pagans, atheists, addicts, agnostics, Christians, or unbelievers. His great love does not leave us there but desires to bring us to higher ground. The Bible gives a list of sins then says, “Such **were** some of you (past tense) but now are washed and justified in the name of Jesus” (1 Cor 6). We don’t clean ourselves outside the shower or wait until we are well before

seeing a doctor. So, come to Jesus just as you are. Down-and-outs come up and proud up-and-outs must come down from their pedestals to the mercy seat at the cross.

Do you know how they train auctioneers? The course lasts 10 days. Most cannot speak rapidly enough to get the crowd to open their pocketbooks. First, they put 10 marbles in your mouth and then you talk for eight hours straight in order to make the voice apparatus more flexible. Each day one marble is removed from your mouth and by the tenth day you have none left. I graduated with flying colors at the top of my class after losing all my marbles!

#2.They stopped demanding more:

Happiness is not having what we like but liking what we have. We don't need all things to enjoy life for God gave us life to enjoy all things. Consumerism worships created things so it is time to purge the excessive baggage. Marriage was the first union to defy management.

Gold diggers with **greener-grass-mentality** can be resentful because of shattered oversized expectations. Mary had a love affair with luxury and became discontented with their small house so they bought a high-maintenance, ego-boosting house that was hard to clean and painful to climb stairs after knee surgery. It was stressful to keep up with the *Kardashians* so they longed for a less trendy lifestyle. After buyer's remorse kicked in, they learned that living in excess, thinking bigger is better, is an illusion. *Celine Dion* has a 72 million dollar house and intends to build a bigger one. *Donald Trump* said his daughter, with appetite for extravagance, "had an **unlimited** wedding budget and she exceeded it!"

They browsed in an RV lot and found one they could not live without. Later, luxuriating in their motor home, John was all smiles but Mary was no happy camper.

"How do you like this new lifestyle?"

John, broadly smiling, replied, "This is like dying and going to heaven. In spite of gas pains at the pump, I like getting away from it all. We might down-size and become full-time RVers, **Hang-Loose**, and be house-free."

"Mary, how do you like it?"

Pointing to the back of the RV, she had an epic meltdown: "Look! There is the bed, stove, sink and my personal dish rag. It's the same relentless monotony. Men leave their tools at home but I continue in the same rut. I am boxed-in and need liberation." We spend our lives hoarding things and then desire to escape from them.

John found **Dream Vacations** in Hawaii in an attempt to defuse the negative energy in his home.

"Honey," he called excitedly. "Your freedom has arrived. If you still want to break free from it all where there is plenty of sand, surf and sunshine, I found the ideal place!"

Totally enchanted, she replied with an ocean of emotion: "Maids will make the beds, chefs will cook palate-pleasing gourmet treats and I can leave my dish rag at home. What a pleasant change from our motor-home and tent!"

With passports in hand they boarded a plane but soon ran into turbulence with a whole lot of shaking over the *Pacific*. They landed in *Honolulu* and a steward on the plane said, "We are not here for a long time but for a good time." They were careful not to bring emotional baggage from their broken past. Some have more baggage than the airlines.

They shopped at *Saks* high-end store, visited an exploding volcano and the battleship *Missouri* at *Pearl Harbour*, enjoyed dinner cruises with singers, belly dancers, luaus, sun-drenched beaches, shimmering sunsets, also sipped champagne at night with real pain later and enjoyed lobster as they explored the ocean floor by submarine also pig-head soup in *Cuba*. They lost their shirts in a *Las Vegas* Casino but replaced them for 25 cents at *Value Village*.

They gained weight but their wallets were lighter and soon resembled bronzed well-basted turkeys as they soaked up sunshine and reviewed a list of **10 things they had to STOP doing** to live their dreams.

They controlled negative thoughts by shifting gears between the ears and concentrating

on uplifting things (Ph 2:8). Unkind thoughts trigger arguments and evil actions so the body does what the mind thinks. Do and say nice things even when your feelings tell you to have a tantrum to get even. Petty bickering, like drip, drip, drip, on a rainy day is a passion-killer, death by a million cuts (Prov. 27:15).

Some marriages are **politically correct**. Politicians make promises but then forget them after elections. We vow to love in sickness and health, for richer or poorer, until death but forget unconditional love. Now marriage is performance-based as we raise the bar like a high-jump competition. In this pressure-cooker of work and debt load, there are no roses to smell. Exceeding load-limits, like placing a ten ton load onto a one-ton truck, will cause physical or emotional breakdown.

Chronic fatigue is common in our sleep-deprived, fast-paced, techno and sex-obsessed fast-food lifestyles of instant gratification. Let's break from the gridlock of complexities and live simply before we flame-out like meteorites. To retain sanity, avoid **hurry sickness** and use pruning shears on to-do-lists. Some suffer from renovation and debt fatigue but spiritual upgrades teach contentment.

We can juggle a limited number of balls before some fall to the ground. **Human beings** can become **human doings**. Slave-drivers expect spouses to be super-moms and super-dads with unlimited energy to handle overloaded schedules. They insist on their partners going the extra mile when they themselves won't go another inch. Listen to your tired body not to arrogant sweat-shop bosses/spouses. All work and no play, pray, or time-out make depressed basket cases. The life God gave you does not totally belong to others, so take a day off to prevent stress and panic attacks.

"How much money would it take to make you happy?" A billionaire replied, "Just a little bit more." Don't long for things just out of reach and marinate in jealousy. Worldly pleasures and possessions can only make you cosmetically happy for God has put eternity and a God-shaped vacuum in our hearts. Stuff-a-holics have a veneer of happiness but with an undercurrent of sadness.

If our focus is only material we become desensitized and having everything would not be enough. *Rev. Charles Price* on Vision TV said, "We spend money we don't have to buy things we don't need to impress people we don't like. If you have money in the bank, enough to eat and a roof, you are in the top 8% of the world's people." Happiest people do not have the best of everything but they make the best of everything they have.

I have never seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul trailer so store up your treasures in heaven. The only way to help God is to help our fellow man. *Jerry Lewis* said, "If there is some good I can do, let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again." Give to Jesus by giving to the needy, "the least of these" (Mt 25:31-40). Stay on the sunny side of life. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt and thieves steal" (Mt 6). Some live poor, die rich, and then leave all for feuding relatives. Jesus told a rich young ruler to sell his possessions and give to the poor to have treasure in heaven. How much does the world weigh? To find out, just ask a single mom. Doing spur-of-the-moment acts of kindness will relieve depression. I wept because I had no shoes then met a man with no feet.

More is never enough for high-maintenance people whose wastefulness is without bounds. Getting things can give temporary satisfaction but long-term emptiness of soul and wallet. It is not cosmetic face-lifts we need but **faith-lifts** with Jesus as the object of our faith. Some have too little interest in each other, pay too much interest at the bank, and love the purse and the posh not the person. Let's live as agents of change by seeking eternal not just temporal things. Abundance of things keep us on a treadmill so we no longer have possessions but our possessions have us.

True love is not just a feeling but a loyalty to love in good times and bad. Feelings ebb and flow but true love lasts forever. You can give without loving but cannot love without giving. A demanding, critical spirit and emotionally over-powering to-do lists represent the tyranny of the unfinished. Be sure **you** are on the list and do something nice for yourself. The *Titanic* had a

list before it went under.

Old age is not about getting everything but about losing all except our souls. Grass might look greener over the fence but even that requires mowing. Psalm 23 speaks of green pastures but refers to paths of righteousness and a restored soul. We can have all the treasures and pleasures of this world and be miserable, poor, blind and naked (Rev 3).

James Dobson on *Focus on the Family* spoke of a *Monopoly* game where he acquired real estate including hotels. After the game was over he put it back in the box. A materialistic lifestyle consists of getting more but when the game of life is over they put us in a box and spend what we saved. The principle that more of anything leads to bliss is a delusion since true joy from Jesus comes from within.

“Do you believe Jesus changed water into wine?” asked a sceptic who thought it out of the realm of possibility.

A Christian replied, “I believe it for he changed beer into furniture for me! I used to spend all on alcohol but after accepting Christ I lost that thirst and bought furniture.”

A high roller won bags of money and wished to take it with him after crossing his finish-line on earth so he put them in his attic intending to grab them on his way up to heaven. The ravages of time moved against him and he departed from this life. Later, his wife found that the bags were still there and said, “I told him to put them in the basement!” Obviously he went in the other direction!

Another dreamed he had gone to his reward only to wake and find his electric blanket turned too high! When *Colonel Sanders* arrived at the *Pearly Gates*, two chickens were in charge of admission. Life is fatal and like a hotel where we **check in** and before long we **check out**.

Ted Turner, billionaire CNN founder, atheist now agnostic said, “By the final curtain, life boils down to a few simple things: Am I loved? Will anyone remember me? Do I get into heaven?” He used to say, “Religion is for losers, So Much Hooey” but now he is leaving the door open a crack.

Jane Fonda, his former wife, said, “He lives his life as though he is trying to out-run his inner demons.”

Beware of unrealistic expectations. I know longshoremen who were like hunters - looking for big bucks by working triple shifts in 24 hours, paying triple taxes, tripled alimony and had triple heart bypasses from stress. We should neither burn out nor rust out. The more comfortable we are, the greater the temptation for discontent can become as we seek something faster or bigger. It is futile to try and solve problems by throwing money at them without a lifestyle change. The main stressor is when our bills and duties are greater than our money and strength.

What shall it **profit** a man if he **gains** the world and loses his own soul or wife? That is gain without profit! Why burn rubber in the fast lane while going the wrong way? Try downshifting to reduce stress. Jesus claimed to be the only way to heaven not just one of many equally good ways with Mohammed, Buddha or good works (John 14:6).

“Come apart and rest a while” is the advice from Jesus. We should adjust our schedules before our health and marriages come apart in life’s uncertainties and frenzied pace. Parents call for a **time-out** with unruly children but parents need time out of the house for nobody can survive if needed 24/7 by others. When crowd pressure became too great, Jesus went by boat to the other side of the lake.

John overdosed on **material idolatry** with caviar tastes including a super-yacht and other expensive toys. With massive egotism and eye-popping opulence, his limousine rolled out of his driveway. He felt compassion as he passed a hard-up section of town with neglected children.

Mary watched TV as he arrived home. “You look sad,” she said. “Did you have a challenging day?”

Wiping his forehead, he answered, “In our narcissism and superficial pursuits, we are pampered and bloated with self-importance in our comfort zone. Our lifestyle should not be **All**

about Me but **Less about Me** and more about God and others. Today I felt like the priest in Luke 10 who saw a needy man but then passed him by. We can learn from the Samaritan who took care of him.” John started a new way of life by sponsoring a needy child through *World Vision*. We can do the same on-line: www.worldvision.ca

In that story, the Good Samaritan put the man on his mule and took him to the Inn, paid the Inn-keeper and said, “If it costs more, I will pay when I return.” If we spend more to reach the lost than we receive, Jesus will reward us. “Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me” (Rev 22). David said, “I will not offer the Lord what costs me nothing.” We own nothing but are stewards of a few things for a while. Consuming everything for ourselves to find satisfaction is like chasing the wind. Selfish people can say, “I am always on my mind.” *Bill Wyman*, guitarist for the *Rolling Stones*, said, “The journey to the top was exciting but when we arrived, there was nothing, it was empty.” We need an eternal perspective in all we do. **Backsliders** can **slide ahead** by reading and believing Psalm 51 & Luke 18:9-14.

#3.They stopped living in the past:

Those with a **victim mentality** are historical, looking only in the **rear-view mirror** of life, replaying nightmares and digging up dirt to throw during blame games. But past issues are like water under the bridge. There is enough blame to go around so don't focus on the blame but rather on finding solutions. Life in our broken world is not always fair so bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people. Look in the **windshield** of life but don't drag past baggage to move past your past. If your **mind-set stinks**, read the love chapter, 1 Cor. 13. Hang out with Jesus.

The *Dodo* bird is extinct because it flew backwards. Like believers in evolution, the *Dodo* was more interested in where it came from than where it was going. Some people remarry and use their previous hostile, mismatched unions as a pattern to undermine the present. Others think good marriages must be fought for. Success in marriage, education, business, farming and all other fields is often found beyond *Hill of Difficulty*. Most married couples have more **hang-ups** than a dry cleaner. Minor sticking points are easily harmonized when there is agreement on major points such as God and his Word. We are God's work in progress and he gives us inner strength to live accordingly. Haunting memories of past traumatic experiences cause sadness, depression, and heartache. In **blame games**, people are retraumatized as they re-fight old battles, ego against ego, causing the same anxiety as the day it happened. They are drawn seductively into the past so homes become epicenters of misery and strife rather than blessing. God did not put eyes in the back of our heads so we could look back.

John and Mary fought like two scorpions over past minor irritations when suddenly friends knocked at the door.

“Hello John! How are you?”

“I'm still above ground! Please come in.”

They had lunch, laughed and talked (which shows we can control our emotions in a micro-second). Some with family rifts and festering resentments react against siblings, ex-spouses, neighbours and others. Hind-sight is 20/20 but the future is like looking through a dark glass so we walk by faith not by sight. Set aside the past for the sake of the future or clouds from the past will obscure today's sun. *Glen Campbell* sang: “My past gets in my way!” When the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future in the bottomless pit forever. We cannot undo the past but we can confess our sins to God, ask our victims for forgiveness, and forgive those who have sinned against us to set us free from the bonds of hate and bitterness. Turn the page and replace a burning thirst for revenge with mercy. An eye for an eye leaves both people blind.

God forgave us a huge debt and does not remember our past sins against us so why should we hold them against others? With God's help, turn the other cheek, overcome evil with good, and refuse to remain stuck in the past. Anger, like acid, does most harm to the container it

is in.

God led the slaves with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day from Egypt into the wilderness. They walked in circles for 40 years on an eleven day trip to the *Promised Land*. They grumbled about Moses and manna from heaven and desired idols, flesh, and garlic as back in Egypt. God granted their request by sending quail for meat but sent leanness into their souls (Ps 106). If you are going in circles with many speed bumps, do not give up for God is leading you through your wilderness.

David **spoke to himself** as he marinated in his own pity-party during the dark night of his soul: “Why are you cast down O my soul and disquieted within me? Hope in God for I will praise him” (Ps 42). At the mint where our money is made, the refiner keeps heat on molten silver until all the dross comes to the top. When he can see his own reflection on the surface of the silver he knows the new coins will have a clear impression of the king. If we pass the test, we will reach a new level of faith and trust in God.

It is futile to live in the anxiety mode for we cannot resolve everyone’s problems. A raisin is a worried grape so don’t torment yourself by worrying. Life is a puzzle and Jesus is the missing **peace**. Christianity is not a religious treadmill but rather an association with a person, Jesus, our **Ultimate Lifeline**, sent by God to rescue the perishing. He allows evil to come our way by giving all, including criminals, a free will to do well or evil. Job and Paul were engulfed in disasters because of integrity not because of sin.

“I feel God has forsaken me. I trusted him to look after us and then my girl was assaulted,” said a mother.

“You **feel** forsaken,” I replied, “Unreliable feelings ebb and flow but God ‘will never leave or forsake you’” (Heb 13). Always trust the objective word of God not feelings.

God does not intervene in every situation but leaves parents and others in charge. He sent angels to close the lion’s mouth when Daniel was in its den and to break Peter’s prison chains (Acts 12).

You will self-destruct by throwing a fit while planning revenge against enemies rather than loving them. Pray they will have a change of heart and then put the whole shebang behind you. Move forward but progress is slow if you mountain-climb over mole-hills. People who are supercharged with strife and carry mind-blowing grudges to get even, glorify Satan, and become bitter not better.

Larry King said, “The grudge holder is the victim.” Mistakes are good teachers for they teach us how **not** to do things but we will not learn from them if we blame others. Sorting out things from the past is like unscrambling eggs. Acting like a fused powder keg or a spewing volcano of red-hot lava produces more heat than light. Hostile, grouchy, cranky, unteachable, frustrated, bossy, bitter, condescending, moody, touchy people with simmering resentments are like fire-breathing dragons with razor-sharp tongues that carve up others (Ja 3:6). Control your emotions or they will control you. You are wrong if you think you are right all the time.

In the 1960s, Russia and America had their fingers on hot buttons to launch missiles. The Russians suggested *perestroika*, peaceful co-existence, and they lived happily ever after turning back the doomsday clock. We can use that **cold war** formula in our homes! Some argue about how to squeeze the toothpaste tube. Why not buy two tubes, his and hers, and squeeze your mate with a big hug, instead?

If you upset a glass of water, the water will flow out. Whatever is on the inside comes out when upset. You can tell what is in your heart by what overflows from your mouth when you are upset. Paul and Silas were beaten in jail and very upset but what came out? They prayed and sang praises unto God and then an earthquake shook the prison and the jailer was saved (Ac 16). Whatever goes into our minds from the Internet, from gossip or TV, settles in our hearts and then comes out in everyday life, garbage in - garbage out. David said, “I hid your word in my heart so I would not sin against you.” “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Ps 66:18; Mk 11:24-26). Don’t let your Bible gather dust but put on the whole armour of God including the helmet of salvation and the Word of God, or you are a guaranteed casualty in spiritual

warfare with the world, flesh, and devil (Ep 6). All the punishment we deserve was suffered by Jesus in his body on the cross so no further suffering in a non-biblical purgatory or other *hocus-pocus* is needed. Purgatory is based on fallible tradition not scripture.

Satan, an invisible fallen angel and the father of lies, whispers negative things into our minds. Jesus promised, “In the world you shall have tribulation but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.” God allowed Paul to have a satanic “thorn in the flesh” to keep him dependent on God through prayer (2 Cor 12:7-10).

Automatic Answers to Prayer

Acts 12 tells how things happen automatically when we pray. Peter languished in prison, chained to guards, as the church prayed without ceasing. An angel came and his chains fell off. He walked out as an iron gate opened “**of its own accord**” (**automatos** in Greek v.20). Pray only to God not to Mary or Saints which is idolatry. “Jesus is the **only mediator** between man and God” (1 Tim 2:5). Prayer can break chains of greed, lust, temper, and the bondage of cult prisons. We talk and listen and, as children of God, prayer is talking to our *Heavenly Father* who speaks to us. Jehovah’s Witnesses fled from Vancouver streets after much prayer at *Western Bible College* (Now **Summit Pacific College**).

Paul had a thorn in the flesh and prayed several times for healing. God answered, “My grace is sufficient for you and my strength is made perfect in weakness” (Jas 5:14; 2 Cor 12:9). If healing does not come right away continue to pray and accept God’s grace day by day. God at times delivers us and at other times walks with us in our fiery furnaces (Dan 3:25). The task we are called to is beyond us so prayer is needed. Our prayers are hindered or **not heard** if we mistreat our spouses and others, or if we have some secret, domesticated, pet sin we enjoy but have not forsaken (1 Pet 3:7; Ps 66:18, 19; Isa 59:1-3). How can God answer prayers he does not hear? He answers according to his clock, not ours, so faith and patience are needed (Heb. 11:1-13). Be thankful in all circumstances, not because of them.

Satan Lives Here!

May 6/05: Like a Matador in a bull fight, I held a Jesus sign in the **Bible belt** on an Abbotsford, BC street when, suddenly, a witch, blind-sided by Satan and dressed in black, grabbed my cross, broke it in several pieces, threw it into traffic, and walked home. Later, near her house, she said, “**Satan lives here!**” The demonized rageaholic blew a gasket and then called 911, reporting, “There is a man here trying to force me to believe in Jesus,” but nobody came.

As a last resort, she threatened to turn two pit-bulls loose to drive me away. I said, “Bring them on. Dogs are my friends!” She opened her high fence gate and roared, “**Attack! Attack!**” The dogs ran up to me and I petted one of them, extended my hand, and said, “In Jesus’ name...” The high-pitch screaming stopped and she walked down the street. Jesus can close the mouths of lions, witches and dogs. “**Submit to God**, resist the devil and he will run” (James 4:7). Go out on a limb for God and he will meet you there. In an ancient battle, arrows flew so thick they blotted out the sun. An old soldier said, “I like fighting in the shade.” Satan appears as an angel of enlightenment (2 Cor 11:14).

The Storms of Life

Jesus spoke of two houses, one built on sand and the other on rock, but storms hit both (Mt 7). We do not have cloudless skies and fair-weather faith exempt from storms because our houses are built on **The Solid Rock** Christ Jesus, not on cult jello. When his disciples were engulfed in disasters, Jesus spoke to the wind and brought calm. Thousands have died for their faith in this century. Some heroes of faith have stopped the mouths of lions while others were sawn in half (Heb 11). In our broken world there are unhappy times such as sickness or when pets and loved ones cross their finish line and sorrows like sea-billows roll.

When buying a car, we do not just kick the tires and sound the horn but we take it for a road test, too. We talk faith with a loud voice and then God gives us a cross and takes us for a

test on rough, less-traveled roads in the valley. The God of the mountain is God in the valley and we are never alone. He gives us the courage to face our daunting challenges. While going against head-winds, it is better to shout than to doubt so doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs to find a silver lining in the dark clouds of life.

Life is often stormy since we live in an imperfect world but adversity makes us strong. Weeds still grow in our gardens, pollution changes climate, wars rage and hospitals are full. Flaws in human nature and fault lines in the earth cause earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes and hurricanes but God is bigger than any problem. He allows us to go **through** turbulence so we can comfort others in their fiery furnaces (2 Cor 1:4). If **finite** humans think they fully understand the **infinite** God, their God is too small. We can take a glass of water from the ocean but know little about the whole ocean.

There will be no more crying, pain, abuse, or death after resurrection at the second coming of Christ (Rev 21). In this life we pass **through** valleys and shadows but we fear no evil for God is with us. His rod and staff comfort us and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. In the end the wrong will fail and the right will prevail. Do not cross bridges before you get to them and don't worry about hair loss for it will be restored in the **hair-after**. Women live longer than men for it takes them longer to get ready. In many cases marriage becomes an eye-opener showing how selfish we are after years of thinking: **It Is All about Me!**

One grieving woman said, "I lost my husband."

I asked, "Was he a Christian?" She answered, "Yes."

I replied, "You did not lose him for you know where he is, 'absent from the body - present with the Lord'" (2 Cor 5:8). If you lost your purse, you would not know where it is. A line in a song: "He's **gone** to that city where the roses never fade" but a person who is well remembered is not **gone**. We are a body/soul unity so, at death, souls of believers are "**carried by angels**" to the place of comfort and reunited with **new bodies** in the resurrection in a new heaven and earth (Lk 16:22; Rev 20:4; 6:9-11 & ch 21). Farmers plant wheat but the same kernels are not harvested but they look the same so we will recognize each other after resurrection (1 Cor. 15). Similarly, we get new bodies in the resurrection. A caterpillar cannot understand how it can be resurrected as a butterfly so we walk by faith, not by sight, and smell the roses in various levels of joy and difficulty. Memories are a gift of God that death cannot destroy.

The supreme race in the Bible is the human race and the church includes people from every tribe and tongue (Revelation 7). Sabbaths, prophets, and animal sacrifices were previews of Jesus, our Passover, who came later. Old Testament people looked forward to the cross for salvation and we look back to the cross. Adam and Eve were saved through the blood of the Lamb (Genesis 3:21). **Detoxify** your soul through prayer and Bible study. We are saved by **grace** which means we get what we don't deserve, mercy, for Jesus took for us what he did not deserve, justice and death.

Pray: Jesus, speak peace to those in prison, the sick, grieving and lonely. Let not their hearts be troubled. Our help comes from the Lord. Give salvation to all who repent, comfort to mourners, health to the sick, and direction to the spiritually lost, Amen. God's peace in storms does not mean the absence of trouble so **God put roses on thorns so we could enjoy the fragrance even when thorny issues arise**. In 2015, four ladies rowed across the *Pacific Ocean* in 10 months. Their Motto: "**Everyone has his own Pacific to cross.**"

LEARN HOW TO COUNT!

Many well educated Christians are able to do calculus and other complex things but have not learned to count biblically. When trials of life come, they throw **verbal grenades** and are filled with self-pity and sadness but do not refer to their main textbook which says, "**COUNT IT ALL JOY**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing the testing of your faith works patience" (James 1:2,3).

4. They stopped their Dictator/Doormat relationship:

Both spouses were trapped and suffocating in their master/slave association. Open the cage, cut the leash, and set the captive free! Everyone needs space, a retreat from routine. Men controlling women is part of the curse in *The Garden of Eden* (Gen 3:16). Nagging is death by a million cuts. Perfectionists set themselves up for failure since no human is flawless. If we were perfect, we would not need Jesus.

My son worked in an auto parts store where information on each part was stored in a large **Main Frame** server computer. Monitors, without brains, sat on the counter but were connected to the Main Frame, the source of all information. Mean-spirited, divisive, tyrannical, frosty control freaks act like **Main-Frames** thinking others are brain-dead monitors with no mind of their own. You hear them during conversations butting in halfway through someone's sentence to finish it or silencing them with an explosive mouth. God gave us two ears and one mouth to listen more than talk. Our words are the overflow from our hearts so our hearts are on display by whatever we say. Let's not send our brains on a holiday and leave our mouths in charge. *King Solomon* said, "A fool is full of words." What counts is what we learn **after** we know it all. They should join **Compulsive Talkers Anon Anon Anonymous**.

Exercising control through a toxic temper and criticism is often used by those with short fuses to manipulate others but produce greater hostility, rage, isolation and ulcers. In this regime of hate and fear, minds become like concrete - all mixed up and firmly set. It's easy to act like an angel if nobody ruffles our feathers. If feelings tempt you to rage just turn on self-control and keep your mouth shut to give the devil a black-eye. Satan wants our feelings to control us so let's control our feelings.

Be God's mouth-**peace** by breaking old patterns, mood swings and verbal sniping. If one does not open his mouth he will not put his foot in it. One antidote is low-calorie shoes! Some have a facade of reality with a friendly attitude in the workplace but drip with acid and venom at home. It is hard to reconcile the unequal public and private faces behind closed doors, so let us **walk the talk**. We can teach a parrot to talk and we can learn to talk like Christians and not be one. This is how it is in the cult kingdom.

Good deeds never go unpunished but do them anyway. Jesus went about doing well but they nailed him to a cross so his followers cannot expect better treatment. If you are always harping, you might be an angel! The largest room in the world is the **room for improvement** and we are all in that crowded room together. If you were raised in a home where raging, nagging, whining, lying, pouting, bullying, silence, or physical and verbal abuse were used to gain control you might practice the same. Break this vicious cycle by accepting Christ and then a new heart will give a new start. "Love is patient, suffers long, is kind not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not seek its own way, is not easily provoked, rejoices in truth, keeps no record of past wrongs, bears and endures all things" (1 Cor. 13). Christians are **forgiven** so they should be **forgiving**. Save your marriage for you will need it in old age. Open your Bible and **jump-start** your faith.

Domineering, regimented people with unbearable attitudes act like Army Commanders whose position of **Boss** is threatened if others don't submit. They might say, "Rome wasn't built in one day but I wasn't the foreman." The greatest among us is the servant not the dictator (Mat 20).

Liberal post-modern thinkers with no moral plumb-line or sense of right and wrong say all truth is relative so mine is as valid as yours. What about the so-called truth of Hitler or atheistic Communism that caused the death of millions? Non-negotiable, absolute truth is only found in the Bible, "You shall not murder." Who is the truth? Jesus is Truth personified excluding all others. Einstein said, "Relativity refers to science, not ethics." Truth is not in conflict with scripture so all must be tested by that standard. God does not say something in the Bible and then contradict himself by some false prophet or twisted Bible.

5. They stopped cloning each other:

Most people don't celebrate their differences but try to clone others into their likeness but if two are duplicates, one is unnecessary. Also, living with a mirror image of you becomes boring. Be **flexible** and do not think you are always right. Insisting that others jump through your hoops is not leadership but dictatorship. Marriage is like a three-legged stool: the wife, the husband and Jesus.

In mutual submission, couples put each other first (Ep 5). We all live below our potential for doing well but have unlimited potential for evil. Do not follow the road well-traveled, but go where there is no road and blaze a trail. To make our dreams come true we must first wake up. May the wind be at your back as you press on in life's journey?

God made each snowflake differently and has a special plan for each of us so don't shoe-horn others into your routine or culture. Magnets have north and south poles. Unlike poles attract and like poles repel so emotional magnetism brings those with different talents together. The church is likened unto the human body with many parts. The eye sees and the ear hears. All do not preach, work miracles or speak with tongues but all have various gifts (1 Cor. 12:28-30).

God broke the cookie cutter after he made you then said, "One is enough." Let's stand by each other's side not in their way. Both are in the same boat so row in the same direction. Do your best and God will do the rest. Caleb, at age 85, was ready to conquer mountains filled with giants who had chariots of iron so you are not too old to do exploits for God. Try your best to put a smile back in your life.

A lady in a panic mode at her rehearsal feared she would not recall the sequence of events at her wedding. The plan was to walk down the **aisle** to the **altar** and sing a **hymn**. As they stood together, the groom heard her repeating quietly, "Aisle – altar - hymn." On the verge of fainting, he thought she would clone him into her likeness with an extreme makeover in a strait-jacket of conformity stifling all his creativity. Some get married on roller-coasters or in elevators to prepare for expected ups and downs.

A macho ego-maniac married four women who died one after the other: First a millionaire, second an actress, third a preacher and fourth an undertaker - one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, four to go. His verbal bullets and domineering, possessive ways gave each one an early finish. Physically or verbally bullying or belittling your spouse causes stress, fear and heart attacks.

6. Stop correcting each other:

Is your home a correction center? Find faith rather than fault. An Ego-centric person thinks his is the only way but most things can be done many ways. **Ego control** is giving up the need to be right all the time so try to alter your Ego. A child or adult who is always criticized will become fearful and do nothing. An unthankful husband who finds fault with his wife's cooking soon prepares his own food.

Ms. Perfect, a nitpicking fussy, found **Mr. Right**, whose every move was wrong so she robotically micro-managed every detail of his life. She frowned on the way he mowed the lawn and vacuumed the house. Soon, she did these chores herself. If this behaviour persists, the victim will depart the suffocating atmosphere and sit in a bar to get some space. Some say marriage is not a word but a sentence.

We are not TV sets that need a remote controller. If you give positive reinforcement others will do better. If not, they will give up. Avoid the comparing mode implying that others have better jobs, nicer homes, newer cars, more money, pleasure, and romance. Build bridges not walls by saying, "This is such good food Honey. You should have an award for your **culinary magic** and for all other things you do." Don't talk like a Monday morning quarterback: "I told you so; we should've done it; if only, What if?" Speak kindly not as an unfailing walking Google. Use words that heal rather than hurt. Also, don't ask each other "**Why**" questions.

Tell your mate, "Here's some money. Take the day off and visit friends or go shopping for a break from me and the sink." If you smother and keep her confined on a choke-leash in a

virtual fish-bowl, she will soon break free.

With God's help, live magnanimously every day. This means overlooking injury or insult and rising above pettiness and meanness. *Mr. Perfect* sees insurmountable flaws in others and as such has a beam in his own eye and has not looked in the mirror. Forsake hypercritical attitudes and replace a hair-trigger temper with patience and kindness. Fault-finding produces super-size insecure victims who may develop the nervous habit of medicating emotions with food that goes from lip to hip. We soon wear what we eat.

I picked up a stone in a stream and marvelled how smooth it had become, yet it remained so hard. Some have gone to church for years in the stream of God's grace but their hearts remain hard with **hell-fire** in their tongues (James 3:6). Ezekiel spoke of hearts of stone and the need to be tender-hearted and forgiving. A person might be dysfunctional, unbending, and bull-headed especially if married late in life after having his own way for so long.

In Los-Angeles, a certain city block with many psychiatrists and others is known as the **Mental Block**. They invented a new way to resolve conflicts by exchanging glasses with your spouse. He will then see everything from her point of view and she will see things from his perspective which guarantees bliss and smelling the roses ever after.

Jesus taught life lessons by pointing to simple things such as fowls of the air. God feeds birds but they are up early gathering worms. Snow melted and the sun shone as a flock of geese honked while flying north to nesting grounds. The lead goose kept his mouth shut while breaking through snow, rain, and darkness, while others followed, **honking** encouragement. In goose language it means, "You are doing a good job; thanks for staying on the right path, **Honk!**"

Followers did not pull out the leader's tail feathers or cause disunity in the flock but worked as a team. The husband leads in his role and so does the wife. If you nitpick and don't honk support in your family and church **your goose is cooked!** Try walking a mile in the other person's shoes and do not **resist God** when he tempts you to do something nice for others or for **yourself**. We need three homes: The home where we live, a church home, and a heavenly home. Some intended to raise a family but raise hell instead. Beware of tattlers, busy-bodies and in-laws who shower you with advice (1 Tim. 5). If discipline is inconsistent, where one acts like a drill Sergeant and the other is lenient, children will be frustrated. The work-place of a stay-at-home mom is more demanding than working outside.

#7. They stopped suicidal lifestyles:

We self-destruct by drinking alcohol, smoking, worrying, raging, allowing drug & food addiction, creating stress, and aggressive driving. Using cell phones and texting is the new drunk-driving for maximum distraction and "sitting is the new smoking." **The human race is suicidal** in this **stoned age**. The Bible says, "You shall not murder" but suicide is self-murder. *British Columbia* had over 750 drug overdose deaths in 2016.

Ticking Time Bombs: The **#1** killer in America is **smoking** which causes heart disease and **is cancer by the carton. Is your life going up in smoke?** **#2 Obesity:** Heart-clogging fat affects every organ. **#3: Alcohol poisoning** is lethal. A 21 year old, 1,345 pound Saudi **soda drinker** was moved with a lift-truck. **Liquid calories** do not give a "**full feeling**" so he also gorged on a torrent of food. A doctor said, "Most that come to this morgue should not be here." If you ignore the warnings, it's your own funeral! That "harmless" glass of wine a day can be your downfall.

Our fast-food, pill-popping, self-destructing culture is suffering from both health and health-care crises so both are on life supports. Some have bad genetic cards dealt to them. Obese children develop adult diseases such as heart problems and diabetes as fat destroys insulin and clogs arteries. Food is more addictive than cocaine for one can live without cocaine but not without food. Drug dealers get rich by destroying the lives of others. One lacks self-control if drugs or food control him. We see food before eating it so keeping it out of sight reduces

temptation. In losing weight, be proactive by being more concerned about ounces than pounds for an **ounce** of prevention is worth a **pound** of cure.

“If you don’t curb your obsession for food you will go blind from diabetes,” said a doctor while checking a patient’s blood pressure. “I have seen enough!” said the super-size man who continued on his hedonistic treadmill drinking beer and eating ostrich burgers. Let’s live without a food crutch, exercise **diet discipline**, and down-size fat by starting in the **kitchen** and then exercise. “A body in motion wants to stay in motion and a body at rest wants to stay at rest.” Pray that God will give you a desire to lose weight before it is too late. A sweet-tooth should be extracted.

Oprah said, “Losing and gaining weight in a yo-yo fashion by dieting must be exchanged for a lifestyle of eating healthily and exercise.” This isn’t easy for the undisciplined, inactive, or physically challenged if they self-medicate emotions with food and alcohol. Prayer is needed in this trial of faith. Avoid will-power-busting food options.

One study showed smaller plates and smaller food portions resulted in weight loss. The more we eat the greater our appetite. The pendulum swings the opposite way for some with eating disorders who say, “Thin is in.” God does not rain on our parade but wants to give us his best.

Second and third-hand smoke refers to poisonous residue: lead, arsenic, and carbon monoxide left on the clothing and hands we expose to others. Do you expect to get to heaven **sooner** by smoking? Are you pro-life or pro-death? What about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for the most vulnerable? Abortion stops a beating heart so beware of *Planned Murderhood*. Imagine the pain inflicted by pulling a living person apart in the womb. As a former foetus I am against abortion. How about you? A foetus is a child not a choice but atheists say it is just a blob of cells. Abortion is not unpardonable in God’s sight so we can be forgiven and move forward but most cannot handle this alone and need a church support group.

Car drivers are the most suicidal and homicidal of any group for they kill themselves and others by the thousands each year. A group who had multiple accidents met for a discussion. The leader said, “I want all the people here who are tired of accidents to raise your right **foot**.” In other words, take your foot off the gas. A man named Jay died maintaining his right of way. He was right, dead right, as he sped along but he is just as dead as if he were wrong. The **ultimate theft** is to take someone’s life, **unborn or old**!

Alcoholics start as social drinkers who could “control their drinking.” An ex-alcoholic once said, “I went from the sauce to the cross, from the bottle to the Bible.” Alcohol is a depressant for each drop destroys brain cells so the victim becomes progressively more brain-dead. Pregnant women avoid alcohol for fear of destroying their child’s brain but after birth they may drink and vaporize their own. “Wine is a mocker; strong drink is raging and whosoever is **deceived** by it is not wise” (Pr 20). Christmas is the best time for alcoholics to quit drinking because there is so much **cold turkey** readily available!

Martinis with olives in a posh neighbourhood or shoe polish and rice wine on skid road are all the same alcohol. “Their God is their belly” (Ph. 3:19). If you try to drown your sorrows the devils will swim. The Lord giveth the liver but alcohol taketh away. It gives temporary escape from reality. A line in a song: “There stands the glass that will ease all my pain.” Weight gain causes depression which in turn causes **more** emotional eating and weight gain.

If someone claimed predisposition to alcohol or drugs from birth, would you act as an enabler to normalize his satanic impulses by filling the fridge with booze or find treatment? Be born-again by accepting Christ as your forgiver and be loosed from the death grip of addictions.

A man in an alternate lifestyle (**deathstyle**) said, “I can’t help it for God made me this way.” In reality, it was not God but Adam who sinned and passed imperfections unto us so we all have issues to work out. If you have an inclination towards adultery, laziness, shop-lifting or pride you do not have to stay that way.

The law is external control but Jesus in our hearts gives victory from within. Our bodies become undisciplined masters not servants if we are driven by lusts of the mind, flesh, eyes, and

pride of life. Some will not live out half their days (Psalm 55:23). A man jumped from the top of the *Empire State Building* in New York and halfway down, on his cellphone, said, "All is OK, so far!" Is your life OK, so far? Marijuana creates dependence and is a **gateway drug** to more toxic cocaine. Immorality is now normalized in our permissive society.

Some think freedom is found by cutting themselves off from God but this vain attempt to fill their God-shaped vacuum with a substitute leaves them bound in dark closets with self-destructing habits. Gambling destroys incentive for its principle is to get money that is not earned. Cyber-sex by Internet to fuel fantasies destroys both souls and marriages for it represents a perverted intimacy with no human relationship. In this low-life, the cyber pedophile with idols in his heart experiences shame and the spouse feels rejection.

Others will never stiffen up with arthritis for they carry extra **joints** with them. Material things briefly satisfy the body but only Jesus satisfies the soul. A man intended to accept Jesus as his saviour at his eleventh hour but died at 10:30. After three score and ten, 70 years, we are in sudden-death overtime. At that time in a hockey game, a coach wants the best goalie. In our game of life our best goalie is Jesus who made the most saves (Mt 1:21). Birthdays are good for you, the more you have the longer you live.

8. They stopped living on credit:

"I might buy a new car that produces less pollution. Money is available on my credit card," said John, fixated on brochures while suffering from debt fatigue. Tylenol provided no relief for their **Buy Now Pain Later** plan.

Mary exploded like a hand grenade, "Don't forget your New Year's resolution: **If you are in the hole, Stop Digging! Til Debt we do Part** is the epitaph of many. Make a U-turn by trading your *Hummer* for a Hybrid."

"Sorry Honey!" said John. "I'll put the brakes on spending and drive less to decrease red ink and pollution. *Mother Earth* is sick with toxic substances so let's make every day *Earth Day!*" We do not have a Planet B. Financial suicide is a sure bet if narcotically addicted to the black holes of things, gambling, and pleasure. *King Solomon* said, "He that loves pleasure shall be a poor man." Hedonists view life as one big amusement park - eat, drink, and be merry but don't get your hands dirty. In our self-indulgent culture, we want everything **now** but don't want to pay or work for it. There is no saving for a rainy day so have a sense of entitlement. John feared becoming a **retirement dropout** as he saw retirement financially receding from his grasp.

The New American and Canadian dreams are down-sizing not hoarding more money and stuff. A version of Psalm 23: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of debt..." Jesus said, "Beware of greed for our lives do not consist of things we possess." Debt is often caused by materialism so avoid the orgy of consumerism. Money talks! It says, "Goodbye!" Are you infected by consumeritis?

Making a living is like playing golf, driving hard for the green and ending up in the hole. Life is like a coin - spend it any way you wish, but you spend it only once. The way you spend your days is how you spend your life. Common sense tells us that money **in-flow** must be like *Niagara Falls* if the **out-flow** is like the *Niagara River*. This is basic math not rocket science. One way to get a 25% return on money is to pay off credit cards. Hard financial times teach us to live thriftily so our wasteful ways will likely change in this post-materialism era. Let's consume less, and buy what we need to have, not what is nice to have.

Some spend like there is no tomorrow but tomorrow shows up and is followed by financial Armageddon and bankruptcy. Do not waste life by "earning wages then putting it into a bag with holes" (Haggai 1:6). If you are on the ropes financially, you need Jesus in your corner. My dad spoke of stingy people: "You can hold a nickel so close to your eye it blots out the sun." Serial relapsers repeat mistakes and expect different results which is a sure way to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Irresponsible manipulators expect others to follow them and clean up their financial messes so they can repeat the cycle. Some with no debt limit have unlimited debt.

A tidal wave of spending and unsustainable debt leads to a train wreck and assures future

poverty. Has your train left the station? To freeze an account, put credit cards into water in the freezer and the urge to buy will evaporate before they thaw out! Noah let his **stock** float when others went under and the *Roman Empire* fell due to declining moral values and, like lemmings, went over the fiscal cliff.

I left a mall and passed a compulsive shopaholic with **must-have mentality** who needed **retail therapy**:

“There is nothing left to buy; the shelves are empty.” The frumpy fashionista said, “I’ll buy the shelves!”

The Diva had a black belt in shopping and a motto: **Dress to Impress**. Her happiness came across the counter, not from Jesus. People with shopping bulimia buy and then return goods to avoid paying. The best way to increase face value is to smile. Marriage means you wish to share hopes and dreams for the future and not watch your home fall like a house of **credit cards**. If we cannot pay today’s bills today, how can we pay today’s and tomorrow’s bills tomorrow? Living beyond our means will amplify stress and headaches and is like a high-wire act without a net.

A man said, “God never gave me a helping hand” but God gave him one on the end of each arm. If you are age 25 or 50, quit free-loading, get some ambition, and avoid the **sink-hole** of debt. Lenders will give you enough rope so you can hang yourself financially. If I paid for cruise tickets and you did not pick them up, you would not go. Jesus paid the price for our salvation but we must receive his pardon and eternal life to go to heaven. He paid a debt he did not owe; we owed a debt we couldn’t pay.

#9. They stopped living without Jesus, The Rose of Sharon:

Shintoists in Japan have **god shelves** in their homes with statuettes of many gods including Jesus. But Jesus is the only way of salvation not one of many equally good ways so the shelves should be cleared of all except Jesus. Hinduism teaches “All gods are **ONE**.” They liken it unto a wheel where each spoke represents a different religion and all point to the center of the wheel which represents the one true God but Jesus pointed to himself: “I am the way, truth and life. Nobody comes to the Father *in Heaven* but by me” (John 14:6).

We inherited rebellious hearts from Adam and Eve that chase after the forbidden. The lure and love of money, pleasure, fame and false gods can lead to quagmires of degradation. After accepting Christ, we change from within so salvation is an inside job. Old people can also be born again by looking to the One who was lifted up on the cross as Moses lifted up the serpent on a pole (Jn 3:3-16; Num 21:9).

God helps those who help themselves. Just as you help yourself to food at dinner, help yourself to forgiveness of sins and eternal life. You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink. If you are satisfied with the husks of the world and do not thirst after righteousness, you will continue running on empty. Jesus paid it all - all to him I owe - sin left a crimson stain but he washed it white as snow. All we contribute to our salvation is our sin. Jesus spoke from the cross, “**It is finished.**” **Tetelestai** in *Greek* means paid in full (Jn 19:30). Merchants stamped bills of sale with that word after final payment. Jesus did not make partial payment for our sins with more purging required. **True purgatory** is the cross where Jesus **purged** our sins. The Mass is a watered-down version of the cross that will only get you to purgatory, not to Paradise. In the 16th century, *Bishop Tetzel* said, “As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.”

A father went to a bar after a snow storm and soon his young son showed up and said, “Your footprints in the snow led me here.” Some with no moral clarity have modeled for children teaching them **how** to walk but not **where** to walk. Will footprints we leave lead others to believe or down a slippery slope to a Christ-less eternity? Others had the best role-models at

home but ended in a downward spiral after making wrong choices and conforming to shifting **situation ethics** of worldly stereotypes that flounder in the swamps of the rising tide of secularism. Some return to the narrow way later in life so patience is needed. There are **visible** sins such as drunkenness and **invisible** deadly sins such as pride.

I talked to a confused man who didn't know what to believe. One neighbour talked Christianity by the mile but lived it by the inch. Meanwhile, the deeds of **Mr. Right** were in step with his creeds. He complained about the hypocrite and wanted nothing to do with God because of him. Why do we overlook positive role models, concentrate on poor ones, and continue life in free-fall without God? Don't expect too much from a recently saved Christian just as a two year-old does not go to university. He needs spiritual training wheels. Others have beer in the fridge and take their children into liquor stores but never to Sunday school. Remember, you are raising adults not children. We say boys will be boys but they will be men. They see thousands of TV ads by first grade and are spoiled at an early age in the orgy of the instant gratification of our **affluenza** epidemic. *In Disneyland*, the world's entertainment capital, we ate breakfast with *Donald Duck* and *Goofy*. Nearby an over-stimulated child bawled and said, "I am bored." A man said, "My kids think I am a bank machine!"

In this **Stoned Age** the generation gap is between the ears of both young and old. Some rebel against good while others **rebel against evil** so stand for Christ or fall for anything. In the Bible, Daniel rebelled and was determined to not defile himself by either drinking the King's wine or bowing to his images. He prayed when prayer was banned and was thrown into a den but God closed the lion's mouth.

All schools are open for prayer so pray silently and God will hear. To get ahead in life use the head on your shoulders, rebel against negative peer pressure and serve Jesus. Drug-binged, methed-up people with no moral compass are destined for a grim life but God gives power to reboot your life and restore lost years. Even with a bad start you can have a good finish. *President Obama* said, "Don't let failures define you but let them teach you to try harder. A sign at a local high school reads: **Nothing without Effort!** Close minded academics with heads in the sand of intellectualism suffer from an information overload and a famine of truth. *President Roosevelt* said, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." Let's not criticize the Bible but rather let it critique us. The *Big Bang Theory* suggests there is a **Banger** so it leaves the door open for a Creator God. Scientists recently tried to simulate the *Big Bang* and discovered the "*God Particle*." My 12 year old grandson, *Corbin*, said, "A big bang creates only **noise** not living things!" Bodies function only when all parts are working but Darwin's cosmogenic myth says we evolved one organ at a time over millions of years. We no longer swung from trees with our tails so they wasted away leaving just a tail-bone!

Transitional forms and missing links are missing so we have no proof of evolution from one species to another. How can there be creation without a creator or design in the universe without an intelligent designer? Only God can create life. Romans 1, 2 & 3 reveal that God gave us the inner witness of **conscience**, external witnesses of **creation** and **scripture**, and then came in human flesh - **Christ**. There is sufficient light but some prefer darkness (John 3). There are no atheists in fox-holes but plenty in universities.

Students conduct experiments and reach a conclusion but with spiritual things they make the conclusion first by saying, "There is no God" and dismiss all the evidence in true science and nature (Rom 1:20). Abortion shows America has lost her conscience. *Huckabee*, a *Republican*, said, "The *Supreme Court* is not *The Supreme Being*."

A pilot sighted a U.F.O. while flying over Canadian mountains. It was confirmed by his co-pilot, the **Sasquatch**. Some say Noah's boat is a myth but they have mythed the boat. *Tech-savvy* Internet addicts need balance in their lives. Logging-on to school work does not give instant success but role-playing and conquering someone in a video game gives satisfaction with little effort. The path of least resistance is downhill but hard work was the formula for success in the past and it has not changed. Hedonist's brains are wired for pleasure only but the world is not

just a big amusement park.

Why burn rubber in the fast lane if you travel the wrong way? Jesus is the Way and the Truth so truth is a Person (Jn 14:6). Do you look for truth in all the wrong places? People with no boundaries or discipline at home have difficulty later adjusting to a workplace with a boss and to any code of decency. Get **on-line** with Jesus!

X-rated parents, with no sense of right and wrong, live the low life using below-the-belt humour and reach altered states of consciousness from alcohol and then laugh, self destruct, and glory in their shame. "In laughter their hearts are heavy and sorrowful" (Proverbs 14). "We expect better from you, things that accompany salvation" (Heb 6). "She that lives in pleasure is dead while she lives" (1 Tim 5:6; Luke 15:11-24). Unbelievers are diamonds in the rough.

In the midst of moral decay, corrosive influences and compromise, take the high road in thought, word and deed. One who does not obey the Word of God can be won to Christ "**without the Word**" by examples of others (1 Pet 3). Actions speak loudly so do not force-feed with scripture but preach all the time using words only when necessary.

The strength in a teabag is brought out with hot water and our inner strength should show up in difficult situations. Jesus, the *Master Potter*, desires to fashion us into vessels he can use. Junk fast-food clogs arteries and no spiritual food hardens hearts. People respond in different ways to the gospel just as the same sun that melts butter hardens clay. For most, the first step to finding Christ is the church step.

Videos that glorify murder, drugs, and guns in our permissive culture of death cause a **desensitized conscience**, no work ethic, lower IQ, and plummeting grades in school so think outside the x-box. *Abraham Lincoln* said, "I will prepare myself and some day my opportunity will come." A four-letter word vocabulary shows mouths are like open sewers flowing from an unclean heart. *Big Brother* watches us but *Big Father* in heaven sees us even behind closed doors. Sowing wild oats can be temporary fun but unintended consequences follow like night follows day so shed tears later. Goalposts were moved so we are in a moral vacuum and God is replaced by guns in classrooms.

"There are so many belief systems around today so which church saves?" inquired John. "I am Protestant and my friend is Catholic while others are Mormons and atheists so who is right?" Christian answered, "No church or cult in the world can claim to be the only way. The church, Bible, and Christians are **way-showers** pointing exclusively to Jesus." Mormons say **Jesus is a brother of the Devil** and atheists say everything came from nothing and life came from non-life. Their theories are based on blind faith but biblical faith is based on evidences: archaeological artifacts, manuscripts, fulfilled prophecy, history, an empty tomb, hundreds of eye-witnesses and millions of changed lives including mine. I know there is hope for Atheists for I once told my Dad, "There is no God." He replied, "You can't be like that!" *April Fools Day* reflects atheism: "A fool says in his heart there is no God" (Ps 14:1). Luke 12 tells of a rich fool.

We have a **referral ministry** referring people to Jesus who alone can forgive sins. Forgiveness is possible by praying to a priest if we have the **One and only** true Priest, **Jesus Christ our Great High Priest** (Heb. 4:14; 7:24, 25).

There are two kinds of Christians: **Institutional** Christians join some institution, Protestant or Catholic, take on a label and presto...instant Christian? King Agrippa was an "**almost**" Christian (Acts 26:28). True Christians have a relationship with Christ as Saviour. They often say, "I have Jesus in my heart." If you went alone on a trip you might say to your husband or wife, "I have you in my heart." It expresses your relationship. You can recognize a true Christian by the way he walks, talks, and smells: "They are the **aroma**, the fragrance of Christ in every place" (2 Cor 2:14).

I met a man in *Dallas, Texas*, who worked as a pastor for 50 years. He said his newly born kittens were **Methodist** but eight days later they became **Baptist** after their eyes opened. Baptizing an unbeliever changes him from a dry sinner into a wet sinner so he must confess Christ as saviour before baptism (Acts 2:38; 8:26-38). Baptism is something **we** do but salvation is based on what Jesus **has done** for us.

A golf ball landed on an ant hill. The next swing missed the ball but killed thousands of ants. One ant said to the others, "We better get on the ball or we'll all be dead." If your life is a mess, running on empty and need a faith lift, download your sins on Jesus. God is High-Tech and will high-light and delete them on his heavenly computer. The death rate is one per person so today is the day of salvation. Missionaries are not made by crossing the sea but by seeing the cross. All churches have one thing in common, none can save from sin, only Jesus saves (Mt. 1:21). A bulb has no light of its own unless it is plugged in. Get plugged into God and he will give you an appetite for what is right.

"May I introduce you to this friend of mine?"

Who hangs out the stars and tells the sun when to shine

He kisses the flowers every morning with dew

And is not too busy to care about you."

A Journey to the Unknown:

I was born in Rose Valley, Saskatchewan during the 1930s depression before Hitler, World War II and the bomb.

I attended a one-room country school with one teacher and 50 students grades 1-9. At Christmas time in the 1940s, the teacher, Mr. Tymko, asked us to make lists of things we wanted from Santa. We handed them to the teacher who walked to the back of the room, threw them into the wood stove, and said, "Now Santa will get the smoke signals!" I have come a long way, from smoke signals to the Internet which was a "giant leap" for me!

I worked for a Christian salesman, *H.R Gordon* from *Melfort, Saskatchewan*, one summer. We travelled around the province and I went with him to various churches on Sunday. Just before the season ended, on my way back home, he stopped at a church in *Star City*. We arrived late and the preacher was in the middle of his sermon. He gave an altar call saying: "If there is someone here who would like to accept Jesus as your saviour and have your sins forgiven, raise your hand." I was shy and in total spiritual darkness so I didn't raise my hand but God raised it up. After I arrived home I felt different on the inside. You can do the same for Jesus is just a prayer away. God led me in mysterious ways so years later I became a preacher. If it wasn't for God on my side, I would be drifting like a ship without a sail. God's mercy rewrote my life. Thank you Jesus!

The rallying post-war cry: "**Go north and make your pile.**" As a teenager with no money, I rode a coal-burning steam freight train 400 miles north in winter but was not sure where I would end up. At sunrise, the train stopped and the engineer stood on the side of the locomotive and waved, telling me to come forward. I sat in the locomotive the rest of the way to *Flin Flon, Manitoba*, as the fireman shovelled coal into the engine. When I arrived, I was totally black from coal dust and later became a diamond driller in mosquito-infested swamps and underground mines. We lived in tents in 40 below zero with wolves and fires for seven years.

In the 1960s, the call changed: "**Go west, young man. Go west!**" I worked as a communications technician after training in Toronto and later attended *Bible College* for three years studying Greek, Theology, journalism etc. I then preached in churches, worked in counter-cult ministry for years and smuggled Bibles into Russia on ships while working as a sweat drenched longshoreman in Vancouver. You cannot lead a horse that is standing still and it is hard for God to lead us if we are not moving, just sitting.

Here is the Good News, Gospel:

The way of salvation is not rocket science but a **Down-to-Earth-Message** of Jesus coming down to Earth from Heaven to save us from our sins (Jn 6:33; 1 Cor 15:1-4). A man stepped

on an ant hill destroying it and killing thousands of ants. He felt sorry but was unable to help unless he became an ant. God saw mankind had virtually destroyed his world so he clothed himself in flesh, Jesus, **Emmanuel, The God with us** (Mt 1:23 Greek). An astronaut said, "It is more important that God walked on earth than man walking on the moon." Jesus is God manifest in flesh (John 1:1, 14; Col 2:9).

God is just, so our **death penalty** for sin had to be paid by us in hell or by Jesus our substitute. Salvation removes the **sin barrier** between us and God. If I were guilty and sentenced to hang but someone loved me and volunteered to hang in my place to take my punishment, I could go free. Jesus, our substitute, was innocent but hung on the old rugged cross and arose from the dead. His death was your death. The blood of Jesus not waters of baptism cleanses sin. Baptism is a **figure**, a picture of the death and resurrection of Jesus (1 Pet. 3:21). Going under the water tells of his death and burial, and rising up pictures resurrection. The *Old Testament* is like the bud and the *New Testament* is like the flower as it shows God's unfolding plan of salvation.

Every generation thinks they are the terminal generation with the cycles of war and peace. If we had no problems, we would not know that God could solve them. In our frustrations, at times it is hard to find solutions. Try a little kindness! Perhaps our eyes are too dry. Vice President, *Joe Biden*, said, "The cross of steel found in 9/11 rubble is the spine of this country." There is no merit in the cross or in the wafer and wine at the Mass but are symbolic **reminders** of Jesus dying for our sins and rising again (1 Cor. 11:24).

Traditional religion often gets a thumbs-down but what about "**Bible Religion**?" "Pure, undefiled religion is to control your tongue, visit people in their affliction, and keep yourself unspotted from the world" (James 1:26, 27). God sees us as righteous when our sins are forgiven by Jesus who has power on earth to forgive sins (Mk 2:10). Only God can forgive sins so this shows that Jesus is God manifest in flesh with power on earth to forgive sins (Jn. 1:14; Mark 2:10).

Jesus paid a debt he did not owe for we owed a debt we could not pay. **Said faith** is lip service but **genuine faith** produces good works (James 2:14-18). Be yourself for God anoints each one differently for specific tasks. God gives love, joy, peace, patience and other fruit that grows by watering with God's word as we mature spiritually. It takes years to grow an oak tree so be patient for bad behavior patterns die hard. Do your best and God will do the rest.

Salvation is **The Divine Exchange** since we trade our sin for salvation. **Grace** means we get the opposite of what we deserve. God does not judge Christians for their sins for justice was served when Jesus died once for **all** and was judged in their place. Our sin is charged to his account and his gift of righteousness is credited to ours. **The Judgment Seat of Christ** is called "the *Bema Seat*" in *Greek*. Here the rewards are handed out for our service on earth (Rom 14:10). In ancient Olympic Games, rewards to winners were handed out at the *Bema Seat*. In like manner, those who run the Christian race, fight a good fight, finish the course and keep the faith shall receive rewards when they are called to give an account of their lives.

Some claim to believe in Jesus but theirs is simply the *historical Jesus* who once walked on the earth. Imagine you were sick and had pills that you **believed** would make you well but you would not **receive** them into your body. Those pills are of no value. "As many as **received** him to them he gave power to become the children of God even to them who believe in his name" (*John 1:12*). "Even demons believe and tremble" but they do not turn from their wicked ways (James 2:19). Pray: Jesus, I believe and receive you now as my saviour. Forgive my sins.

Adam and Eve sinned in Eden and then covered themselves with fig leaves as they hid from God. Fig leaves are symbolic of human effort to cover sin but Jesus cursed the fig tree. Mormons use them in temple rituals. A post-dated cheque covers a debt until money is in the bank. Similarly, blood of animals covered sins until Jesus paid it all at Calvary. Imagine walking in a flower garden trying to explain the beauty to a blind person. Artificial flowers look good but they have no life. Those with spiritual cataracts and **no spiritual pulse** are mentally blinded by sin and spiritually dead, "disconnected from the life of God" (Eph 4:18). Preaching the **good news** of Christ includes **bad news** that we are sinners. Election means both God and the devil **vote** for you but you must cast the deciding vote for the one you wish to serve. Christ is the **Elect One** so

all **In Christ** not **in Adam** are elect (1 Pet 2:6). Misguided teachers say the non-elect are doomed from the **womb** to the **tomb** but salvation is for “**Whosoever will**” (John 3:16). Some say we fall **overboard** on the good ship *Grace* and lose our salvation when we sin while others believe we fall **on board** and are eternally secure for we can’t be born again and again.

Eternal spiritual life does not start when we die but when we believe and receive the **One** who died for us (Jn.1:12). The thief on the cross went to paradise with zero good works for salvation is a gift not of works (Lk 23-39-43; Eph 2:8-10; 1 Co 3:12-15). All sins are not equal since murder has more serious consequences than a murderous thought. Jesus said, “Do unto others as you want them to do unto you” (Mt 7:12). **Working out** salvation that was not **worked in** first is like working water out of a dry sponge (Phil. 2:12, 13). Christians are not **sinless** but they sin **less** and **less** as they mature spiritually. In the *Welch* revival (1904), bars went bankrupt after lifestyles changed. Foul mouth drivers drove horses that pulled coal cars in mines. Many drivers no longer cursed so horses did not understand causing a lack of coal production. Jesus saves from gutter-most to the uttermost.

In 1747, *John Newton* was shipwrecked while transporting slaves but was miraculously saved and wrote: “**Amazing Grace** how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.” Wise men still seek Him! Hang out with God!

Sin is an inner response to outward temptation. Some can resist anything except temptation. Are you looking for truth? In the midst of competing claims, remember, absolute truth is a Person - Jesus. **He pointed to Himself**, “I am the **way, truth and life**” not one of many equally good ways with Buddha, Mohammed and good works (John 14:6). We need a **B.A.** degree, **Born Again**, to enter heaven (John 3).

The church and Bible are **way-showers** but Jesus is **The Way**. A road sign is not the way but it points to the way. We send ourselves to hell by ignoring God’s warnings. There are degrees of reward in heaven and degrees of punishment in hell (Luke 10:13, 14; 12:47, 48). **Repent** means to change your mind (*metanoia* in Greek). Come to God on his terms agreeing we are lost sinners and make a U-turn on the road of life. Our virus of sin was inherited from Adam and Eve, the first sinners. Greed, lust, unbelief, pride, hate, sloth, selfishness, and hypocrisy are symptoms of the disease called sin. Jesus stands at the door and knocks (Rev. 3:20). How will you respond? After accepting Christ, he starts a life-long project of cleaning us up from the inside out, like sweeping out the rooms of a house. The kingdom of God is for those who are **saved** from their sins so “**the good news that saves**” is that Christ died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor 15:1-4).

Misplaced faith means you place your faith in the wrong thing or person so you believe in vain (1Cor 15:1-4). If you are prone to anxiety, you cannot eat, drink, entertain, renovate, travel or shop yourself into satisfaction. Only Jesus can fill the God-shaped vacuum in our lives. It is such an exercise in futility to go through life with a **dead spirit**, cut off from the life of God through unbelief. Greek has two words for life: **Zoe** is spiritual life and **Bios** refers to biological, natural, life. Abraham Lincoln spoke of having many years in your life with no life in your years. Only Jesus gives life. Believers in Jesus as saviour have passed from death to life, born again (Jn. 5:23, 24). A sign in a *Thrift Store* reads: *It Must be Worn Again!*

A sad young boy lost his dog and asked *Pope Francis* if he would see it in heaven. The Pope assured him that “there is a doggie door in heaven.” People also have a Door in heaven: Jesus said, “I am the Door, if any enter through me, he will be saved” (John 10:9). Perhaps you are a good person but more than goodness is needed. You need Jesus.

When Jesus was born, the city of Nazareth was crowded with people paying taxes so there was no room in the Inn for Jesus. Not much has changed for today there is more interest in taxation than salvation. There is no need to go 350 million miles and drill into a comet to find the origins of the universe. Just go to Genesis chapter one in the Bible.

I said to *Hell’s Angel*: “Heaven is better than hell!” He answered: “I have made my choice.” Jesus is crossing your path today. How will you respond? The death-rate now is **one-per-person**. Pray: Jesus, I am part of the problem. Forgive my sins, Amen.

10. They stopped listening to cults:

THE SWAMP OF ALIGATORS!

In New York City, Wayne left **Ground Zero**, boarded a train at *Grand Central Station*, and headed to **Times Square**. Yellow Taxis were everywhere as multi-taskers rushed to maintain the rat race. A headline told of a decrease in city crime. *Mayor Lindsay* spoke to gang leaders, drug pushers, and others on streets so they asked him, “Does your presence have anything to do with less crime?”

He replied, “We need **visible government**. It is not enough to be caged in my office with no contact with the real world.” **Secret agents** should blow their cover with **visible Christianity**. Does anyone in your work place know you are saved? If we were arrested as Christians would there be evidence to convict us? You are the only beacon of hope that many will ever see so represent Jesus as best you can. We do not stumble along behind Jesus as we follow him for we are his temple and he rules from within us by his spirit.

Babe Ruth hit hundreds of home runs but in spite of many strike-outs, continued to step up to the plate. Our resolve should be the same so do not settle for defeat. The Christian race in the beginning looks like a **sprint**, then a **Marathon** and later it is like a **relay** as we pass the torch. Jesus showed up for us at Calvary so let’s show up for him. God’s agents are disguised as mothers looking after children, students, office workers, farmers, soldiers, teachers, nurses, laborers and others. Let’s get the salt out of the salt-shaker, leave the role of disgruntled spectator, go forth weeping, and put the **Go** in the **Gospel**. One with God is a majority. We know we can’t do everything but we can do something. Are you under attack or on the attack? In such a time as this, light a candle rather than curse the darkness. Activist, *Rosa Parks* (1955), took a **stand** by **sitting** and refused to give up her bus seat for a white person.

If you have gospel inflow but no outflow to the world, you will stagnate and become like *The Dead Sea*. We will not grow spiritually unless we exercise our faith in some ministry. You are not a failure as long as you keep trying. Each person has different **abilities** so to find the will of God, we must determine our own spiritual gifts: teaching, preaching, helping, giving, **encouraging** or working miracles (1 Cor. 12:28-30 & Rom. 12). We are God’s work in progress. Do not be a burden but try to lift burdens of others. Christless religion tells you what to do but gives no power to do it but the gospel of Christ gives that power (Rom 1:16, Acts 1:8).

“I like big dogs, especially *Newfoundlanders*,” said a man as a big dog looked out of his car window. “But there is one problem with them. You have to keep them on a leash at the beach for they are good swimmers used in search and rescue and want to go into the water and save everyone.”

I answered, “That is my passion but the devil wants to keep me on a leash preoccupied with temporal things.” **Imitation** is one of Satan’s main weapons to deceive us. You might see a person with a Bible and a name tag: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mormon, but in talking to him you discover his false Jesus is a brother of the Devil.

Few find the narrow way because laborers are few but God can save by many or by the few that march to the sound of a different drummer (1 Sam 14:6). Witches and others become violent when their *Kingdom of Darkness* is threatened by the light of Jesus so put on the whole armour of God and tune up your baloney detector to separate truth from error. “Far-fetched cult fantasies are the skin of truth stuffed with lies,” says *Hank of C.R.I.* Quoting isolated verses is like analyzing a great symphony by a single note so interpret all in the wider context of the whole Bible. Jesus, speaking to an old man, summed up the central theme of the Bible in one verse, John 3:16.

No Christian today or in the Bible was ever demon-possessed for God does not share his temple with demons. False teachers speak of believers with curses but Jesus, **the only Bondage Breaker**, broke them all on the cross becoming a curse for us (Gal 3:13). The Gospel **reverses** all **curses**. Demon spirits cannot cast shadows since they are invisible fallen angels with no power

to create physical form. Put a frog in boiling water and it will jump out but if you place it in cold water and gradually turn up the heat it will boil to death. Cultists, in their **Post-Truth** environment, slowly boil your conscience and cobweb you with lies as inmates run the asylum.

A NUDE-IN

The counter-cult crusade took me to *Simon Fraser University* in Burnaby, BC. A large crowd sat in the sun near a pool so I preached with a portable loud speaker. They were about to have a **Nude-In** with one student undressing and wading into the pool followed by all others. This parade of uncool nonsense was expected to spread across the country. Later, the student paper read: **Nude-In turned into a Preach-In**. Science students tried to determine what made me tick so they put electrodes on me and took readings.

FOOL'S GOLD

A prospector walked through Alaskan wilderness in search of gold. Suddenly he had a **Eureka** moment thinking he had discovered the mother lode. As dollar signs flashed before his eyes, he scooped up the bonanza, put it on his mule, and brought it to a bank but discovered it was fool's gold - iron pyrite. Which came first - the real \$100 bill or the counterfeit? Christianity began in the *Garden of Eden* and all fakes came later. Muhammad came 600 years after Jesus. Toxic cultic belief systems with a tsunami of lies are just band-aids for the disease called sin.

Blind leaders speak of lost *Gnostic* books such as the **Gospel of Thomas** that says a woman must become man to enter heaven. This flies in the face of scripture that teaches gender equality (Gal 3:28). National Israel and gentiles need a **heart circumcision** to become **true Israel** based on spirituality not nationality (Rom 2:28-29; Rev 3:9). Many gentiles "became Jews" by believing in the God of Israel (Esther 8:17). All need a heart change not a sex change. The supreme race in the Bible is the human race (Acts 10:34). Abraham was "the father of many nations" (Gn. 17). Rahab, the Canaanite harlot, is a hero of faith (Heb. 11). Many are deceived by wolves in sheep's clothing such as Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, fakes on TV, and other chronic liars who destroy families.

Christians are **Christ's Witnesses** (Acts 1:8). *Oprah*, a New Age pluralist, says Jesus is not the only way of salvation. Spiritual cataracts keep cultists from seeing Jesus, **The True Light** (Jn 1:9). Fleshly lusts go after strange flesh and **lusts of the mind** attract false teachings (Eph. 2:3). The rational, reprobate mind goes in reverse so right is wrong and wrong is right (Rom 1: 19-28). "If your light is darkness how great is that darkness" (Mt 6:23). Satan blinds minds to obscure the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4). Most use the name, Jesus, but some say Yashua etc. But the important thing is the meaning we pour into that name. If a cultist's lips move, you know he is lying.

Judging the Prophets

Do not judge self-righteously or by hypocritically observing a speck in another's eye with a beam in yours (Mt 7). "Judge by the right standard not by appearance" (Jn 7). We cannot judge people's hearts or motives because we don't know the whole story but we can judge their teachings and prophecies by comparing them with the Bible (1 Co 14:29). The Bible, *sola Scriptura*, is our authority, not the church.

The Bereans judged Paul's words in light of what God already said for he does not contradict himself (Acts 17:11). Prophets and disciples repeatedly warned of deceivers (Jer 29; 1 Tim 1:20). God no longer speaks by prophets but by Jesus (Heb. 1:1, 2; Lk 24:19). True prophets today repeat what Old Testament prophets, apostles and Jesus said and their words are scripture. They foretold what would happen until the end of time so there is no progressive revelation (Rev. 22:19). Cults speak of "new light" which is just new imaginations totally unhinged from the truth of scripture. New Apostolic Movements are false apostles (2 Cor. 11:13, 14). Prophecies that do not come to pass are false (Deut 13 & 18). They tried to pin the tail on the Anti-Christ but failed 100% of the time. Their predictions are like first shooting an arrow into a tree and then painting a

bull's-eye around it! *Jack Van Impe's New Light* arrow points to world's end in 2012 based on genealogies and the pagan *Mayan* calendar. He uses newspaper and opinion theology so, like misguided **Y2K** prophets with Bible codes, his stars fail to align as he overdoses on speculation. He expects a gravity reversal so everything will be sucked up. They look for a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem but it is already fulfilled and rebuilt (John 2:19-21; Rev 21:22; Acts 7:48). "If they don't speak according to scripture, they have no light" (Isaiah 8:20). The Emergent church is a cult.

The true prophet, Jesus, predicted **temple destruction** and tribulation in his **generation** (Mt.24:1-34). It came to pass 40 years later, in A.D.70 when the Romans under *General Titus* destroyed the temple. He also predicted his own death and resurrection (Jn 2:19-21; Mt 16:21).

Moses, David, and Paul were murderers so there is hope for us. God the Father and Jesus have **negative emotions** too and can bring judgment on sin as seen in the flood and the existence of hell. Jesus drove money changers out of the temple with a whip. God's temples, Christians, should unclutter their lives of false teachings and trivial pursuits that are of little value and consume their attention.

The cross is the greatest demonstration of God's love (John 3:16). Christians are washed in the blood of Jesus. We don't have a basin of blood but it is symbolic of his death for us. Salvation is an inside job so just dealing with external symptoms is not the answer. The Bible tells when Jesus will return: When you don't expect him, "like a thief in the night" so always be ready (2 Pet. 3:10).

Cracking the Cult Code

Hitler's U-boats caused chaos with our ships in the North Atlantic during the war but the tide turned after the Allies cracked their communication code. The cult kingdom is an ethics-free zone where each chronic liar is a law unto himself. They use Christian words but pour their meanings into them to mimic the real thing so scale the language barrier. It might sound like we are on the same page but are light years apart. They traffic in demons so truth is their first casualty. Following delusional cultists is like getting directions from shooting stars not the *North Star*. They show contempt for anything biblical. The blind lead the blind as they twist scripture like pretzels and argue from imagination. Constant brainwashing in meetings and by literature, cyanide in print, creates a mindset like concrete, all mixed up and firmly set, so they want us to roll over and play dead. We see the spiritually dead all along the broad road as we navigate the cult minefield on a mission to rescue the perishing.

Many are mesmerized by murky conspiracy theories of U.F.O. cover-ups, astrology, *Illuminati* one world government, and other tidal waves of nonsense. The cult subculture is a *Mecca* of mind control. They say, "*Armageddon* is just around the corner." Four letters of **Devil** spell evil, so **evil** began with him and is a present reality with us in the world, flesh, and devil. When cultists claim to believe in God and Jesus, ask, "Which God or Jesus do you believe in?" Jesus, to a Mormon, is the **Devil's brother** with many wives. Their gods are exalted men of flesh and bones. Witches say Jesus is a medium in the sixth sphere of astral projection or an avatar, a teacher. In Masonry any higher power will do. *Unitarians* stress reason and conscience and dismiss Jesus as a fantasy. The *Christian Science* false Jesus is a *Divine Idea*. The devil quoted Psalm 91:11, 12 to Jesus in Matthew 4:6 so do not be surprised when these fact-free wolves in sheep's clothing refer to the Bible.

False prophets set dates by taking symbolic numbers such as 1,000 and putting a literal meaning on them. Example: Revelation 20 is symbolic telling of binding Satan with a chain for 1,000 years. Satan is a fallen angel with no physical form so the chain is symbolic. "God owns the cattle on 1,000 hills" simply means he owns everything. 1,000 hills is a very small area so God would not own much.

LIKE WELL OILED WEATHER VANES!

In a Presidential debate, a would-be President said that Mormon, *Romney* "is like a **well-oiled weather vane**" after flip-flopping on many issues. Chameleons of religion adapt to

doctrinal changes from Bible perversions and blind leaders. Truth becomes truer and truer? Black people could not hold the Mormon priesthood for over 100 years but they changed that rule in the 1970s. Deceivers twist scripture as **winds of false doctrine** toss them to and fro (Eph. 4:14).

Cult proliferation, spiritual leprosy, has reached critical mass and are like Trojan horses bringing heresies into homes and churches. Evangelize the world but don't let it evangelize you. Boats work well in water as long as water does not get in the boat. Bad apples masquerade as oranges. When cult masks slip, **hell fire** pours from their tongues (James 3:6).

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS CULT

BARBARIANS AT YOUR DOOR (Cult Smack-down)

Hundreds of regimented Jehovah's Witnesses held magazines on Greater Vancouver streets. Early one morning, Wayne walked from the College to a bus stop and went into this shark tank with a tape recorder and a cross after hundreds of hours of prayer in the *Western Bible College* chapel. The song, *The Old Rugged Cross*, echoed from tall buildings and then the wheels fell off the Watchtower chariot. A dozen slaves ran down a street. One lady, pale as death, stopped and leaned against a wall as if frozen in time. A man stood trembling with his **Watchtower** magazines as tears rolled down his cheeks hitting the sidewalk due to conviction from all the prayer. He said, "You will never move Jehovah's Witnesses." I replied, "You are right. I will never move you but God will!" It was a repeat of 2nd Kings 7:5-7 as **The Jesus Empire** strikes back!

As a Salvation Army band marched past, one Witness said to the other, "The devil is out in full force today." A woman in Langley blushed and commanded: "**Drop Dead Satan!**" but I did not obey. As I stood with a cross, a *Full Patch Witness* came and stood beside me with his magazines and then yelled to someone across the street: "I will stand beside the garbage can for I can stand the smell!" He had overdosed on Watchtower lies. They attend five meetings a week because "they are leaky vessels" that must be refilled but God never made things that leak.

Watchtower Roulette: Turbo-charged slaves, with a domino effect and herd instinct, ran in suicidal fashion like greased lightning and burned rubber going through red lights. A Goliath with pit bull fury went volcanic after his mask slipped, and with a clenched fist said, "You are my #1 enemy. I will smash you right in the face." I replied, "Jesus said to turn the other cheek not smash the face." He self destructed and was not seen again. Another said, "I can curse all I want to it is none of your business." A man dropped his magazines and said, "I used to be a boxer and could lay you out cold." A slave trembled uncontrollably at a Bible study and said, "I can't help it. The devil is so close." (See Acts 24:25).

I stood with the cross as a Watchtower slave with shark mentality came and parked and then yelled to another: "Should I drive over him?" Rabid, hard-core, glassy-eyed, demon possessed slaves often demonstrate their brass-knuckle religion. I took it on the chin with a fist through my open car window! In Langley, about a dozen encircled me and said, "You are outnumbered!" Truly, in this **Hail-Mary** move, the only thing missing was *Barnum & Bailey* music. "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against him" (Isa 59:19).

Christians are **Christ's Witnesses** (Acts 1:8). People were beheaded "for the **witness of Jesus**" not Jehovah (Rev 20:4). Only the name "**JESUS**" can save from sin (Acts 4:10-12). In *New York*, I noticed that they study from mind-numbing bound volumes of past Watchtower magazines in their *Bible School* to keep stupefied "**organization minded**" slaves on the cult treadmill. They are pacifists but call men with guns, police. The disciples carried swords (Lk. 22:36-38; Mk 14:48). Killing by us or police to protect the innocent is not murder with no penalty in law (Rom. 13:1-4). All killing is not murder.

I tied a **CHRIST'S WITNESS** banner near a Kingdom Hall north of *Honolulu, Hawaii*. Hard-core heavies came for a showdown and said, "Leave in five minutes or I will call the Jesus Cops! That sidewalk is our private property." Police said that it was public property. *Kingdom*

Halls are a pedophile paradise. They spent millions in the courts defending known sex offenders: silentlambs.org

This **Doomsday Cult** cried wolf, flipped coins, read tea leaves, rolled dice, and set seven dates for world's end but nothing happened. Their founder, *Russell*, measured Egyptian pyramids and then changed inches to years to confirm world's end in 1914. Nothing happened so he later added 41 inches and 41 years. He sold "**Miracle Wheat**" saying it would produce a better crop but it was a hoax. In his spiritual malpractice, he said, "If you study just the Bible you will be in darkness after two years but if you also study my books you will be in the light." The Gong Show continues! **Cultists live out their ultimate nightmare.**

Their next President, *Rutherford*, did not believe in pyramids. He built a mansion in *San Diego* for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who would rise from the dead and rule the Kingdom on earth in 1925. They did not show up so Rutherford lived there. He said the great multitude of Rev. 7 is a spiritual class (Vindication 111, 204) but 50 years later they changed it to an "**earthly class.**" That is an example of their **New Light** which is new darkness so all they now believe will soon be changed. Speaking of clergy, he said, "Hate with pure hatred." *Reader's Digest* stated: "Jehovah's Witnesses make hate a religion" (June 1940). Their hate-wave continues as they prove things from a false Bible. Regarding *Christmas* they said: "It is not necessary for us to quibble about the date. We may as well join the civilized world in celebrating the grand event on the day which the majority celebrate" (Watchtower Dec. 1, 1904). Their new light extinguishes old light so Christmas is now "a pagan celebration."

This **non-prophet** organization made its own noose and is so far off-course you can't get a radar-fix on it. They should join *Kingdomhallics Anonymous*. 335,000 left the cult when the end did not come in 1975 (*Time*, July/77). Christadelphians are carbon copies of Jehovah's Witnesses.

These sadistic psychopathic **serial killers** used the flawed **Diaglott Bible** for decades to prove that "**Jesus is a god like the devil is a god**" (John 1:1). Their false Jesus and the devil are on the same level. Later, in their spin-room, they repackaged the *Diaglott*, transferred all its errors to their **Satanic Bible**, and then renamed it *The New World Translation*, also known as *The New World Perversion*. These **Isis** types make human sacrifices by not allowing blood transfusions. Bible texts about eating blood refer to blood of animals sacrificed to idols not human blood. They hide their grotesque atrocities under the guise of religion. A Witness pointed to a **white wall** and said, "If the *Watchtower* said that **wall is black**, I would agree." That shows their chronic cognitive decline. Many use their motor-mouths to showcase their ignorance as their horror show continues.

With sleight of hand like magicians they added "**other**" five times in Phil. 2:9; Col. 1:16-20 also "**a**" god John 1:1, and "*corresponding*" in 1Timothy 2:6 to bring Jesus down to the human level of Adam. The Father called Jesus "**God**" in Hebrews 1:8 but they twisted it to say, "The throne is God" (See Psalm 45:6). God's name is **I AM** forever (Ex. 3:13-15). The **J.W. Aid Book** says that a Catholic Monk made up the name Jehovah 700 years ago by adding vowels to the consonants, JHVH. Satan is called "the god of this world" but Christians are **not of this world** and are hated for the name, **Jesus** (Jn 17; Mat. 24:9).

The disciples preached "**Jesus Christ**" in every house (Acts 5:42). This cult says, "Christ did not rise from the dead. His body turned into gases" but Jesus prophesied he would raise his own body (John 2:19-21). **Spirituality** is at a higher level than intellectual knowledge (Eph. 3:19). Their phoney salvation is human reason and false information with no transformation in their lives. Dumbed-down crotchety Watchtower slaves, with **invisible shackles and fear**, march in lock-step with slave drivers. Paul, a terrorist, was the most educated in religion but was spiritually dead. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and **lean not** on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5, 6). Spiritual things are foolishness to the natural man (1 Cor 2:14).

Their false Christ is **Michael the Archangel** not God in flesh as in Christianity (John 1:1, 14). It is idolatry to bow to a created being, an angel. God never did call an angel his Son (Heb 1:4, 5; 2:16). They read error into 1 Thess. 4:16 that tells of Jesus descending from heaven "**with the**

voice of the Archangel” and say Jesus is that Archangel. The Bible is clear that “Jesus comes **with his mighty angels.**” He is not one of them as the *Watchtower* claims (2 Thes 1:7, 8). Jesus is the **one and only** begotten Son of God but *Michael the Archangel* is just “one of the chief princes” (Dan. 10:13). It is a total **mistake in identity** to say Jesus is a created angel.

Jesus has **ALL** power in heaven and earth and every knee, including yours, must **bow to him** (Mt 28:18; Phil 2:10). “How much power is **ALL** power?” A J.W. answered, “It means **some** power.” Beware of “**a different Jesus**” (2 Cor 11:3, 4). **Firstborn** refers to position not birth order. King David, the last-born son of Jesse, is called firstborn (Psalm 89:27). All humans are **one** in nature, human nature, and Father and Son are **one** in divine nature. Humans have intellect, emotions and will but God did not give us divine attributes of all power, all knowledge, and the ability to be in all places at the same time. If you have the real Jesus, God in flesh, **you have the Father also** (2 John 7-13). They are two separate persons since one loves the other and prays to the other. No human is a Creator with divine nature. Jesus is the fullness of God in bodily form (Col. 2:9; Phil 2:6, 7). Jesus as *The Son of God* refers to his divine nature and *Son of Man* refers to his human nature.

Death does not always mean a heart stopped for we can be spiritually dead, separated from the life of God by sin, but physically alive (1 Tim 5:6; Ep. 4:18; Ezek. 18:4). Hell is not the grave. Lazarus was raised from his grave (**mnamei in Greek**) not from his Hell (**Hades**) (Jn 11:38). His physical body was **resuscitated** which is different than our glorified resurrection bodies (1 Cor. 15). We are body, soul and spirit (1 Thes 5:23). There is a qualitative difference between human and animal souls. Sleep in the Bible is a metaphor for death.

At death our disembodied spirits are “**carried by angels**” to places of comfort or torment (Lk 16:22-31; 2 Cor 5:8). Paul went out of his body to **Paradise** which is **heaven** (2 Cor 12:2-4). At resurrection we receive new bodies and live in a new heaven and earth. Christ arose so we shall rise also. **All** in the graves and in the sea will be raised (Jn 5:28, 29; Rev 20:13). God will raise those lost at sea so he is able to raise the cremated people also. Pagan **King Solomon** said “we die like beasts” but later he saw the light (Ecc. 12: 1-7). The rich man was not in hell because he was rich but because he was an unbeliever. All cultists are spiritually comatose.

A Watchtower Junkie from *Yale University*, totally fossilized with over 60 years in the cult, sat in a Langley coffee shop. He freaked out and exploded like a super-nova: “You are controlled by unseen forces. You will soon be looking out of bars in jail.”

“Why am I going to jail?” I asked.

“You defamed my character in your literature.”

“Nobody can sue you or put you in jail if you just quote them. You defamed yourself first by saying it!”

Jesus did not point to Jehovah but to **Himself** saying, “**I am the way, truth and life.** No one comes to the father (in heaven) but by me (Jn 14:6).” In other words, Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. The gospel is a **Down-to-Earth** message of Jesus coming down to earth from heaven to save us from our sins (Jn 6:33). It is not about the **New Earth** but the **New Birth**. You must be born again by looking to the one who was lifted up on the cross (Jn 3:1-16). Both *heaven* and *Paradise* refer to the same place (2 Cor. 12:2-4).

Cultists talk about the kingdom but have not found the Door. Jesus is **The Door** (Jn 10). When false witnesses show up, show them The Door. The cross is God’s plus sign that changes a minus to a plus for us. Jesus did not die on an upright “**stake**” with one **nail** through both hands but on a cross with “**nails,**” plural, through both hands (John 20:25). “If you confess Jesus with your mouth and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead you will be saved” (Ro 10:9, 10). Become a Christian by praying: God, have mercy on me a sinner. I receive you, Jesus, as my saviour now (Luke 18:9-14).

Jehovah’s Witnesses have **no mediator** for the *Watchtower*, *April Fools Day 1979*, says: “In the strict biblical sense, Jesus is mediator **only** for the 144,000.” All these are dead so present day witnesses expect to get into the kingdom by works not by the blood of Jesus that cleanses from sin and gives the gift of righteousness. *The Promised Land* later became a **Kingdom** ruled

by *King Saul*. Egyptian slaves entered by the blood of the Passover Lamb on doorposts (Ex. 12:1-13). Jesus is our *Passover Lamb* (1 Cor. 5:7).

Nicodemus knew about the kingdom but he did not know how to “**enter**” (Jn. 3:5). Jesus said in verses 14 & 15 that **entrance** is by believing in the **One** who would be lifted up on the cross. Worldly wisdom says “seeing is believing” but we believe and then we see. Eternal life does not start after we die but after believing in the **One** who died in our place as our substitute. They glibly say the Holy Spirit is not a person but an impersonal force like a **radar beam** but the Bible tells of his emotions, will, and mind. Some slaves claim to be anointed but their anointing has a dark side that comes from Satan, the **Anointed Cherub** (Ezekiel 28:14).

The gospel is: “Christ died for **our sins**” not just for Adam’s sins as the cult claims (1 Co 15:1-4). A J.W. slave said, “**We are not preaching about Christ’s death any more. Noah preached the ark and Paul preached Christ but we preach the kingdom.**” In contrast, Paul “**witnessed** saying only what Moses and the prophets said that Christ would suffer and rise again” (Acts 26:22, 23; 1 Cor. 2:2). You can easily tell a Jehovah’s Witness but you cannot tell him very much!

Their **false trinity** is Jehovah, Michael, and a radar beam. In their **pressure cooker**, they submit **weekly time sheets** of hours spent lying house to house. With too few hours, an iron-fisted overseer, **monster**, would soon knock on their door. The **Fear Factor**, not compassion, is their driving force. A lady said, “I used to add on hours to make it look good.” It is nauseating to see how they flaunt their self-righteousness with a plastic smile and fancy clothes like a fashion show to deceive biblically illiterate people that are attracted to outward appearances. Many cultists insist that women conform to certain dress codes and rules but are not **transformed** in heart so they continue running on empty without Jesus (Rom 12:2). Jesus changes us from the inside out not from the outside in. Jesus spoke to Pharisees who cleansed just the outside of the cup but not the inside (Mt. 23:25-28).

I stopped for coffee in *Brookwood* and soon several witnesses came followed by a Gestapo leader with a clip-board. He counted the slaves, and soon Big-footed them back on the street and cleaned the tables. Jesus, like *Abraham Lincoln*, gave an **Emancipation Proclamation**: “I no longer call you slaves but friends” (John 15:15). Their meetings are just bullying sessions: “Make bricks without straw” (Exodus 5).

January 10/2015: An incendiary Watchtower Slave in Aldergrove, BC saw my cross and yelled from his vehicle: “Take your poison somewhere else!” They teach that the cross is a pagan sex symbol but it is a **reminder** of Christ’s sacrifice for us at Calvary. What counts is what they learn after they know it all. In 2015, *Geoffrey Jackson* from their “*Governing Body*” in New York said, “It would be presumptuous to say that we are the only ones God is using.” They used to claim that they are God’s **sole channel** of truth. They discussed the 1,006 sex offenders in *Kingdom Halls*. Jackson is in the wheelhouse of the Watchtower ship in Brooklyn N.Y. which is lost in fog from the *Hudson River*.

Wayne stood near their printing plant in Brooklyn as the Hummm of large printing presses filled the air. Slaves loaded trucks with printed materials while others brought food from Kingdom farms and rail cars brought large rolls of paper. These hard-core slaves earn \$14 a month. The circus of the spiritually blind is run from the monkey cage. It is stranger than fiction and totally off the rails.

MORMONISM -They reinvented God.

Mormon gods are humans in progression, **Gods-in- Embryo** now, and gods of their own planets in the after-life. These **God-makers** say: “As man is God once was and as God is man may become.” God created us in his spiritual and moral image not a physical image. The acid test to find out if a man is a God or not is to ask his wife. They build temples but “God does not dwell in temples made with hands” (Acts 7:48). Their gods are behind temple veils but Jesus ripped the veil in two (Mt 27:51). God now dwells in our hearts (1 Cor 3:16).

They also say, “**Jesus had many wives and is the devil’s brother.**” *Brigham Young* said, “Adam is our only Father and god.” I held Jesus signs at their *Salt Lake temple*. Psalm 82 tells of unjust judges, God’s representatives to the people, who thought they were **gods** and abused the poor. Verses 6 & 7 make it clear they were not Gods but mortal men who would die. Jesus referred to them (Jn. 10:35). The devil is also called god but is just a fallen angel (2 Cor. 4:4).

Their counterfeit priesthood has no authority but our **Great High Priest** is Jesus (Heb. 4:14). They say we are literal children of gods from **eternally pregnant** mother Gods. These **spirit babies** are produced by celestial sex between polygamous physical father and mother gods in their third heaven but Christians are born again and **adopted** into God’s family (Gal. 4:5; Jn 3:1-16). A Mormon sees God in his mirror.

They claim to have no original sin and their heaven has three levels: **Telestial**, **Terrestrial** and **Celestial**. Only tithing Temple Mormons get to the highest **Celestial** level but all from other churches, Catholics, Satanists, and Protestants are damned in the two hottest lower levels. They say, “There is no salvation outside their *Latter-day Saints Church*.” After death a proxy temple baptism in your name can put you on an escalator to godhood. **God-Making fiction** came from *The Garden of Eden* when Satan told *Adam & Eve* they could be gods if they ate the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:5). An ex-Mormon priest recently said that millions have left the church for not continuing to teach men can become Gods etc. They say the Bible is not translated correctly. In Surrey, two Mormon missionaries saw my cross and then ran down the street yelling, “It’s the devil!” I thought they would burn me at the *Mormon Stake*.

Mormons throw all Christians under the bus by saying that Christianity vanished from earth 2,000 years ago and their *Latter Day Saints Church* is the one and only **restored church**. *The Book of Mormon* states that all others are “**The Whore of all the Earth**” (1 Nephi 14:10). This cult has over 200 splinter groups that believe in white supremacy and through polygamy, hide the abuse of women under the guise of religion. Their false **Prophet of gods**, Smith, said, “Join no church for all their teachings and people are abominable and corrupt” (J. Smith 2:18, 19). They say: “We don’t criticize others.” They have a human founder, Smith, but Christianity has a *Divine Founder*, Jesus. Brigham Young said: “A Mormon god had sex with the *Virgin Mary* and Jesus was born.” The two sticks of Ezekiel 37 are not **two books**, the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*, but **two nations** (verse 22).

In 1835, Smith predicted Jesus would return in 56 years and said he did a greater work than Jesus. In 1837 he said people on the moon lived 1,000 years and matter, not God, existed eternally. God did not **create** matter but **organized** it so their God is not a **Creator** but an **Organizer**.

They reject Jesus by their use of water not grape juice in communion. They have no manuscripts, maps, and not a toe-bone of archaeological evidence to verify their mirage. Fantasy-prone followers pray about *The Book of Mormon* and a feeling, “**burning in the bosom**” tells them it is true but pizza can cause the same heartburn. Prayer to false gods about a false book gets a false answer. They expect to set up the kingdom of God, *Zion*, in *Missouri* when Jesus, **the devil’s brother**, returns. His blood cannot cleanse from sin so the Utah option for capital punishment is to shed your own blood by firing squad. They say the first Mormons, *Nephites & Lamanites*, came from Israel 6 B.C. on “boats with holes in top and bottom” (Ether 2:20 B of M). DNA proves them wrong. Demonic angels, *Moroni*, give false gospels (Gal. 1:8). Cults, who denied the resurrection, baptised for the dead (1 Co. 15:29). They have demonic Masonic handshakes.

THE COPELAND CULT

In Gods We Trust!

Repackaged Christian Science: He plays God.

Welcome to **Word Faith** Fantasy Land and spiritual roulette. *Ken Copeland*, compulsive liar and other fantasy-prone impostors contradict the Bible but Christians compare everything with it. They make man into a God and God into a man. Hear the **hiss of the serpent** as Ken tells his chilling lies: “God is the biggest failure of all time” (TBN April 1988). Satan conquered Jesus on the cross. You don’t have a God in you; you are one. God is 6-feet tall, 200 pounds, with a hand-span of 9 inches” but God is not a man but Spirit with neither flesh nor bones (John 4:24; Luke 24:39). He commands God but clay cannot command the *Potter* (Isa. 45:9). The tail cannot wag the dog. To find out for sure if a man is a God or not, just ask his wife! **What is he smoking?**

He is duped and claims to be a duplicate of God. He says, “Adam was a womb-man, a man with a womb.” He doesn’t believe anything from his five senses so how does he react to a red traffic light? (*Quotes are from TV and books*).

Like Mormons, he sees God when he looks in a mirror. People of Lystra thought *Paul* and *Barnabas* were gods but they were just men (Acts 14:8-15). The chasm between Creator and creation can never be bridged. *John Hagee* lied, “Jesus refused to be Messiah to the Jews.” But the Jews rejected Jesus (Mt 23:37; John 1:11). If you don’t believe him, “you have Hitler’s anointing.” Jesus preached the same gospel to Nicodemus, a Jew, as to gentiles (John 3:1-16).

Was Jesus Tormented in Hell to Save Us?

Hades has two areas separated by a “**great gulf**,” one for believers, **Abraham’s Bosom or Paradise**, and the other for unbelievers (Lk 16:19-26). After death we are carried there by angels (v.22). We are then “absent from the body, present with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:8). Ken said he could have redeemed mankind if he had knowledge of the Bible like Jesus but sinners cannot redeem sinners. Also, “If just dying on a cross could save us the two thieves could have done that. Jesus had demonic nature on the cross, went to hell for three days, and his poured-out, wormy little spirit suffered under Satan and was born again” but only sinners can be born again (Jn 3).

Jesus told the thief on the cross, “You will be with me in paradise” not in hell (Lk 23:43). Word Faith denies the sufficiency of the cross for our salvation. His suffering was enough without Purgatory or any further torment. God, not *Copeland* or *Osteen* “calls things that are not as though they were” (Rom 4:17). **Rhema** in **Greek** refers to wicked words of persecutors (Mt 5:11). *Benny Hinn* visits the tomb of preacher, *Katherine Kuhlman*, to get anointing from her bones but contacting the dead is witchcraft. Word Faith junkies, with snake oil, are totally **evangelastic**, as they stretch the truth.

The Gospel of Greed not Grace

Serial swindler, and manipulator, Ken Copeland, student of *Kenneth E. Hagin*, has give-to-get scams to fleece the sheep. It works for those on the **top level** of their *Ponzi* schemes. The **Health & Wealth** hoax of these mammonizers is called *Seed-Faith*, give one dollar and get \$1,000 but we cannot bribe God by our giving. His mission is to replace the Bible with another book, the pocketbook. He also replaced God saying, “Pray to yourself” (BVOV Feb.87). He and his cartel, with insatiable greed and sleight of hand, have the Bible on a spin cycle so that all texts point to his book. His grab-bag of doctrines is repackaged Voodoo.

He has an 18,000 square foot house built on the foundation of greed and deception. The new covenant God made with Abraham was not riches but the **Redeemer**, the **Seed** of Abraham, Christ, who came later (Gal 3:15, 16). These mobsters with a seared conscience follow Jesus for **fridge benefits**, loaves and fishes, as the shadow of sleaze hangs over them. If you add Jesus to materialism you have the prosperity gospel but God is not a cosmic *Santa*. No cross can be seen on his church near *Fort Worth, Texas*.

King Solomon tried to find fulfillment in prosperity and pleasure with 700 wives and 300 girl friends but found it meaningless “like chasing the wind” (Ecclesiastes Chapters 1-11). *Kreflo Dollar* lied: “Jesus had a big house and wore designer clothes not just off the rack, one size fits all.”

Word Faith self-serving, ruthless, subhuman **serial killers** teach us to ignore symptoms

of disease which are “**devilish decoys** to make us give a negative confession.” People died after diseases became advanced. Their positive confession teaching is just a hoax for God responds only to negative confessions. If your house was on fire and phoned 911 saying all is well, no firemen would respond. In like manner, God never responds when you lie about your situation. Phillip confessed to Jesus that they had insufficient bread to feed a large crowd (John 6). Jesus responded with enough and 12 baskets over. A tax collector confessed negatively that he was a sinner and God responded with salvation (Lk 18:9-14). God hates a lying tongue (Prov. 6:17).

Asking and receiving in prayer has a big **IF** attached to it: “**IF** you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask what you will and it shall be done unto you” (Jn 15:7). Healing **for all** provided by Jesus has final fulfillment when we get new healthy bodies at resurrection in the new heaven and earth (Rev 21; 1 Cor 15). Until then, some receive divine healing and miracles but all die of their last disease (Heb. 9:27).

They say, faith is a force and words are containers of the force that forces God to act on their behalf but faith is a channel of trust between us and God. Ken said, “Just say 82 foot yacht and then hunt yourself a big dock.” Also, “have faith in your faith.” This circular reasoning is like a dog chasing its tail. Biblical faith is **in God** and faith is only as good as the object in whom it is placed. They tell us that God needs permission from humans before he does anything in the earth realm but “humans are as nothing and he does all according to his own will in heaven” (Dan 4:35). God is not Copeland’s puppet.

He says, “Jesus is Lord” but he should say: “Jesus is Lord and so am I.” The Bible speaks of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Lord refers to **who He is**, God, and Saviour tells **what He does**, He saves (Mt 1:21). In Paul’s day, pagans said, “*Caesar is Lord.*” Jesus is God manifest in flesh (Jn 1:1, 14). Wolves in sheep’s clothing did great works, prophesied, and said **Lord, Lord**, but Jesus never knew them (Mat 7:15-23). *Rick Joyner, Rodney Browne & Todd Bentley* run a counterfeit revival, *Kundalini Hinduism*, with hypnotic seduction and involuntary jerking motions. Demonized, fantasy prone, adrenaline junkies need a liver-quiver. Ponzi prosperity junkies have give-to-get scams that show the dark side of greed. 3rd John 3:2 is not a universal promise of health and wealth but a friendly greeting from John to Gaius.

The myths about blood moons are just fiction. Zaccheus, a rich tax collector, came to Jesus and said, “I will repay four fold to all I have defrauded” (Luke 19:8). It is payback time for Word Faith mobsters. It appears that *Bernard Madoff* with a \$64 billion scam is their example. He is now, at age 75, in a federal prison sentenced to 175 years.

In Benny Hinn’s meetings on TV, we see people falling backwards from unbiblical psychological manipulation. The enemies of Jesus fell backwards but believers fell on their faces before him (John 18:6). If you tried to walk over *Niagara Falls* on a tight rope, the fear of falling would cause you to fall. Spin around a few times and you will fall over but there is nothing spiritual about it. These scoundrels in ethical limbo have delusions of grandeur.

FREEMASONRY:

First: All gods are accepted in this belief system. In *American Lodges* they have a Bible with a square and compass but in an *Egyptian Lodge* they use the *Koran*.

They say it is not a religion but it has characteristics of a church. The letter “G” refers to god and geometry. They have prayers to god, temples, meetings, funerals and 33 degrees of ritual. They believe in resurrection and eternal life represented by evergreen in the **Celestial Lodge** above - heaven. They have the Bible or any so-called holy book and **Higher Power**. The atheist, Buddha, is just as acceptable as Jesus, the **Highest Power** in heaven and earth (Mt 28:18). They say secret obscure truths lie beneath their symbols.

Second: The newcomer must confess he is in darkness seeking light to become a member. How can a Christian who knows Jesus, **The Light of the World**, say he is in darkness? A lambskin represents purity of character but the blood of the lamb, Jesus, is missing. Jesus is the only *Worshipful Master* (Mt 23:10). Masonic working tools polish man’s exterior and

top up his Ego tank but salvation is an inside job, a change of granite hearts. Believe in Christ, the only *Master Builder* and Saviour from sin. Their secrets are mystical mind games played by fertile imaginations. If you reveal rather than conceal their secrets, they threaten to cut your throat from ear to ear and pull out your tongue. Christianity has neither secrets nor cut-throats.

I talked to a man in Tulsa, Oklahoma as he worked in his garden. He showed me his ring that indicated he had 32 degrees of Masonic ritual. I asked: "Why did Christ die at Calvary?" He answered: "He was a martyr who died for his principles." I explained how Christ died as our substitute, in our place, to pay the death penalty for our sins. He hit some weeds with his hoe and said, "**I can't buy that!**" I answered, "You are right, you cannot buy salvation for it is a free gift not of works. Jesus paid it all so just receive the gift by asking for forgiveness of sins (John 1:12).

NEW-AGE & YOGA (Age of Aquarius)

Yoga means "Yoked with God" and is part of **old** repackaged Satanism and Hinduism called **New** Age. The goal of this Hindu-based cult with its various theories, mantras, and body positions is to achieve oneness with millions of mythological gods and demons of Hinduism. Their exercises allegedly produce positive *karma* and a better afterlife reincarnation in a king's palace rather than becoming a snake. Here we see their salvation from sin, *bad karma*, depends of doing good works to produce good karma so they bypass the Savior, Jesus. Like Mormons, they save themselves and look in the mirror to see their saviour. Christianity tells of resurrection not reincarnation. Some *Yoga* groups practice it just for physical exercise not for heavy duty devil worship. Receive the free gift of salvation and forgiveness by praying: Jesus, I am a sinner and ask you to forgive all my bad karma, sin, in Jesus name, Amen.

The soul migrates from body to body as each one dies and returns recycled into millions of different bodies until it gets it right. Jesus got it right for us at Calvary. In the Bible, we die once (He 9:27). *Eckankar* teaches soul travel. Wiccans worship the creation not the creator and traffic in **demons** that have many **doorways** to enter your life: meditation with blank minds, Ouija boards, hypnosis, tarot, séances, crystals, Zodiacs, channelling, Harry Potter Occult books, Urantia, drugs, pyramids horoscopes, ascended masters, Reiki, auras, Voodoo, brainwashing. Their belief system is a form of self-deception, religion without salvation. The light you might see at the end of a tunnel is likely an oncoming train. *Brahma*, the supreme God of Hinduism, is not a person but a force that allegedly permeates all like gravity. It flows through **meridians** in our bodies like blood flows through veins. Acupuncturists claim to control the flow of the imaginary force, **Chi**, with needles to improve health. The blood of Jesus not *Ganges River* water cleanses our sin.

SCIENTOLOGY (DOOMSDAY CULT)

L. Ron Hubbard (1911-86), founder of Scientology, had a deity complex. He was a science-fiction writer who concluded his fiction is fact and used it as the basis for his church. He taught that people have **engrams** etched in their souls like barnacles on a ship as a result of traumatic times in millions of past lives. An **E-meter** like a lie detector audits the patient who is then offered study courses costing up to \$150,000 to make him psychologically "**clear**" free from engrams. He or she can then move up the stepladder of enlightenment. It is clear they are clear as mud. Their main book is the pocket book, wallet, not the Bible. Jesus is the *True Light* so all the rest is darkness (John 1:9). The hodgepodge is repackaged Hinduism with reincarnation.

Like *Christian Science*, these vultures say there is no sin or evil so Jesus and salvation are unnecessary. Their false Christ is just an avatar, a teacher, like *The Buddha*. Like *Mormonism* and *Armstrongism*, they say humans originated in a pre-existent state of deity (gods). Dr. Meredith's Living (dead) *Church of God* continues to rubber-stamp Herbert Armstrong's heresies.

Time Magazine, May 6, 1991, called it a *Cult of Greed & Power*: "They buy massive

quantities of their own books from retail stores to propel titles to best-seller lists. Hubbard's **Doctorate** from *Sequoia University* is a fake mail-order degree, a school of psychopaths, and their so-called therapies are manipulations. The church, a ruthless global scam, is a hugely profitable racket that survives by intimidating members and critics in a Mafia-like manner." Radar Online told that *Tom Cruise* dug a bunker under his *Beverly Hills* mansion to be ready for the End. A Province newspaper article, April 3, 2015, says he had invisible aliens pulled from his body.

Lisa Marie Presley, daughter of *Elvis Presley*, in an interview with *USA Today* said, "I was slowly starting to self-destruct with no grip on reality. They were taking my soul, my money, my everything." She left the cult in 2012.

They envision building a world without war and insanity but we know that Jesus will do that in his time (Revelation 21). Run, don't walk, to the exit. Hell has no exits.

WILLIAM BRANHAM CULT 1909-1965

Wm. Branham speaking by "divine inspiration" said Jesus would return, all denominations would be consumed by *The World Council of Churches* under control of Roman Catholics, the rapture would take place, and the world would be destroyed by 1977. This prophetic speculation came to him in seven false visions in 1933 and in 1963 "he still maintained his prediction." His date expired 40 years ago so if he lived today, would he "take back" his prophecy? Devils show signs and wonders to entice you to follow false gods (Deut. 13 & 18; Mt 24:24). Ignore false **signs** and look to the **Son!**

"False prophets speak false visions, lie and say, "**He saith**" (Jer. 23: 9-40). Branham, a false god, claims he raised fish from the dead and spoke squirrels into existence but only the Creator has creative powers. They have a dead false prophet but God now speaks by the living Jesus (Heb 1:1, 2).

Satan is not a beast that stood upright and had sex with Eve to create Cain but a fallen angel without physical form with no creative powers. Adam knew Eve and Cain was born (Gn 4:1). Everything produces after its kind (Genesis 1).

Five descriptions of Satan in the Bible show what he is like not what he looks like. He is brutal like a **beast**, cunning like a **snake**, strong like a **lion**, vicious like a **wolf** and fierce like a **dragon**. Branham went beyond scripture into witchcraft saying **pyramids** and **zodiacs** are as much a revelation of God's word as the Bible. He had a grave problem for pyramids were graves of *King Tut* and others so what revelations did he get from Egyptian cemeteries? *Branham* said both Adam and the serpent had sex with Eve to produce **twins** which they call "**serpent's seed.**" Satan is a non-physical fallen angel so how could he perform sexually? Why does this not happen today? There is no record of hybrids, half snake and half human. Jesus not Branham opened the seven seals (Rev 5).

The seven churches of Revelation were in **Asia** not in **ages** (1:11). The "*Church Ages*" idea was copied from *Rev. C. Larkin's* charts (1850-1924). John turned hearts of fathers to children and children to fathers by preaching repentance and pointing to Jesus saying, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Mal 4:6; John 1:29). John's baptism of repentance pointed to Christ's coming (Acts 19:4).

The preaching of Jesus is the only way anyone including Branham could turn anyone's heart (Acts 8:35-38). Jesus said, "Elijah, John the Baptist, had already come" (**Mat. 11:13, 14; 17:10-13; Mk 9:11-13**). He came in the power of Elijah. He was not Elijah (Luke 1:17). Jesus, the last day's prophet, restored all things by his blood (**Heb 1:1, 2; Col. 1:20**).

Eden lost will be Eden restored by Jesus (Rev 21). **True prophets** today repeat what Jesus, Old Testament prophets and apostles said. They told us what would happen until the end so no new revelations are needed. Prophecy today is for edification, exhortation and comfort (1 Cor 14:3).

Fore-runner prophets will appear before the second coming of Christ: "Many **false** prophets shall arise and show deceptive signs and wonders" (Mt 24:24; 7:15-23). "Jews require a sign

and Greeks seek wisdom but we preach Christ crucified unto Jews a stumbling block and unto Greeks foolishness” (1 Cor 1:22, 23). All that predict, prophesy, the future these days are wrong 100% of the time. Jesus stepping on a snake’s head in Eden is a symbolic preview of Jesus defeating Satan at **Calvary**. Jesus was not in Eden.

Dehumanized men in this suffocating subculture are control freaks who keep women in forced servitude but the Bible teaches gender equality (Gal 3:28). Branham **hated** woman so they continue **dictator/doormat** relationships. He said, “Women are the lowest creatures on earth.” The greatest is the servant not the dictator (Mat 20). These *Taliban* types hide abuse of women under the guise of religion like Mormons with polygamy. Verbally bullying your spouse causes stress, fear, and heart attacks.

We must submit to one another and **husbands must love their wives as Christ loves his bride, the church** (Ep. 5:21-25). Christ does not hate the church and use Christians as **subservient doormats!** God **will not hear** our prayers if we do not treat our spouses right or if we don’t forgive others (1 Pet 3:7; Psalm 66:18; Isa 59: 1-3; Mk 11:24-26). Most are irrational motor-mouths that re-run Branham’s heretical tapes. A **Jewish law** demanded the silence of women (1 Cor. 14:34).

Paul said he had no long-hair custom in the church (1 Cor 11:16). Women were told to keep silent until they learned at home but would prophesy in the last days (1 Cor 14: 34, 35; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:16- 18). The same principle holds true today, learn before you speak. Men were also biblically unlearned and ignorant (*agrammar in Greek*) (Acts 4:10-13). Women sing in their churches so are not silent. Priscilla, wife of Aquila, was a Bible teacher (Acts 18:26). Both men and women prophesied in the early church (1 Cor 11:4, 5). Phillip’s four daughters also prophesied (Acts 21:9). True prophecy is history in advance.

Some followed Paul: “Was Paul crucified for you?” (1 Cor. 1:13). Some say, “I am of Branham or Joseph Smith.” Was Branham crucified for you? What counts is what we learn **after** we know it all. Branham said denominations are *the Mark of the Beast* so they started another one, **The Bible Way**. Which Bible is the way? They don’t see Jesus is **The Way** and the whole Bible is the **Way Shower** that testifies of him (Jn 5:39). He fulfilled the law, prophets, feasts, Sabbaths, and animal sacrifices. *Pastor Byskal* uses the flawed **Diaglott Bible**. Jehovah’s Witnesses used it for decades to prove that “Jesus is **a god** like the devil is **a god**” (John 1:1).

Pastor Rae continues with his far-fetched fantasies: “God changes **masks** to appear as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Their **oneness** doctrine says Jesus is his own father and he prayed to himself. We must repent and believe before baptism (Acts 2:38; 8:26-40). It makes you a wet sinner rather than a dry sinner if you have not repented. Jesus’ blood, not water washes away sin. Their spiritual eyes are wide shut.

The church is built on the Rock, *Jesus*, not revelation (1 Cor. 10:4). Byskal talks of Branham’s last days message but the last days started at *Pentecost* (Ac 2:16-18) and has the same gospel as today: “Christ died for our sins was buried and rose again” (1 Cor 15:1-4). Pastor Ernie, super liar and screw-up, said, “I am an **amateur** God of a **super race**.” Hitler also had a super race! Cultists defend false prophets by saying, “Touch not the **Lord’s anointed** and do **my (true) prophets no harm**” (Ps 105:15). False prophets suffered maximum **harm**, death (Deut 13 & 18; Jer. 23). **Thus saith the Lord** applies only when you quote scripture.

Some found refuge with *Lanceites* after the *Byskalite* church unravelled. Their false shepherds claim they are led by a pillar of fire and cloud not by the Holy Spirit so are lost like the Israelites going in circles for 40 years around the same mountain. Branham spoke of his false God: “**In the beginning God was not even God, just a thought.**” Who had the thought before anyone was created? The Christian God predates everything and is eternal with no beginning or end. Many left Branham after he wanted his writings recognized as **divinely inspired** like the Bible. A *Byskalite* said, “I will put an **ICHABOD CURSE** on you.” Another, in Aldergrove, saw my cross and yelled from his van: “You are the biggest anti-Christ I have ever seen!” They claim that all who believe in the trinity are of the devil.

7th DAY ADVENTISTS

Their doomsday prophethess, *Ellen White*, predicted world's end by 1844. She also said she would be alive at the second coming of Christ and prayers are **useless** after 1844 because Jesus was busy with an investigation. Like Elvis, Jesus had left the building. Perhaps they still pray in their churches to mimic Christianity. Their glib legalistic prescriptions produce self-righteousness.

Non-traditional Adventists reject *Ellen White* and all the legalism and half-truths but trust in the sufficiency of the cross for salvation, faith in Christ alone without works. Dozens of SDA pastors were fired for refusing to preach extra-biblical church doctrines and would not accept *Ellen White's* visions, *White lies*, as real.

Sabbaths are **shadows** but Jesus is the **substance** (Col. 2:16, 17). Sunday worship is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). At an airport, a large **shadow** crossed my path. Looking up, I saw the **substance**, a jet plane. Do Adventists catch a plane or its shadow? The Sabbath went through a **transition**: **First**: It was a memorial of creation. **Second**: It was a memorial of deliverance of slaves from Egypt by the blood of the lamb and a preview of Jesus our **Passover Lamb** who fulfilled the law and prophets (Deut. 5:15; 1 Cor. 5:7; Mt 5:17). **Third**: It pointed to the coming of Jesus who gives eternal rest (Heb. 4). It is futile to continue with shadows after the substance has come. God rested on the Sabbath because he was finished not tired. We rest in the finished work of Christ 24/7 not just on Saturday. Jesus said, "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30). Soul rest comes to you when you come to Christ (Mt.11:28; Isa. 57:20).

We are told to "keep the Passover **forever**" (Ex. 12). We do not kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood but partake of grape juice and bread at communion in remembrance of Jesus' body and blood (1 Cor. 11). The Sabbath also continues in a **different form**, the rest we have in Christ (Heb. 4).

A traditional Adventist out for a walk heard screams coming from a well. It was time for action so he wrote 10 commandments on a paper: Do not fall into wells etc. He dropped the paper to the drowning man then noticed a rope, a lifeline, nearby but it was too late. Unbelievers are already in the well of sin and hopelessness and need **The Super-natural Lifeline, Jesus**. Moses was the **law giver** but Jesus is the **Life Giver**. Some claim to be good but the issue is not our goodness but whether or not we are spiritually alive or dead. He that has Christ has life (John 3:36). The law blinds people and leaves a **veil** over their hearts (2 Cor. 3:10-16).

Adventists are **Pharisees** of our day. They would not accept Jesus as a church member for, "He is not of God for he doesn't keep the Sabbath day" (John 9:16). They say, "**Sunday worship is The Mark of the Beast.**" The mark in your hand refers to what you **do** and on your forehead refers to what you **believe**. It is not a computer chip under your skin. Adventists printed a *Clear Word Bible* perversion.

Paul, a **Pharisee**, was unsaved but **blameless** as far as the law was concerned so "our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of **Pharisees**" (Mt 5:20). If you look with lust, you are an adulterer or an angry person is a murderer at heart (Mt 5). Rituals that are devoid of reality produce whitewashed sepulchres. Righteousness that counts with God is based on our acceptance of Christ as saviour (Luke 18:9-14). Abraham believed in the future coming of *The Lamb of God*, Jesus, and his faith was counted for righteousness (Gen 22:8; Rom 4).

Paul saw the *True Light*, Jesus, on the *Damascus road* and preached Christ in synagogues. He did not attend to keep the Sabbath (Acts 9:20; 17:1-17; Gal. 4:10, 11). Jesus died the day before the Sabbath, **Friday**, and rose from the dead the day after the Sabbath, **Sunday**. He arose **on** Sunday not **after** Sunday. "**Day**" is used as part of a day.

What is the right rest day? "Everyone can make up his own mind" (Rom. 14:1-6). Adventists have the same false Christ as Jehovah's Witnesses, **Michael**. Under the law, doing any work on the Sabbath carried the death penalty. **Symbols** point to a **reality**. Baptism is symbolic of the death and resurrection of Christ. *The Voice of false Prophecy* and *Amazing Facts* are fiction and the skin of truth stuffed with lies also their End Time prophecies are a hoax.

Adventists believe in soul sleep but souls do not sleep and are conscious after death in *Hades* which has two areas separated by a “**great gulf**” one for believers and one for unbelievers. Beyond the sunset, at death, souls are “**carried by angels**” to places of comfort or torment (Lk 16:22). Death is not **annihilation** but **separation** of soul and body. **All**, not **some**, in the graves shall come forth...the good to a resurrection of life and the evil to a resurrection of damnation (Jn 5:28, 29). Jesus preached unto spirits of people from Noah’s day (Luke 23:46; 1 Pet 3:18-20). Jesus said, “He that keeps my words shall never see death” (John 11:25, 26). You can kill the body but not the soul (Mt. 10:28).

THE TORAH LAW IS A SCHOOLMASTER, A TEACHER, NOT A SAVIOR **(Galatians 3:24, 25).**

The law shows our sin but cannot cleanse us. Imagine driving 100km an hour with no pangs of conscience until you saw the law on a sign saying 60km. A killer might not realize he has sinned until he saw the law saying, **Do not Kill** (murder). The law makes us **conscious** of sin but forgiveness through Christ **cleanses** from sin. Torah laws make us conscious of our sin to bring us to Christ for forgiveness. The commandments on stone were the ministry of death (2 Cor 3:7). The penalty for breaking the law is death but Jesus, our substitute, paid our death penalty on the cross. “Without the shedding blood there is no remission of sins” (Heb 9:22). When sins are gone, guilt feelings in time should disappear. False guilt is when Satan, the liar, remembers what God has forgotten and accuses us of our past.

The commandments, **including the 4th**, are a school-master to bring us to Christ (Gal 3:24, 25). The moral law is still in force for the **lawless** not for the **righteous** (1 Tim 1:9). Ceremonial laws about food and Sabbaths were fulfilled. We **love** others so we don’t need a law to restrain us from killing them. “If righteousness came by law, Christ is dead in vain” (Gal. 2:21; 4:10, 11). Jesus declared all foods clean, even shellfish, so refuse nothing (Mk. 7; 1 Tim. 4:4). Paul did not have his own righteousness that comes by keeping laws but righteousness that comes by faith in Christ (Phil. 3:9). “No flesh is justified by works of the law” (Rom 3:20). Justified means that God sees us as totally forgiven of all sin.

“Christ is the end of the law **for righteousness to all who believe**” (Rom. 10:4). Paul, a Pharisee, kept 613 laws, but after he saw the light, Jesus, he said it was all “**dung**” (Phil. 3). **Law and performance based** self-righteousness is **dung** so we need the gift of righteousness from Jesus (Rom. 5:17). Salvation is not based on dos and don’ts of the law. It is not what we **DO** but receiving what Christ has **DONE** for us on the cross that produces righteousness. In Old Testament times, people looked forward to the cross and we look back to the cross. Adventists, trapped in tradition, break the Sabbath all the way to church as they drive more than a Sabbath day’s journey on Saturday.

We cannot lift ourselves by our own shoe laces. The moral law, do not kill and steal, prevents anarchy in society but produces only condemnation. The *Book of Hebrews* tells of Jews who considered Jesus but then fell back into Judaism with its *Torah* laws and traditions. They “trampled underfoot the Son of God” (Heb 10:29). Keeping laws can make you appear righteous in the sight of men but not in the sight of God. Adventists undermine the sufficiency of Christ on the cross for salvation by their emphasis on works like Mary and Purgatory with Catholics. Saints are not reservoirs of merit.

Mr. Good Enough, a judgmental, dry-eyed, ritualized, Sanhedrinized, harsh, legalistic, self-righteous Adventist with fortress mentality kept *Torah* laws and days but was still lost, unsaved, as he left a temple prayer meeting but a tax collector was forgiven after praying: “God be merciful to me a sinner” (Lk 18:9-14). You can do the same! What really counts is what we learn **after** we know it all. See christswitness.com for more Adventist deceptions. The ecclesiastical machinery mercilessly grinds on.

ISLAM (Muslims)

Walter Martin, of CRI said, “Early missionaries came to non-Christian countries with

messages of salvation and miracles. Muslims and others realized their prophets were inferior with no miracles and none in the **Koran.**”

Lee Strobel, in his book **Case for Faith**, adds: “Centuries after Mohammed, miracles were invented and added to **Hadith** book of traditions saying Mohammed ascended to heaven on a mule and fed many with little food.”

The *Koran* says: “Infidels declare that God is Christ, the Son of Mary. Make war on them and strike off their heads” (Surah 4, 5, 9, 47, 48). Here we see that the *Koran* agrees with the murder and violence we see in Islam. They are sure of heaven if they kill us infidels but Christians get to heaven by believing and receiving Jesus not by killing Muslims.

The Muslim God is not the God of the Bible. They believe: Jesus is just a prophet not God in flesh as in Christianity, God could not have a son, another was crucified in the place of Christ, it is acceptable for men to beat women into subjection and the Holy Spirit is the *Angel Gabriel* who dictated the *Koran* to Mohammed over 23 years. Muslims hate our God and say believing in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the unforgivable sin of **shirk**, adding partners to God. Muslims have a non-biblical view of God. “One name for Jesus is *Emmanuel* which means **God with us**” (Matthew 1:23). A Muslim replied: “God is with you, not with me.” If the true God is not with you, the devil will fill the vacuum. Muslims, like David and Mormons, reject God’s command to abstain from polygamy (Deut 17:17). Pagan wives turned King Solomon’s heart away from the true God (1 Kings 11).

Allah, to Muslims, is distant and **unknowable** but our God came down to earth in the person of Christ and took on the limitations of humanity. He is also 100% God. At Mecca, Muslims march counter-clockwise around the black stone to symbolize forgiveness of sins as they unwind time. Hell was enlarged to make room for the cult kingdom (Isaiah 5:14). Put your hand in the nail-scarred hand of Jesus. The *Bahai* cult came after *Islam*. *Sikhism* accepts reincarnation.

TRUTH FOR YOUTH

Bill Gates talked about the feel good, politically correct teachings that has created a generation with no concept of reality and set them up for failure in the real world. He mentioned things they will not learn in school:

1. Life is not fair – get used to it!
2. The world doesn’t care about your self-esteem. It expects you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.
3. You will not make \$60,000 a year right out of high school and you will not be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.
4. If you think your teacher is tough wait till you get a boss.
5. Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for it, **opportunity**.
6. If you mess up, it’s not your parent’s fault, so don’t whine about your mistakes, learn from them.
7. Life is not divided into semesters. You won’t get summers off and few employers are interested in helping you *find yourself*. Do that on your own time.
8. Television is not real life. In real life people leave coffee shops and go to jobs.
9. Be nice to nerds. You will likely end up working for one.

Never mind Rock & Roll; Get Jesus in your soul!

In 1986, Nancy Reagan started a campaign against drugs that she summed up in three words: **JUST SAY NO!** If you have said “Yes,” it might be too late due to their addictive nature. Pray that God will give you a second chance. If you allow drugs, alcohol and the media diet to

destroy your mind, you will not compete in our high tech world and could end up dead or homeless.

Hundreds of people, young and old, are playing **Russian roulette** with drugs. One grieving father wondered what his daughter would wear for graduation but soon after he wondered what she should wear in her coffin. What a horrendous nightmare, too sad for words. A funeral director said he was tired of arranging funerals for young people.

Thomas Edison said, “**Opportunity** comes dressed in overalls so it looks like a lot of hard work.” If you insist on a life of slothfulness and ease, it will pass you by. *Abraham Lincoln* said: “I will prepare myself and some- day my **opportunity** will come.” Too often we have not prepared ourselves and our time runs out.

Five young fishermen vanished in a storm with 30 foot waves off the coast of *Nova Scotia*. Amid fading hope for their return, a pastor said, “**Keep the porch light on.**” Are you wasting your life in a fling with the young and reckless crowd as someone back home keeps the porch-light on, prays, weeps and waits? Luke 15:11-24 tells of a young man who returned home after his **wake up call** he heard in a pigpen. Decide today to go the upward way with Jesus not down a slippery slope where there is no hope. The consequences of sin will affect your life far into the future. We are either a work in progress or in regress, going backwards.

Billy Graham spoke of a man who found it hard to put a two-sided puzzle together. The difficult side had a picture of the world and the easier side had a picture of a man. After completing the side with a man, the world was right. God loves the sinner but hates the sin. If each one would get right with God, our world would be better.

A *Hell's Angel* stood in *Tim Hortons* ordering coffee. I said, “Heaven is better than hell!” He answered: “I have made my choice.” He then burned rubber as he left the parking lot! As I stood near their clubhouse with the cross, another angel from hell on his *Harley* motorcycle stopped and said, “I used to believe in God but I am going to hell!” He traded his salvation for sin when he could have traded his sin for salvation. Jesus is crossing your path today. How will you respond? The death-rate is **one-per-person**. Pray: Jesus, I am part of the problem. Forgive my sins. Amen.

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Vision TV Sunday 10 - 11:30 A.M.

(Cover: Betty's Garden & Northern Manitoba fire)

I have attended Alliance, Baptist and Christian Life Assemblies.

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