

PTB #14: The Accepted Time and Purpose of God the Father, not Scofield Part II.

HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS

A Bible List of Church Members to Avoid



"For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers...brutal, despisers of good...headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power! And from such people turn away!

(II Timothy 3:1-8)

Outline of this message:

I. INTRODUCTION: Hideout for Bad Habits.

II. Exegesis of the Lord Jesus Christ versus Isogesis of Scofield notes and theology.

NOTE: The name of Lord Jesus Christ summarizes Son of Man/Son of God.

III. Some of the many mistakes of Scofield Theology on the Son of God.

IV. CONCLUSION: Some Sounds of Sound Faith, Christ.

I. Hideout for Bad Habits. *Preface*

"Many churches think they are hiding..." like you saw on the cover, hiding behind the American respect of the Bible teachings on church as "a house of prayer"; however Jesus reminded the religious people of His time that while a temple or church was meant by God to be a "house of prayer" and worship, among other things as actually described in the Bible about the New Testament meaning of church, it had been turned into God's own people as a "Den of Thieves". Many churches think they are hiding, not from a single sin of the past but from weekly bad habits, in the church and out. They hide within the walls of the church where God can not see, they think, because He is inside, they think. What they are really hiding behind is the respect Americans have for religion and churches. History has changed the world we live in: with the advent of the last great apostasy, the Falling Away, the world in our churches and outside is no longer the same; and therefore the perceptions of the present, much different from earlier times, have to be adjusted to accommodate what God's people in churches today are truly like. One of the major problems is that the follies or bad habits of church members, as listed on the cover from II Timothy 3:1-5, are no longer considered as sin. Things like "lack of

self-control", pride, and boasting are most generally considered as natural expressions of an aggressive (perhaps type A) and friendly personality; and those characteristics of character and personality deemed so important for success in the world are within the church expressions of a lack of self-discipline and self control. Also what church members today are hiding from is the reality of the difference of a single sin or a few sins committed in the past and bad habits that are repeated each week, in the church and outside. Quite often the self-righteous robe is put on which says that God will overlook while in the church a few sins of the past without the admission that those sins are really habitual, repeated week after week without repentance. After all, they are really "follies" or "bad habits", not sins!

What promotes such bad behavior and attitudes among church members, of course other than the obvious of tendency to want and sin, is popular preachers and Bible teachers that have the same kind of Falling Away "itching ears" as the people. The phrase "heaping up" of this Falling Away before the Second Coming of Christ speaks of a Falling Away process (II Timothy 4:3,4) from God, Christ, and the Bible {in most cases not even from the real God, Christ, and the Bible}, that is what we might call today an attraction to each other much like magnetic attraction, the itching ears Bible teachers and preachers dish it out, encouraged by the itching ears church members, and the itching ears church members lap it up. The "heaping up" process described in II Timothy 4:3,4--"heap up" to themselves teachers with itching ears"--is a grassroots movement among American church members and other Christians that inevitably creates popularity since the Falling away is also inevitably a popular, majority involved movement. Like Jesus foretold, "as sin abounds, the love of many will wax cold". Certainly "many" is the majority in any church, the only place of the love of Christ is purported to be in the first place; and many bespeaks of the majority in the church. When one tries to prove, as in this book, that popularity is bad, one tends to naturally think of the popularity of Billy Graham; and the immediate response would be that at the end of that popularity, which we also remember, would mark the beginning in our nation of the Falling Away!

1-1: Why So Much Unsound Doctrine Today?

Besides the intolerance toward sound doctrine (II Timothy 4:3,4) which naturally comes with and perhaps leads the Falling Away, along with the rising tide of the mystery of lawlessness, we must account for the large amount of unsound doctrine in Christianity today. The prime reason is increased lack of respect for the Bible as the Word of God. Perhaps there is more superficial respect for the Bible today; but rather as a book, or an inspired book like Shakespeare or Milton, not as the book through which God can and does speak to us everyday. It can also be considered as an academic book without proper regard for this "every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God". Even as the can account for the Falling Away from the aspects of II Timothy 4:4,5 with "intolerance

toward sound doctrine", with preferences for wants over needs and commands, with "itching ears" Bible teachers that are heaped up all over the world on TV and in churches faster than the Bible as the Word of God can keep up; so the vast multiplication of unsound doctrine and unsound living {almost the same} have the same foundations. It just plain does not matter that much about the Bible as the Word of God to most religious leaders and church members. History can be substituted, their own wisdom, denominational documents given priority over the original, indifference, and attempts at interpretation from the natural and other than spiritually discerned. As wisdom has grown in the United States, it has become harder and harder for the academically inclined to admit the source and preservation of the Bible, in fact to even admit the supernatural. And since most Americans don't want to admit that God cares and intervenes that much in world affairs, much less in their lives, it is very difficult for them to comprehend that God spent over one thousand years working through and with a diversity of over 40 authors, prophets and apostles, to formulate a book with which He could adequately communicate to the Creatures which He made. That job is complete; the words that God has spoken, every word out of His own mouth, is once for all delivered as a God-given basis for "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). There is no need for special revelation from the charismatics; in fact, their revelations divert us from sound doctrine and sound Christian living! We just can not get it in our head that after we are in the Falling Away, and that is now, popularity is a bad sign.

1-2: Consider Mr. and Mrs. Average Church Member.

Yet in all intellectual honesty {to use a phrase coined by Elton Trueblood, the American philosopher of religion} this does not adequately describe Mr. Average Church Member. You need to look carefully at II Timothy 3:16,17 in its 3 parts--(1) "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God", (2) "and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness", and (3) "that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"--and then with this foundation of (1) this single and most basic of foundational and doctrinal statements about the Bible as the Word of God: close the (2) close the church administration gap of inadequate teaching and preaching {that is half doctrine, with no reproof, little correction, and very incomplete instruction in righteousness by example and methodology}; and (3) also close the gap on Christian living so that from the doctrine and church administration flows sound Christian living. I never understood it completely but I think these two gaps between (1) the Bible and (2) church administration and (3) sound Christian living is what Henry Steele Commager {for you not into American Studies, Commager, former professor of American History at Amherst, made a great contribution to the History of American Thought in his book THE AMERICAN MIND} referred to as the "paranoid" nature of American fundamentalism. But this takes a lot of Scripture and

analysis to describe this problem, with solutions, in American churches where it is begged that you see 'Den of Thieves' and "Hideout for Bad Habits {the real meaning of Jeremiah 7:11 as you will come to see} as a Scriptural generalization of what American churches are like in this time of the Falling Away. Before a complete description, and possible solution, is offered in the last chapter, "God's 'Called' People versus God's 'Chosen' People", you must come to appreciate the failures in churches and denominations on II Timothy 3:16,17 that have caused the historical transition in American churches from the "perilous times" and bad habits {"follies"} of II Timothy 3:1-8 to the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:45, "the time will come" which has come!

1-3: The Period of the Last Days.

If the "last days" started with the Coming of the Holy Spirit in great power and glory on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ, and it did according to the Apostle Peter and the Prophet Joel in Acts 2:16-21--Peter first said (2:16) that what you are seeing today is the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32 and then the Joel quote started with "it shall come to pass in the last days" (2:17); if the end of the last days is also given in Joel 2:32 and Acts 2:21 with signs in the heavens above and the earth beneath--which are certainly evident all over the world today in tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, floods, global warming, and other acts of God {"blood and fire and vapor of smoke}, and who can deny these things are happening; and if immediately after these signs in the heavens above and the earth beneath it is the "coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD" as Christ comes again with legions of angels to gather and separate, and certainly the Second Coming is the great and notable One Day of the LORD and Lord that Jesus called "the last day" (John 6:54), then we should right now be up to our necks in: (1) The Falling Away of II Thessalonians, and we are with increased intolerance toward sound doctrine (II Timothy 4:3,4), with a waxing cold of church members for Christ, a Luke warmness that God cannot stand (Revelation 3:14-22), and a vast heaping up on TV, in churches, and in other meetings of "itching ears" Bible teachers; (2) the rising tide of the mystery of sin and lawlessness (II Thessalonians), and we are since America and our churches can not escape this world wide movement. It is a tribute to Satan, indifference and ignorance toward Bible, and to fundamentalism that many church members look for the Second Coming as if it could happen before the Falling Away. More often the fundamentalists have so cluttered up the eschatology of the Falling Away, the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth, and the new heavens and the new earth with special revelations based on the Scofield Bible Notes, that American church members hardly know what to think. There is a certain advantage of fiction based on fiction as in many of the recent and popular books on eschatology where confusion can dominate over the clarity of the Scriptures like in II Thessalonians. As surely as II Thessalonians is a book of the Bible, one of the 66 books of the Word of God, and as surely profitable as the "ALL {other} SCRIPTURE of II Timothy 3:16,17, so

knowing about the Falling Away approximately 40-80 years before the Second Coming is a profitable--for "doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness" as are convictions and knowledge of the Second Coming itself. {Who knows you may be up to your armpits in the Falling Away already along with the deacons, pastors, and other members of your church. In fact the probability is that you are already, based on the daily news and stories about bad habits of church members that are common knowledge in the community and your church.} And this does not even include the cover ups that churches and church leaders, just like the government, do in order to maintain an appearance that is much shinier and cleaner than the spiritual realities.

This book works on the assumption that the problems of the Falling Away and unsound doctrine are somewhat alleviated in their impact on churches and individual Christians when they are faced up to, even as a physician like Jesus said can not heal until the nature of the disease is comprehended. All is well in Zion, and all things continue as they were from the beginning of Creation and the beginning of the United States, is not a bad habit, practice, and perspective of sceptics and scoffers alone (II Peter 3:3), it is more efficiently and effectively practiced by church members who have selectively learned to stick their heads in the sand on certain realities such as the Falling Away. Even as other schools have problems but "not mine", and other countries have problems but "not mine", so also there is a certain weakness of human nature that sees problems in other countries and even other denominations without a recognition of the same or similar problems in their own church.

1-4: To Call a House of God today a "Den of Thieves".

It takes a lot of courage, and perhaps some foolhardiness, to call any House of God a "Den of Thieves", but Jesus did and Jeremiah before Him; however what you will find is a meaning much deeper than on the surface where some wealthy of companies like Enron and World Com have stolen from their own employees while hiding as respected members in their local churches. True Jesus criticized those of the House of God during His time that would buy and sell there, using the status of the House of God as a vehicle for profit much like mega-churches are doing today as well as these operating officers of large corporations are doing. But what Jeremiah referred to in 7:11, and Jesus used that as a basis to cleanse the Temple; was how the people of God treated the House of God as a hideout even as a Gang would that stole, murdered, etc. and then ran right back to the Den as a place of security and safety. In other words at heart of what Jesus and Jeremiah meant was that the people of God were living as they wanted to all week contrary to the will and covenant of God, then coming on the Sabbath like church members today to say "We are Safe" because we are in the House and Temple of God! We are a member of the elite of God, and in the Temple that God Himself has chosen for His own people. This new book Project for 2008 entitled DEN OF THIEVES,

REPORTS FOR CHURCHED AND UNCHURCHED UNBELIEVERS, having faced up to the well known spiritual realities of religion today in American Society like the Falling Away, like the tares in the local churches and denominations, and keeping in mind that Jesus taught to make no effort to separate the tares from the wheat for fear of getting the wheat by mistake; still what must we do about the tares in the church; and further how about those on the way to becoming like Hebrews 3:12, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." These are the unbelievers in the church with certain common issues as unbelievers outside the church. What you will find attached to this newsletter is the second chapter of "Den of Thieves" on "Bible Reports for Unbelievers", and with an introduction of what should be done about it since there should be no effort to shift the tares from the wheat in the kingdom or in the local church. All would admit that among our goals for 2008 should be efforts to make reports to unbelievers. Most generally we do not think about some of those unbelievers as in the local churches and denominations, yet we dare not neglect the tremendous influence which these "tares" have on the churches and the kingdom. Is it not possible to make efforts to neutralize the influences of these tare leaders without trying to separate them from their local church or kingdom; after all, the most influential of those tare-leaders are the false prophets and itching ears Bible teachers, the wolves in the sheep clothing of the local church that have the goals of personal profit and status by making disciples to themselves. Yes, Jesus, Paul, and the other Apostles warned us about these and about their influences; and the fact that we have so much trouble finding one of them today is not because there are none in the United States, it is because they are hidden in local churches and denominations too close to us to see or detect! As you read the attached chapter and as preparation continues on "Den of Thieves", all your comments are appreciated. Simply email them to sungrist@gmail.com.

Whereas in the past, we have had such warnings as from Gambrell who said "we Baptists are many but not much"; and books like "In His Steps" by Charles Sheldon, also seminarians like the church administrator who said "you can fill a church with empty people", and the more recent books like "Where Are the Converts", it is hoped that "Den of Thieves" will find a comparable place in the understanding of current church history. While the "Den of Thieves" book with its two offshoots of "Hideout for Bad Habits" and "Reports for Believing" will be generally somewhat limited by being available in only the computer software format of Adobe Reader PDF, you can see how these efforts will simultaneously make some Green effort to what is perhaps the second most crisis of this planet earth compared to the first of the Falling Away! You can with SunGrist_Bible books like "Den of Thieves", "Hideouts for Bad Habits", and "Reports for Believing" then LIVE GREEN, THINK GREEN, AND READ GREEN. If you are not presenting reading

this copy, then you or friends and relatives can download them from the two websites of SunGrist_Bible, www.biblecombibleman.com or www.SunGristBible.com.

Sincerely,

Jerry V. McMichael
Piney Woods
Lincoln National Forest
April 2008

By the way, it was not always comfortable writing the words of this book. Like with Jeremiah it was both bitter and sweet. I despise where we are as churches and church members--I especially hate the loss of the historical heritage of Baptist history and the history and traditions of Southern Baptists--but these are historical facts, with the inevitability of the Falling Away, that we must face up to. Like in II Timothy 2:17,18, the faith of more around us will be overthrown and we neglect the nature and solutions of these two final and great world wise movements: (1) the rising tide of the mystery of sin and lawlessness; and (2) the Falling Away with (a) the abounding of sin that causes a cold waxing toward Christ and God and the Bible and with (b) the intolerance and popularity toward unsound doctrine. Regretfully this is where we are in history now, just not too long before a revelation of the man of Sin and the Second Coming of Christ; and it can not be denied, only fought! Oh yes, there is also the hope of the final House of God, where God finally agrees to dwell among men with Christ, themselves becoming the Temple of the New Jerusalem on the new earth. Do not let the fundamentalists with their scatological fictions based on fiction, rob the magnitude of this hope from you, and clutter the future. Also pardon this long Preface and the introduction to follow after the Table of Contents!

II. Exegesis of Son of God versus Isogesis of Scofield.

4-2: God the Creator and Father looks at man, men, and then testifies to men.

NOTE: Man is a generic name of male and female, man and women, in the Bible. See Genesis 1:27 where God created man, "created them", male and female and in His own image.

1. God the Creator notices that the Gentiles rage against Him and that the people of Israel imagine a vain thing and things about Him: **Psalm 2:1,2 and Acts 4:24-26.**

We still know many today in our secular world that rage and rave about and against the Almighty God of the Universe, and we can but sympathize for them in all the benefits they lose in this life and particularly in the life to come.

2. God the Father has decreed and testified in the Bible as well as at the baptism of Jesus in the presence of many as the voice came from heaven that Jesus of Nazareth is, was, and still is His Son: **Psalm 2:7** , **Matthew 3:17 and 17:5**, **Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5**, **II Peter 1:17**, and **Mark 9:7**.

(1). Psalm 2:7.

"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me,
Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." (Psalm
2:7 KJV)

NOTE: More of this consistency and "Principle of Witnesses" which was the subject of Top Topic #3, here there are three witnesses about Jesus as the Son of God, first God Himself, then King David in the Psalms, and then the Apostle Matthew as he recorded like a faithful keeper of tax records, exactly what happened.

(2). Matthew 3:17.

"And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt 3:16,17 NASV)

(3). Matthew 17:5.

"And Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; hear Him!'" (Matthew 17:4,5 NASV)

NOTE: What God adds in His own testimony to Jesus as compared to the transfiguration after a similar testimony at the baptism is HEAR HIM . Paul did not mean in Ephesians 4:20,21 that like Peter, James, and hundreds of others you had to be there physically as Jesus taught. What he meant was

that through the help of the Spirit of God you must see and hear from yourself, personally. This is the key to who can be saved! By listening to Jesus and His words of life!

(4). Hebrews 1:5.

"For to which of the angels did He ever say, 'Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten thee? And again, 'I will be a father to Him, and He shall be a Son to Me?" (Hebrews 1:5 NASV)

(5). Hebrews 5:5.

"So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, 'Thou art my Son, Today I have begotten thee..."

NOTE: This is the first time in this Bible study of the progressive revelations of the Bible from Genesis to Malachi that we have encountered Jesus as the great high priest.

"...just as He says also in another passage, 'Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.'" (Hebrews 5:5,6 NASV)

NOTE CONTINUED: And we will come to this second quote in Hebrews 5:5,6 when we get into the progression to Psalm 110:6.

(6). II Peter 1:17.

"Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance, for we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him the holy mount. (II Peter 1:15-18 KJV)

NOTE: So that the Apostle Peter in writing for a permanent record adds his own testimony as a witness to Jesus with the witness of God the Father and that of Jesus Himself!

(7). Mark 9:7.

"Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, 'This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!'" (Mark 9:7 NASV)

LISTEN TO HIM, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE BELOVED SON OF GOD!

3. God chooses men and ways less esteemed among men as far as status in order to receive Honor and Praise to His name: **Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16.**

III. Some of the many mistakes of Scofield Theology on the Son of God.

Given the assumption (only an assumption or postulate to Scofield mites on which some difference might be made) that Scofield had the contract and commission from Oxford, Satan, and Christian Zionism to replace the Son of God with National Israel, the place to start would be subtle efforts to deny that the Lord Jesus Christ is and was the Son of God.

1. Scofield states that Jesus, the very Son of God, one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit had a flawed ministry in that He started out preaching the "gospel of the kingdom", which of course He did but continued for 3 and one half years to preach that Gospel; but they falsely claim since the Jewish nation then rejected this gospel, and they did, Jesus made a mistake, leaving the gospel of the kingdom and world evangelism for the converted nation of Israel during some fictitious period of time that had to be invented apart from God and the Bible called the millennium kingdom.

Here is what Scofield himself writes of the gospel of the kingdom in <http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org/mevangel/scofield.htm>

Converted Israel, glorified saints, even a mighty angel shall yet proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom, but not in our generation but in the false kingdom of the millennium

Is the Gospel then a failure? God forbid! The Gospel never failed and can never fail. God's Word by the Gospel is accomplishing precisely the mission, which was foreseen and foretold for it, that whereunto it was sent. And we must not forget, either, that the Gospel will yet bring this world to the Saviour. It is not at all a question of the ultimate triumph of the blessed Lord. The heathen may rage, and the people imagine vain things, but the Father will yet set His King on His holy hill in Zion. Converted Israel, glorified saints, even a mighty angel shall yet proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom, and "the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills;

and all nations shall flow into it" (Isa. 2:2). "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9). All this will surely come to pass, for the Lord hath spoken it--but not in this dispensation. This is the age of the "ecclesia"--of the called-out ones.

<http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org/mevangel/scofield.htm>

2. They also postulated based on false exegesis of Isaiah 61 and Zechariah 23 that the Jewish nation would be instantly converted based on some other plan of salvation than that which Jesus preached, and the Bible recorded.

Scofield does not directly deny the present commission of the church to make disciples, but perverts the meaning saying that salvation will come from Israel in the millennium kingdom, it is for the church now to just evangelize.

The evangelization of the world, then, and not its conversion, is the mission committed to the Church. To do this, to preach the Gospel unto the uttermost parts of the earth, to offer salvation to every creature, is our responsibility. It is the divinely appointed means for the calling out of a people for His Name, the Church, the "Ecclesia."

3. In doing such, they are preaching another gospel of Jesus and the kingdom of a different kind from the Bible, and the one ordained by God as the accepted time and place of the kingdom then on earth that Jesus established, and as such they have a curse on their heads, and a curse on the leadership of the SBC which being dominated by the takeover and conservative resurgence by Scofield mites, have destroyed the SBC in spirit, love, and world evangelism.

Scofield's distortions of the kingdom Jesus set up in the hearts of men that grows each year and then culminates in the forever kingdom on the new earth:

Further, the purpose of the Father in this age is not the establishment of the Kingdom. {Indeed the establishment of the kingdom in the hearts of men was the purpose of God through Jesus, so that in this lie not only is Scofield and his cohorts denying the very purpose of God then to begin uniting in one body Jews and Gentiles, but contradicting Jesus on the proper "gospel of the kingdom", heresy, heresy, heresy plain and simple, and the preaching of another gospel of a different kind as well as trying to plan or replant for Almighty God, and adding to and taking away from real Bible, the Word of God! How can anyone like Dr. Jeffers and DTS distort, malign, and pervert this gospel and kingdom of the faith once for all delivered to the saints?} The Old Testament prophets tell us in perfectly simple, unambiguous language how the Kingdom is to be brought in, who is to be its ruler, and the extent and character of that rule, and the result in the universal prevalence of peace and righteousness. Alas, nothing would suffice but the bringing of the prophets bodily over into this Church

age! This is the irremediable disaster which the wild allegorizing of Origen and his school has inflicted upon exegesis. The intermingling of Church purpose with Kingdom purpose palsied evangelization for thirteen hundred years and is today the heavy clog upon the feet of them who preach the glad tidings. (What an ego in stating the the faith once for all delivered to the saints was ignored for 1300 years until Darby and Scofield came along and delivered the truth. In reality what Scofield delivered to Protestantism and in particular the SBC created both the falsely called conservative resurgence (they are and never have been literal, that is a lie) and the Takeover that killed the SBC spirit, love, and world evangelism.)

See how inevitably so. The Kingdom applies spiritual forces to the solution of material problems. {Do you have any doubt in the words of Scofield himself that the so-called false millennium is Materialistic, not spiritual. How that the Zealots of Jesus day, rejected by Jesus, wanted to restore a materialistic world ruling like in the days of David and Solomon kingdom?} How shall man live long and wisely? The Kingdom is the answer. How shall exact justice be done on earth? The Kingdom provides for it. When shall wars and human butchery cease in this blood-saturated earth? When the Kingdom is set up by the King Himself. When shall creation give up to man her potential secrets? In the Kingdom age. When shall the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea? When the King and His Kingdom are here.

4. To take care of all this falsehood they had to invent a one-thousand-year kingdom where National Israel could lead both in world control and evangelism.

Of all these things the O.T. prophets are full. {Only with perversions of the OT prophets and prophesies!} We turn to the New Testament and find what? The birth of the King, the heralding of the Kingdom as "at hand," the announcement in the Sermon on the Mount of the principles of the Kingdom, (yes, principles of the kingdom citizenship both now and in the forever kingdom!) the utter refusal of Israel to receive her King, the passing of the Kingdom into the mixed and veiled condition set forth in the seven parables of Matthew Thirteen, its full revelation being postponed till "the harvest," which is fixed definitely "at the end of this age." {Here is what the gospel of the kingdom that Jesus preached turned into as rejected by Israel, a confusing and hidden or veiled in some mystical interpretation private to Scofield of the 7 parables of Matthew 13.} And then the Kingdom being thus postponed (Do you get it, Scofield in both postponing until the kingdom under Israel of the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom by Jesus but also the gospel?), what is revealed as filling and occupying this age? THE CHURCH! Christians, let us leave the government of the world till the King comes; let us leave the civilizing of the world to be the incidental effect of the presence there of the Gospel of Christ, and let us give our time, our strength, our money, our days to the mission distinctively committed to the Church, namely, to make the Lord Jesus Christ known "to every creature" {what a perverted and deceiver, like Satan, the Jesus as the begotten Son of God and the Jesus of the gospel in the Bible is not even preached by Scofield and his mites!}

--C. I. Scofield

IV. CONCLUSION: Some Sounds of Sound Faith, Christ.

Sound 2-3: Christ.

If we talk about what Christ has done for us in salvation, that is in Ephesians 1,2. If we talk about what Christ did in providing salvation, that is also in Ephesians 1,2. One of the main reason that the first two chapters of Ephesians are so complete in coverage as is the total but short book of Ephesians is because Paul wrote it to be a broad general summary of the first ten books that he wrote: Romans, Hebrews, I and II Corinthians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, and Galatians. No wonder it is packed with God's revealed meaning, especially on the death of Christ on the cross for our sins in order to provide atonement with God and redemption for us. All the great sounds of salvation are here: redemption which is the buying back to God of our bondage to sin and Satan; atonement, a means of bringing God and man back together through the cross; the cross or crucifixion, the death of Christ on Calvary's cross for the sins of the world, for our sins in particular since it must be personal; and justification in the site of God by which Christ stands before God in our stead, God accepting Christ's payment for our sins as if Christ was us. The words are not always there but the statements of faith about them are. You have others like adoption, sanctification, and glorification--all relating to aspects of our salvation--that are also in Ephesians, sometimes with those sounds and sometimes with other words.

1. Adoption in Ephesians 1:3-6. It starts with "blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...", and you see how careful Paul is to emphasize God first as the Father of Jesus Christ. In the "Lord Jesus Christ" you see Jesus of Nazareth as His earthly name to identify which individual born of the virgin Mary that was to be the Promised Messiah of the Old Testament; you see the "Christ" as the Promised Messiah that would save His people through death on a cross; and in "Lord" you see the mastership of

Jesus as the Son of God, and as ordained by God to have every knee bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Rich Warren is scriptural in stating that we were chosen to be adopted to God as sons from before the foundation of the world: however, he is inaccurate in stating that the purpose is individual and through the local church. What the Bible really states here in Ephesians is: the purpose is "that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." (Ephesians 1:4,5) If you want to talk about the purpose of God for you, it is the same for all believers in Christ: to be adopted as sons, and specifically that has the goal of holiness, blamelessness, and in love before God. Now, if you wish to talk about God's leadership through Christ individually, to a certain church and to other avenues of service, that is another Bible doctrine; and of course, that leadership is individually available. {Proverbs 3:5,6}

2. Redemption through Christ's blood (Ephesians 1:7). With this redemption through the blood of Christ shed on the cross, we also have the benefit of "the forgiveness of sins" (Eph 1:7).

3. Atonement is closely related to redemption. The word is not in Ephesians, but the sound is. Redemption and to add the collective effects of it are found in Ephesians 2:11-13 as Paul summarizes how unbelievers once aliens from Christ, God, and without hope, have now brought near through the blood of Christ. Not only did this sacrifice of Christ on the cross break down the middle wall of partition between God and man {atonement}, but also the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile {the assembly of the one church, the body of Christ}.

3. Regeneration, not found in that word in Ephesians, is another word for the new birth, also a phrase not found in Ephesians. Other words are found there like "new creation", "a dwelling place of God in the Spirit", "Christ

may dwell in your hearts through faith", "filled with all the fullness of God" implies the initial new birth but goes beyond that into sanctification, "one hope of your calling" also implies the initial new birth but goes all the way through the past, present, and future aspects of salvation (4:4), and lastly where the pedal meets the road in Bible terms of whether a person has real salvation or not, the new birth is implied also in "if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him...." (Ephesians 4:20,21)

By the way while we are on Ephesians, we should emphasize three Bible doctrines that Warren overlooks in His "purpose" books: (1) The purpose of God to make us His sons is among "the spiritual blessings in heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3), not at Saddleback Church or at any other particular church; but happens in the heavenly places of the Church of the Firstborn, written in heaven; (2) Granted that of the 120 places the word "ecclesia" is found in the Bible, approximately 100 refer to the local church; however by far the dominant usage of church here in Ephesians, and in the other 20 places in the Bible, is of the total body of Christ, that one new humanity; and (3) the coming into the unity of the fullness of Christ is a very complex salvation process—past, present, and future, and it is based on agreement on the Seven Ones as well as the inherent unity from the Holy Spirit, not to be simulated by any behavioral agreements or unity based on public relations.

4. Sanctification, also a word not to be found in Ephesians, *per se*, although the sound is there. For example the concept of God's sanctification is found in the "hope of His calling" (1:18); it is found in the "exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe" (1:18); it is found in the power that God worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead (1:20); it is found in "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works"; it is found in the call "to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called"; it is part of "the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry", it is part of the "edifying of the body (assembly of the Firstborn) of Christ; and it is part of

the "unity of the faith", complete "knowledge of the Son of God", part of the perfect man, and part of the stature of the fullness of Christ. People like Mrs. Myers and Rich Warren insult God and the Bible and Christ when they make salvation sound any more simple and instantaneous than does the Bible, than does the book of Ephesians. This type of insult is little better than the Lutherans and others, having given lip service to the great commission of making disciples, then immediately ignore all else and baptize a baby into the kingdom of God, performing upon them by sprinkling the miracle of the new birth.

By the way, this should be a good place to straighten out the meaning of the "one baptism" as one of the Seven One's required for unity in any church. Once again Paul is summarizing much of what he wrote in the first ten books, especially in Galatians and Romans. The one baptism represents the salvation experience of death to a life of sin (it is similar to repentance), and the raising to walk in newness of life which includes regeneration and sanctification. Each time we practice baptism by immersion in the water, we are symbolizing: (1) the salvation experience of death to self, sin, and Satan with the raising to walk a new life; and (2) we are also portraying the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you look at church ("*ecclesia*") as found in Ephesians, it will not only clearly distinguish it from the local church; but it will also promote the one body of Christ as far more significant and important than the local church. If we are lucky, and if Saddleback Church with the over 9,000 baptized in 7 years are lucky, there are a few churchmembers in the local church that are also written in heaven in the Church of the Firstborn.

(1). There is one place at the beginning of Ephesians where it does refer to the local church at Ephesus, yet the word church is not there. "*To the saints who are in Ephesus and faithful in Christ Jesus.*" If you want to identify how many churchmembers at Saddleback or at any other local

church are actually in the body of Christ, the Church of the Firstborn, then you can refer to (a) the saints and (b) to the faithful in Christ Jesus. You see, brother, that is the reality of the Bible.

(2). The "riches of the glory of God's inheritance in the saints" is another way to say the total body of Christ, and you see immediately from that it is not a local church as it includes all the real believers that have ever lived and will live. This is where I have shocked Church of Christ members when I said, after telling them the distinct meanings of the word "ecclesia" in the Bible, that they could not be the total body of Christ unless that had in their church some dead members, some there in spirit only.

(3). Besides identifying that Christ is the head of the church in Ephesians 1:22, it defines that church as "the body of Christ", as the fullness of Him who fills all in all. You see, that is just too big for a local church; and it is far too important when you consider this one verse alone to ignore as insignificant, like Rich does, any usages of the word church other than local.

(4). The usage of the word church in Ephesians 2:14-16 makes it clear how large a total body it has to be to include all Jew and Gentile believers.

(5). The description of the church as the one body of Christ is given in Ephesians 2:19-22. You see how large it is Rich Warren. It is large enough to reconcile in one body Jews and Gentiles, Americans and Africans. It is large enough to make of all humanity one new man. It is large enough to provide the basis for world peace.

