

“Spare No Effort”: Conclusion One Commentary on Ephesians Part I.

(A Revival of Christian Doctrine)

The complete quote from Ephesians 4:3 in the New English Version is, "to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives." The New King James Version requires the total context of Ephesians 4:1-3.

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called {called to be a Christian we would say today, but at the origin of Christianity and Christian churches, and as an introduction to the only bonds of peace Christians have, the phrase for the calling was in the words of Ephesians 4:4b "just as you were called in one hope of your calling"}, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3 NKJV)

27-1: Advance in the Bible and Bread life and the total integration IN CHRIST.

Gist: Advance with balance between Bread and Bible simultaneously and with symmetry on the All Scripture Method and Movement or

Advance with Bread and Bible simultaneously and with symmetry on the All Scripture Method and Movement.

1. What happens to men, women, and youth that Advance with Bread and Bible simultaneously and with symmetry on the All Scripture Method and Movement.

- (1). They please God.
- (2). They live like Jesus wants them to live.
- (3). they profit in doctrine, in reproof, and in correction, and instruction in righteousness.
- (4). They travel down the path of the perfect goal that God has set for them.
- (5). They become equipped for good works.
- (6). They give heed to the Word that all scripture is given by inspiration of God
- (7). They hide the Word in their hearts, lessening their sin against God.
- (8). They have a guidebook for life and living.

- (9). They learn a sufficient Jesus with sufficient Bible.
- (10). They to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives.
- (11). They promote unity between fellow Christians, in their church and denomination as well as the larger church body of the Church.
- (12). They get wiser about the character of God with Whom they will live eternally.
- (13). They become good witnesses to God, Christ, and the Bible.
- (14). They become rooted and ground in the faith once for all delivered to the saints.
- (15). They understand the wiles and temptations of Satan and his cohort fallen angels and have the necessary weapons to deal with THEM.
- (16). they acquire the peace of God and Christ, the peace that passes all understanding
- (17). They get illuminated.
- (18). they get understanding of the will and way of God in Christ.
- (19). they acquire the ultimate integration in Christ for purpose.
- (20). Their personalities and characters develop more along the lines the Creator intended at Creation, developing weekly more the religious dimensions of personality (Wayne Oates).

27-2: QUESTION: What is a reprobate mind according to the Bible?

ANSWER: Although the phrase 'reprobate mind' is found only once in the King James Bible, there are related phrases that occur several times. Even if we do not know what the definition of a word or phrase is, we can see from its context clues as to what the Bible means when it uses it. The KJV Bible shows three verses in the New Testament which use the phrase in question or one closely related.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:28).

"Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Timothy 3:8).

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

There is the falling away and then there is the taking away, also there is a suppression of Truth. When good seed of faith is planted by preaching the Word of God, then immediately Satan comes and snatches it away. More often, however time takes care of the seed as the deceitfulness of sin and the cares of the world choke it out. By far the majority of the seed of God's Word just falls on ground to arid to be cultivated, goes nowhere in growth. (Jesus parable of the seed and the sower.)

They heaped up to themselves teachers of the most novel, itching ears, and comforting type after the initial stance in life of a refusal to endure sound doctrine. Religious systems like Buddhism and Hinduism are thus knee jerk actions after a personal determination that sound doctrine of the Bible and God the Father will not do! They want something better in ease and comfort. The demands of modern society and of modern Christianity are too much for them, they retreat to a more simple and intriguing life style.

In defense of a current trend toward the religions of the East, authors out of a reprobate mind chose such foolish reasons as Buddhism is more scientific. What a crude and dark definition of science. What have they done that is scientific? They are the opposite of scientific, technological, and engineering, defunct without any challenge to apply the best solutions to convenience in life.

"What does it mean to have a reprobate mind?"

Answer: The phrase "reprobate mind" is found in Romans 1:28 in reference to those whom God has rejected as godless and wicked. They "suppress the truth by their wickedness," and it is upon these people that the wrath of God rests (Romans 1:18). The Greek word translated "reprobate" in the New Testament is adokimos, which means literally "unapproved, that is, rejected; by implication, worthless (literally or morally)."

Paul describes two men named Jannes and Jambres as those who "resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Timothy 3:8). Here the reprobation is regarding the resistance to the truth because of corrupt minds. In Titus, Paul also refers to those whose works are reprobate: "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16). Therefore, the reprobate mind is one that is corrupt and worthless.

As we can see in the verses above, people who are classified as having a reprobate mind have some knowledge of God and perhaps know of His commandments. However, they live impure lives and have very little desire to please God. Those who have reprobate minds live corrupt and

selfish lives. Sin is justified and acceptable to them. The reprobates are those whom God has rejected and has left to their own devices.

Can a Christian have a reprobate mind? Someone who has sincerely accepted Jesus Christ by faith will not have this mindset because the old person with a reprobate mind has been recreated into a new creation: "The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Christians are basically "new" people. We live differently and speak differently. Our world is centered on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and how we can serve Him. Also, if we are truly in the faith, we will have the Holy Spirit to help us live a God-honoring life (John 14:26). Those with reprobate minds do not have the Spirit and live only for themselves.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/reprobate-mind.html>

It is not easy to get a reprobate mind, yet this is only the beginning of the downward spiral of any man or society that refuses to think about God, worse than that will not even allow God in His thinking. The Buddhist writers are correct in that those that run after eastern religions are not happy with Theism, with God. After so much of a life time of God rejection, He gives them up to this reprobate mind. He washes His hands of these certain individuals; and somehow, they know or sense it they have been rejected so turn to some better in their own darkened mind.

27-3: What happens to intellectuals and other men and women that SUPPRESS THE TRUTH OF GOD?

Romans 1 NJKV

The story of unbelieving humanity and society in Romans 1, which starts with a refusal to even think about the real God and Creator of the Universe, then the end result of the downward spiral: (1) filled or eaten up with all unrighteousness, and (2) preserved for a day of the righteous judgment of God. It is a mistake to think that the wrath of God against these suppressors of truth only happens at the END with judgment to the lake of fire and brimstone; No, the real Scripture is that immediately after they pass the moment of no return with the unpardonable sin of unbelief, their character and personality destruction starts. To others it may appear as a nervous breakdown, extreme depression, a self-inflicted accident, or health anomaly of that sort, but inward they have begun to deteriorate far from the image of God originally in them. They do not lose everything as they continue blessed of the world and Satan so some of the outward appearances are there, and generally in the case of many of the intellectuals they also have tenure or acquired wealth and status.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who [d]suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is [e]manifest [f]in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and [g]Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like [h]corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their [i]women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the [j]men, leaving the natural use of the [k]woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, [l]sexual immorality, wickedness, [m]covetousness, [n]maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 [o]undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, [p]unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

The story of unbelieving humanity and society in Romans 1, which starts with a refusal to even think about the real God and Creator of the Universe, then the end result of the downward spiral: (1) filled or eaten up with all unrighteousness, and (2) preserved for a day of the righteous judgment of God. Then follows the list of 18 bad things that happens to a person of both ungodliness and unrighteousness:

1. suppress the truth in unrighteousness

2. did not worship and give God the glory due
3. they became not thankful to God
4. Their very thoughts became futile
5. Their foolish hearts were darkened
6. Professing wisdom, they became fools
7. Change the glory of God into an inferior image
8. God gave them up to uncleanness
9. Exchanged the truth of God for the Lie.
10. worshipped and served the created more than the Creator.
11. God gave them up to vile passions.
12. Received within their own body the just penalty of the mistakes
13. they did not want God in their knowledge.
14. God let them go over to a debased Mind.
15. they did those things that are not fitting because of the new mindset.
16. Inwardly they became filled with all unrighteousness.
17. Became deserving of death from God.
18. Do the unrighteousness and support those that do the same.

27-4: In order to get the full impact of what agnostics, atheists, sceptics, mystics, and other unbelievers are doing with their active oppositions to the truth of God, called suppression of truth in the KJV, let us briefly look at Romans 1:18.

NOTE: Once you begin to experience that integration of life IN CHRIST, it helps the profitability of your Bible study in that it matters a lot less about what version of the Bible even as it matters less about what denomination, or non-denomination. Many of the vast number of community or non-denominational churches are becoming more exclusive and arrogant, with all the answers, than traditional denominations.

1. New Living Translation (Romans 1:18)

“But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.”

2. Berean Study Bible. (Romans 1:17-19)

“For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. For what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them....”

Part of the Gospel which daily reveals the righteousness of God through faith at the beginning and continuing faith is “the wrath of God” that is being continually revealed inside the lives of the rebels against the truth of God. They know better from the adequate evidence God the great Designer has provided in this magnificent Creation, from an inherent intuition in each person, from the collective conscience of societies as they excuse, and in this day, everybody gets a little Bible from preaching. Even as we believers get tired of the many unwanted and unneeded expressions of unbelief from intellectuals and other sceptics, so everybody gets some preaching from the Bible even if they do stumble across it and hear a witness to Jesus.

3. King James Bible (Romans 1:18)

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness...”

There is an immediate impact to anti-God and anti-rightness of men who “hold or latch onto truth in a wrong way, a way not intended by God in the Creation of His Divine and Authoritative Word. God went through a lot of trouble over thousands of years to select apostles and prophets through whom to reveal His Word, and through the Spirit to inspire them to writings of the 66 books of the Bible, not to even speak of how the first churches were led to gather the NT Canon that contained the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). He intends for that work in the Bible to be honored as Word of God, just as He intends for His other works of Creation, especially of men, women, and youth to be honored. In short, who has the right to establish rightness and wrongness; yes, only God our Heavenly Father, and by far did He not shun that obligation. The heathen rage and God’s people with each new generation just keep bad mouthing the Bible and believers with vain imaginations, strong delusions, slaughtering habits, and all kinds of non-rightness. It stores up not only in the preservation of a heavenly record, but also in the destructions of the characters and personalities of themselves. You can imagine that for every bad word against the right, every fowl book of unbelief, every skeptical word, they are within themselves receiving now on earth a just recompence of their reward.

4. Good News Translation.

“God’s anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known.”

These sceptics and mystics did succeed in some instances of snatching away the truth, undermining and abusing God the Holy Spirit as He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. The end goal, of course, of homosexuals and others is to eliminate sin, eliminate any absolute rightness, and especially like Carl Jung to eliminate any guilt and judgment.

5. International Standard Version

“For God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and wickedness of those who in their wickedness suppress the truth.”

From this version we get the force that there is no need to wait for eternity for the wrath of God, for it “is being revealed already” in the inward destruction of characters and personalities of each unbeliever. Often, we do not consider how much effort it takes against God the Holy Spirit and other internal witnesses to remain in unbelief. Unbelief is not a neutral matter, but it takes efforts of constant rebellion and opposition until the unpardonable sin where the point of no return is reached in the sight of God.

27-5: Christian Doctrine. More and more with preaching the word today, an equal appreciation is created for Christian Doctrine, the lack of it, and the book studied in Ouachita by W. T. Connor on Christian Doctrine, and the need for REVIVAL on Christian Doctrine.

1. First, consider briefly 7 historical sources of Unsound Doctrine.

How can we deny that God is trying to tell American churches that they are slipped deeper and deeper into the unsound doctrine of the Falling Away when we consider recent tornadoes alone along with all the calamities that have happened to the United States since 9/11? In the last year alone, there have been more than three times the number of tornadoes than the average of tornadoes in the last ten years! Did you and your church get the message? You need to think about unsound doctrine and the Falling Away; you need to admit to unsound doctrine {essentially any extra-biblical doctrine}; and you need to begin your pre-repentance, humility, and seeking the face of God (II Chronicles 7:14) with a consideration of the 4 Historical Sources of Unsound Doctrine.

27-6: Extra-Biblical Revelations.

1. The Roman Catholic Church {**falsely called THE Church**} historical grew out of the early Christian churches at locations like in Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome, and Asia Minor; and it is difficult to say at what point they all ceased to be Houses of God like the Temple in Jerusalem or in the time of Jeremiah. Perhaps two historical points when this happened, and we must consider that the Roman Catholic Church went into a wholesale Falling Away long before the present Falling Away that Christianity finds itself in, as clearly taught in Scripture as “The Spirit speaketh expressly {**this was not just the wisdom of the Apostle Paul**} that in the latter times {**latter times would be about in the beginning of the second half of the last days which 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 will end with the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth (II Thessalonians) and the Second Coming of Christ which ends this earth age and ushers in a new earth and new heavens**} some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, forbidding to eat meat and forbidding

marriage (I Timothy 4:1-3). The departure of these local churches from classification by God as a House of God could also have historical come as these once "bishops" of the church at Rome made the extra-biblical decision to make themselves a "pope"--that is the head of bishops; and contrary to the clear teachings of the Bible where only three words and positions are given for the head leader of the local church, and all local, that of pastor, elder, and bishop. God and Christ through the New Testament never authorized a pope as the head of all the other local churches.

You do not hear much about it unless you get into the more scholarly documents of Catholic leaders, but long-ago Rome generated a document intended to be superior to the Bible and intended to be the criterion, with extra-biblical revelations from the reigning pope, for faith and practice. How hideous this is and how much it places a curse on this Catholic leadership as stated in the end of the book of Revelation that a curse rests on any that add to or take away from the Words of this book. Yet, Catholics are not alone in this; and are followed close behind by the Mormons who both have generated 4 Bibles as their own and distinct from the Christian Bible with false claims that it is Word of God, and also whenever their First President Speaks it is, they claim, Word of God. You see, this is forbidden extra-biblical revelation which ignores the Bible in Jude and the efforts of the Apostle Jude to prevent threats to the true Gospel and salvation in that he wrote of the "faith once for all delivered to the saints." The complete faith or doctrine for Christians was delivered to the early churches in the First Century through Apostles and Prophets, with no Prophets and Apostles after the ones we know of in the Bible. Yet today, we find the Pentecostals and Charismatic following closely behind the Mormons and Catholics in generating extra-biblical revelations, and perhaps today when you consider the growth of this movement and the number of false and itching ears Bible teachers of this group on TV and elsewhere, this group is the number one progenitors of unsound and extra-biblical doctrine. You know the group which always say, "God told me", or "God said to me", which bottom line is extra-biblical, that is separate from what is in the Bible, revelations. Yet right behind them are the fundamentalists of the Southern Baptists Convention, who now control the SBC and was the largest Protestant denominations until the splits that were caused as the fundamentalists expanded their fight for control. How are the fundamentalists guilty of extra-biblical revelations, and likewise have a curse on them of adding to and taking away from the Word of God? Several ways: (1) from their fighting spirit; (2) from putting the eschatology of Scofield Notes on the same level, or actually above, the Bible Itself; and (3) and from their condemned attitude in II Corinthians, that is that the Word of God came out of them or came to them only, to the fundamentalists and not to the rest of the SBC which they accused of being moderates as they destroyed the reputations and careers of many real Southern Baptist leaders.

1. Never forget that unsound Christian living is as much unsound doctrine as unsoundness on an official statement of faith, or as far as that goes on a profession of faith. While on II Timothy 3:16 we do often acknowledge the authority of the Scripture as Word from God in the "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...", we tend to neglect the living part of this sound doctrine in the many aspects of life that follow for profit to the Christian life, that is, the "it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."; that the goal of God giving us Scriptures in the first place is for the living of sound doctrine, "that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:17)

2. That at heart the splits and continued warfare in the SBC are centered around the premillennial beliefs of fundamentalists on eschatology, based on Scofield Notes, and which they covet as all the answers. Especially did they envy the consistent eschatology of men like Dr. Ray Summers, formerly at Baylor and author of books like "Worthy is the Lamb" and "The Life Beyond". Along with their jealousy of such Bible understanding of those whom they chose with disgust to call "moderates" is the "fight or flight" protection of what they have believed, preached, and taught almost like real Bible for years, especially from the time the fundamentalists split off from the SBC approximately 1920 and formed Bible Baptists churches. Combine with this a little of the God forbidden in II Corinthians 24 attitude that the "Word came to us only" or "the Word came out of us", and you have a group, now large and in control, of fierce fighters. Have you ever noticed how violent and defensive they get when an alternative view to eschatology is presented like the one from Summers generally called au-millenniums, which is really Bible?

I will tell you right now what is so bad on sound doctrine about Scofield Notes and the fundamentalists: It is that they prevent Christians, church members, and anyone interested in the Bible today from recognize the realities of the Falling Away of II Thessalonians. So clouded are minds on when and how Satan is released after one thousand years, and on this false one thousand years of peace on earth before the final events of this Age, that people fail to see clearly: (1) that is all over when Christ comes again the Second time, there is no more time for this earth age events but rather for a new earth under a new heaven; (2) churches and Christians fail to recognize, preach, and teach on the Falling Away of II Thessalonians, hence becoming more victims and practitioners of it than watchmen on the tower; (3) the literal acceptance of one thousand years between when Satan is bound and Satan is released overlooks the obvious of the Bible that Satan was bound when the Holy Spirit came in great power and glory on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension and Satan will be released when as recorded in II Thessalonians the Spirit is withdrawn from earth.

27-7: The Spirit Within Us that Lusteth to Envy.

Where do these splits and fighting's come from in the SBC, and in general in the religious wars of the past. Pastor James told us long ago.

“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:1,2)

Wherein have fundamentalists of the SBC, as they took control over 30 years ago and as they continue to destroy opposition from real southern Baptists, committed murder--in that they have destroyed the careers and reputations of many fine pastors and leaders whom they call in an unchristian and derogatory fashion “moderates”: surely already we know how they have coveted the larger churches and the respect on Bible and the reputations of many real southern Baptists, a covetousness that started right back when they left the SBC to form Bible Baptist churches approximately 1920.

1. What is even more startling is that fundamentalists, supposed in the Bible but not true when you look at the fruit of their works, is that they have not learned to practice prayer properly before they go to war.

2. Yet this is only one manifestation of a larger problem which is that believers do not lose that internal tendency to sin--the “spirit within us that lusteth to envy and covet” (James 4:5) when they become Christians and church members. And often where they are right is easily mixed with and confused with where they are wrong because they are giving free sway to this lusting and coveting spirit within them. Surely, they are right, they say and think, because of their position in the church and in Christianity; but surely according to the Word of God they are wrong anytime an exclusive and fighting spirit is allowed to dominate over the spirit of Christ.

3. Since human nature, even somewhat converted human nature, will most often do what they “want” instead of what they “should”, much of the doctrines and living in doctrines is more motivated by desires, sins, and the lusts and covetousness, than what is in the Bible. Often if church members cannot find it in the Bible they invent it; when this fails they become intolerant toward sound doctrine, they develop itching ears for something new and new sounding, they seek out of their own desires similar Bible teachers with itching ears to pastor and comfort them; then they turn away from the truth and turn into the fables of unsound doctrine (II Timothy 4:3,4)

27-8: The Influence of the American “World”.

1. Science and American Education.

As one trained in physics I owe a debt to the American Scientific community and to American Education; however, while progress has been made often on the influence of the Bible in education and science, the sin of the majority often raises its ugly head in favor of disbelief and agnosticism. While we cannot underestimate the value of American science and education, at the same time we dare not neglect the influence that the same has had on the propagation and promotion of other than sound Bible doctrine.

2. The American Democratic Faith.

There are three main areas where the American Democratic Faith {based to a large extent on American thought and Studies like in Gabriel's book "The Main Doctrines of American Democratic Faith"} is quite different from the Faith of Christ and the Bible "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3): (1) the emphasis of the first is on the majority while the emphasis of the second is on the minority; (2) tolerance takes place over conviction is the first as compared to the second; and (3) while discrimination based on race, religion, and creed is prohibited in the American Democratic Faith, and rightly so, discrimination of the Bible and in James 2 based on clothing, status, and money in Christian Faith is ignored during often to the influence of American Society.

3. The American Conscience.

What is being discussed here is the collective social and religious Conscience that Americans have developed through the years since foundation, much like the collective social Gentile Conscience mentioned in the Bible in Romans 2.

"for when the Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them..." (Romans 2:14,15)

Accusing each other and excusing each other is what it is all about; and you hear it every day in politics, government, in your churches, and in daily life. Most of the time this American Conscience, yes, we are Gentiles also, is done in favor of excusing behavior even when obviously contrary to the sound doctrine of the Bible. Even as the famous saying goes "that millions of Frenchmen could not be wrong", so we tend to think that collective millions of Americans could never be wrong when in the majority they agree!

4. The Boomers.

Bless their hearts the boomers as believers and practitioners of the American Conscience as no other generation before them, never stood a chance because of their size and the times of departure into the Falling Away witnessed in their large ranks a larger majority of unbelievers than of believers. As they rushed to rightly so reject much of Christianity and the churches, they failed to keep what Christ taught as part of this collective conscience, and above all they neglected the clear teaching of II John 3:20 that "God is greater than our conscience and knows all things". (NEV)

27-9: The Rising Tide of the Mystery of Lawlessness.

Lastly among four obvious sources and origins of the unsound doctrine of the Falling Away is the rising tide of the mystery of lawlessness {sin} spoken of in II Thessalonians. According to Paul this mystery of lawlessness existed already in his day and would continue to grow as it ushered in the very man of sin, the release of Satan, the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit, and the Falling Away. You might say that all these sound doctrines of the Bible--the Falling Away, Satan's release, revelation of the man of sin, and the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth--have ridden on the back of the rising tide of sin and lawlessness. {Hope you have detected the many peaks in world-wide and international lawlessness and sin!} Even as Jesus said a characteristic of the Falling Away would be "as sin abounds, the love of many would wax cold", so we have witnessed in America and in American churches a certain Luke warmth like in the church at Ephesus that God despises as unsound doctrine and practice, a waxing cold of the love for Christ and God that many church members once had.

27-10: A New Church Discipline Based on the Cult of Purpose Driven.

Let me describe this unsound doctrine a little more clearly: A disagreement on the part of a church with certain methodology of music is far more a tampering with the unity of the Holy Spirit. The plain and simple hard fact, and the real basis on the whole problem in the first place which in the name of public relations and presenting a good front, these selective church leaders are overlooking is that the seniors {and others} are hurting in church worship. They are not getting what they are accustomed to in the worship of God with "songs and hymns and expressions of grace" (Colossians 3:16); the music director and pastor and some other select members of the inner circle, most generally the same inner circle that railroaded the call of this pastor are not meeting the needs of a significant number of their members, not even willing to listen to them. And when one spiritual leader of this church has the conviction to vocally express these un-met spiritual needs of worship, and also to put legs on them by going elsewhere in the body of Christ {always remember that any one local church cannot contain the full body of Christ with all its members, for example this pastor's church may not even have the important part of the brain in his local church}, a mouth and strong right arm of the body have tried to cut off his legs.

Let us be clear about the context of the teaching of the book of Ephesians, even of the Ephesians 4:1-3 scripture used by Warren and his disciples to practice such church discipline based on a disagreement in the methodology of certain church leaders centered around the pastor. Either a church has the unity of the Spirit, an inherent and inbred unity, or they do not; and as the heavens are higher than the earth, so is the Holy Spirit and even sin so high above such petty disagreements with the pastor and music direction--really not even with them but with a few of their methods in worship--that it is farfetched to think even with the "pick and choose" method of Bible proof texting that a pastor could accuse a Christian and faithful church member of such long standing with sin and the need for repentance. Sin is against God and the Holy Spirit, not a perceived wrong done to the music direction and the pastor. Now, if there were "god"; or if they had the authority of the Apostles where "what they bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and what they lose on earth will be loosed in heaven", or even the authority of a Priest like before Baptists came to believe in the priesthood of believers, then we might somewhat appreciate this awesome accusation.

Here is what the unity of the Spirit is: it is the unity in a local church as part of the total body of Christ because the Spirit, through the non-instantaneous new birth, has come inside every member of the church. Of course, because of the clear teachings of the Bible on "tares" and "goats", we know that every member in the church does not contribute to this unity. Now, there is no way that this chastised church leader and Sunday school teacher could mess with that unity even as there is no way that Warren in the largest imaginations on the pick and choose methodology of Bible study and teaching, could mess with which members have the Spirit and which members do not have the Spirit. And that is not even what Ephesians 4:3 is talking about when it says, "Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives." A member can mess with the "bonds of peace" which are the one body, the one Spirit, the one Christ, the one God, and the one baptism; but this was not the case just like in the examples Warren gives of a Purpose Driven Church where above all you protect the church covenant and eliminate any disagreement with the church leaders, this providing a unity of the Spirit. No, either your church members have that unity, or they do not; and neither one puny little pastor or deacon or Sunday school teacher can influence which church members have the spirit and which do not. What Warren as his disciples like Bill Campbell and Allen Smith and Scott are talking about when they talk about a disruption in the unity and fellowship of the church has nothing to do with sin and the Spirit of God's presence, it has to do with the public relations matter of disagreement with certain church leaders.

Face up to realities church leaders before these non-spiritual praise hymns with the loud noise and discord force your best worshippers out of the local church. What these

seniors and others in this Alamogordo church want to do is to participate in the worship like in Colossians 3:16 where they also can "teach and admonish one another" in sincerity and truth and order and clarity, and with "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" that have content and are not superficially non-repetitive {see I Corinthians 15 on the proper place and methodology of music, where you learn that repetitious and superficial praise music is detrimental to worship and prophesy in the church as much so as it the speaking in tongues that are not real languages}, where they can express with classical hymns of meaning "the grace in their hearts to the Lord", since they above all for years as compared to novice leaders like the song leader and deacon, have had "the word of Christ dwell richly in the hearts with all wisdom".

Don't you think that even as the spirit {human spirit with influence of the Holy Spirit and under control} of the Prophets are subject to the Prophets, so also you should take a warning from the fact that so many saints of long standing cannot find real worship of God in your music and worship services. Doesn't that at least get your attention! Yes, of course it is much easier to aggressive cry, while manifesting self-justification and the pious robes of the self-righteous, to cry "Sin, Sin, Sin"; repent, repent, and repent; and to make false accusations that such a person could mess with the real unity of the Holy Spirit which a church either has or does not have.

{The Purpose Driven Philosophy is a Cult because it substitutes "Purpose", decided by each individual and assisted by Warren based on false peace, false unity, and a false disciple for such false unity, for Christ Driven or Holy Spirit Driven churches and lives. By the way, this is more recent history, but it is making history.} Even as the Purpose Driven philosophy of Rick Warren has within the last 20 or so years sweep across the churches of American with a substitution of Purpose Driven for Holy Spirit or Christ Driven, so with this cult has come a new twist to church disciple of the elderly that gives free reign to the prejudice and partiality of Boomer leaders for youth centered around loud music in worship. A recent case of such a Purpose Driven and trained large (but dwindling) Baptist church in Alamogordo illustrates both the unsound doctrinal foundation of this philosophy from Rick Warren where a false peace is attempted through church disciple of the elderly, one which ignores that the real heart of peace from Ephesians--a book so important to this philosophy from Warren--where we are "to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the spirit gives" (Ephesians 4:3 NEV) is truly a promotion of inherent unity. That inherent unity comes from the presence and control of the Holy Spirit in lives of church members, whereas the Cult of Warren would secure some kind of unsound unity of agreement with the top church leadership by eliminating and stifling the minority opinion of the elderly. It also illustrates another fault in this cult and those formerly spiritually great churches, in

that it is a case example encouraged that this once large church of the pick and choose method in Bible faithfulness.

1. Right in the middle of the I Timothy 5 chapter passage, the pastor, head of the deacons and the music leader picked two verses to make an example out of an elderly former pastor and spiritual leader in the church because he objected to the loud music in church worship, honestly expressed his opinion to tell others the same, and refused to attend such non-spiritual worship services. Here are the two verses which they chose, just like they were trained by Rick Warren to do.

“Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.” (I Timothy 5:19,20)

Even before I get into the “I charge” you caution of Paul to such young boomer church leaders as in this case--where caution is made to avoid “prejudice” and “partiality” (I Timothy 5:21), I would urge you to see that this servant of God of many years, called of God and as a former pastor and Sunday school teacher for innumerable years, was not “sinning”. It is the sinners who should be rebuked, and I would think that especially in this case with all the scripture surrounding these two verses they used as an excuse for discipline, that the sinners are the pastor, the music director, and the chairman of deacons. What would be their sins: pride, arrogance, respecter of persons, and misuse of the Scripture out of context. Also a boomer-like philosophy that buys the cult teachings of Warren on purpose instead of Holy Spirit driven or Christ driven, with a perchance for discipline that seeks the wrong kind of unity where these select three leaders are always right, and especially a pick and choose method of two verses out of so many others in the same chapter that should tell them a different story on what to do about an elder speaking his convictions.

2. Just the first two verses of I Timothy 5 should have given them pause that they were about to show their own “prejudice” and “partiality” for the young over the elderly.

“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, young women as sisters, with all purity.” (I Timothy 5:1,2)

It is not secret among all the church members and in the community that a large number of the seniors object to the loud music as offensive to good worship. It is no secret that the young pastor and music director are of the boomer generation which said long ago and seemed to have kept that philosophy until now at about retirement time, not to believe or listen to anyone over 21 years of age. It should be readily admitted by all

readers that the boomers, bless their hearts since they stood little chances where the overwhelming majority had to be non-Christian; and who developed an American Conscience and forced it on America as the reigning majority, where not only it was then that had all the answers of a good conscience but also that any elderly were to be mistrusted and kicked out of influential positions. Like no other generations the boomers have learned the American Conscience toward the non-Christian Gentile conscience of Romans 2:14,15 where the collective conscience centers around the accusing of one another and excusing of one another, primarily the excusing of this generation younger than the elderly.

3. In the case of this large Baptist church in Alamogordo, these three leaders from non-Southern Baptist backgrounds, completely overlooked completely how the Bible in this same passage, in I Timothy 5:17, admonished them to bestow "double honor" of this elder Bible teacher and former pastor, rather than the public disgrace of drumming him out of the church.

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine." (I Timothy 5:17)

4. Above all these frivolous leaders {no doubt they seek the honor of men more than they seek the honor of God and His Word}, did not heed and practice the cautions of that chapter in the twenty-first verse against "prejudice" and "partiality." These men are with the assistance and misleading of Rich Warren helping to make the history of the Falling Away.

"I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality." (I Timothy 5:21)

Unsound practices of church leaders are just as much unsound doctrine as unsound teaches. Look what they scored in I Timothy 5 alone, no considering how many sound teachings of Ephesians they trampled over: 1 winner and 3 doctrinal failures alone in one chapter, and their 1 win, except for kicking this elderly former pastor out of the church, was highly questionable because there was no "sin" in what he did. I am sure this fearless threesome is very proud of themselves for engineering such a feat of so-called church disciple, just like Warren trained them; and they think that this will throw the fear of church leadership "might" over the rest of the seniors and others who cannot stand the loud music. Yet "might" never has made "right"; and at time when this large church needs increased attendance and more giving in order to build a new church building, they may have engineering even more departures of faithful and spiritual church servants of many years.

Rick Warren and such disciples of his as these three are only typical of what we will see in the coming years and we get helplessly deep into the Falling Away. There will be many more and widespread practices of this false sense of unity that comes from leadership might more than the right of Spirit and Christ driven unity, the "unity which the Spirit gives" (Ephesians 4:3 NEV) which is the inherent unity of the presence and control of the Spirit. Even if these three could claim the presence of the Spirit, they can hardly claim the control of the Spirit as they have definitely violated by this one act of church discipline 3 sound Bible doctrines in order to falsely claim victory on 1 sound doctrine. And how did we ever come to think in our churches that progress is being made when the leaders of youth, music, and secular education are given partiality, yet unearned, over long standing, faithful, and spiritual-minded elderly.

27-11: A Majority Vote of God's People Expresses the Will of God.

In the words of Pastor Bill Campbell, "We Continue to Support Congregational Voting as the Means of Discovering the Lord's Will for His Church".

{This is also more recent history but making history; and even as someone said to me have you read Stanley's new book of Spiritual Warfare, I automatically replied you mean on Warfare in General, these moderates versus fundamentalists battles now in Texas will move across the Convention.} This is a good statement; but the implication of what He says above is false, in that the majority vote always expresses the will of God. {In this time of the Falling Away, we will find that the opposite is true just like it was in the seven churches of Asia Minor where obviously any vote all but two of those churches made would have been in favor of Luke warmth and unsound doctrine; and where the Ascended Christ threatened to remove their pastor and candlestick, if they did not start voting in favor of the will of Christ and God for their own church.} I read this and the other pious, pick and choose, and the same fallacious arguments for unity and discipline that come from Warren as the Pastor tried to justify the prejudices and partiality which he showed. In the process he used the same argument, that of what the majority in a church vote to do is the will of God, that was used in a smaller church up the mountain and a couple of years ago as they approved divorced deacons and those deacons in turn ran off a faithful ministry of over 18 years.

It just is not true! It is not Scriptural that whatever the majority votes in a church assembly is the will of God. You cannot find one single verse of Scripture or passage to support this; and on the contrary you can find in the Bible many examples where the majority all voted and acted contrary to the will of God. A good example is when all of the assembly of God's people decided to elect a new captain and go back to Egypt. God told Moses to get out of the way and He would wipe them out, then back of Moses a whole new nation. You talk about majority and minority votes, all of God's People in

Israel, voted on the majority recommendation of the majority report of the 12 sent to spy out the promised land--Joshua and Caleb presented the minority report to take the land as God told them, which was right but rejected by two majorities of God's people in assembly. And you can duplicate this several times among all of God's people during the 40 years of wilderness wanderings; and you could go on to amass many Scriptures throughout the Bible, and you know them, where the majority was wrong on the will of God while the minority was right.

This young pastor is confused, but not alone as this has become a common practice as Baptist Doctrine has increasingly come to be dominated more by the American Democratic Faith than by the teachings of Christ and the Bible. It is true, and always has been, in Baptist faith and practice, that decisions are made on the basis on the vote of the majority; however what is not true, and what has increasingly raised up its ugly head in the last 30 years as the fundamentalists have promoted practices and primarily a spirit contrary to Scripture and Christ, is that this vote is the will of God. Long ago, Baptists recognized the necessity of the majority vote with the right to be wrong. It is only more recently in Baptist history, and I would say also concurrent with most churches in America, where the ugly head of pride and arrogance has arisen where an extra-biblical conviction has evolved that whatever the majority votes is the will of God.

He and his supporters are using the same argument, philosophy, and pick and choose scriptural justifications--loaded with prejudice and partiality--that the fundamentalists used when they initially caused splits in the SBC, and that they used as they destroyed the reputations and careers of many good leaders simultaneously with a takeover of the control of the convention. Goodness, which they still use as the war, splits, and fighting's continue. **{We will not rehash the real source of warfare and fighting's in churches which Pastor James says is due to "the {human} spirit within us that lusteth to envy", the desire and need of church members and church leaders to covet; nor will we hash over how the leaders of youth and music covet the spiritual leadership and long service of men like the elder they forced to leave the church of which he was a member and pastor almost before they were born. Yes, something is not Christian about that no matter how much midnight oil you burn to justify the prejudice and partiality.}** Rather we will stick to the broader arguments here, leaving the details for later chapters. Just let me add how similar in covetousness was this music leader as no doubt he went to the pastor saying that "the elder did not respect his position", and as he no doubt coveted the leadership position of the elder; that is similar to an incident of covetousness in a village church up the mountain a couple of years ago as a divorced Sunday school teacher protested "why should I be treated like a second class citizen", coveting the positions that other deacons had who were not divorced. Yes, Pastor James is right--forget about

this pastor and his letter as prejudiced and partial--that such warfare in any church or denominations comes from a human nature to covet given full reign.

27-12: Who Today in the Splits is in the Fellowship of the Apostles?

Our Problem Today is no longer is it easy to tell who is in fellowship with the Apostles, since both sides know and quote Scripture. **{As discussed with two sides, we show a certain prejudice and partiality for "might" and "majority vote".}** It was easier in the first century when the Apostle John wrote the little epistles where he suggested that the side in the split who sided with the Apostles, and with fellowship with the Apostles, was the right side. Back then, the wrong side departed from the fellowship and the right side stayed: today it is often the opposite since the majority can easily be under the influence and sway of the Falling Away. While in I John, John said "they were not of us, that is why they departed from us", that is not so easy to say today. Yet the same criterion that John used then can be used now; that is the fellowship of the Apostles, now the emphasis must be on the fellowship of the Apostles through the Scriptures that they wrote. And although it is difficult, you must be able to distinguish between the side that uses an out-of-context pick and choose method for establishing sound doctrine in favor of the side who keeps proof text in total context and is consistent with both the letter, context, and spirit of the Apostles and Scripture. **{You know the old illustration from wise Bible teachers who are advising to keep verses in context of the chapter and chapters in context of the book, and always everything in the total context of the Bible; then they give the extreme example of the proof text method, which I like to call the pick and choose method, where the one text of "Judas went out and hanged himself" is quoted and then the other text is followed immediately with "Go thou and do likewise."}** Of course, a lot of the failure to be consistent with the fellowship of the Apostles, like in the letter from the Pastor, is in the improper identification of the real problem in the first place. If you read the letter you know how he give emphasis to everything but what most of the members know to be the main problem in the first place which is that the elders cannot stand and worship with such loud music; and on the other side you have the jealous music director, and then you have church leaders who convince, and use and misuse, the youth that the elderly are just prejudiced toward their kind of music.

Of course, you might consider that it may be as simple as the ones who do not even mention this Fellowship of the Apostles, partly because they have a prejudice in favor of the newer and an aversion toward the old, may be the wrong side. In either case you will have to increasingly make decisions as the splits and warfare continues. The same fundamentalists that out of a spirit of warfare split the convention and took control, will relentlessly continue with their spirit and pick and choose quotes of scripture as the turmoil in the SBC festers and breaks out all over. After all, there is a new generation

of Bible faithful's who do not appreciate what has happened; and in some cases, have come to know what many Baptist have overlooked or ignored for 30 or more years.