



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

PUBLISHED AS A MISSION PROJECT OF PILGRIMS HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PROMISE THE PROMISE KEEPERS DO NOT POSSESS

Second Message of a Series

By Wayne Camp

THE PROMISE OF PERPETUAL PRESERVATION

TEXT: Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

In the last issue of *The GP&P*, I called your attention to the article appearing in the February 20, 1998, issue of the Denver Post in which Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney was issuing his presumptuous plan for fleecing the churches. He said, “What I am going to say right now is hard, but I believe it’s what God has given me to say . . . I believe that every church that names the

Holiness Demands Controversy With Error

The nature of God demands both personal and ecclesiastical separation—A holy God must demand holiness in all moral beings. To be holy involves a continual controversy with error. Dr. James M. Gray, a past president of Moody Bible Institute wrote, “God Himself was the first to create controversy; to His eternal glory be it said.” ‘Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate’ (Amos 5:15) echoes from ancient Israel. Titus 1:1 admonishes us to rebuke false teachers sharply. Contending for the faith involves more than just a few innocuous remarks with no particular point to them. Contending for the faith involves a hearty repudiation of error and definite, clear enunciation of the truth.” (Dr. Ernest Pickering, *Frontlines*, Vol.

It occurred to me later that this is really ludicrous. Here is a man that launched his movement, Promise Keepers, with a theme that centered on the terrible state of the “church.” It was in its death throes and needed to be rescued from destruction by Promise Keepers. Now, this “church rescuing” organization is crying to the churches to rescue it. And, the founder of this parachurch organization has the unmitigated gall to claim Divine revelation for his rescue plan. If I had founded a movement that was supposed to be the “deliverer” of the churches, I would not be heard

name of Jesus is supposed to give Promise Keepers \$1,000.”

McCartney further said, “If you’re a big church, you’re supposed to call the smaller churches and say, ‘It wasn’t all that hard for us, but can we help you?’

“If you’re a smaller church and don’t have the resources, out of humility and out of love for what God is doing, you ought to call a larger church and say, ‘Can you help us out here? We want to facilitate what God is doing.’”

crying to the church to deliver the “deliverer.”

This is just another reason why I felt compelled to write this message on *The Promise the Promise Keepers Do Not Possess*. The true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ have a promise that the Promise Keepers cannot claim and do not possess.

In the first message in this study we considered *The Promise of a Perpetual Doming Up*. Jesus promised to dome up his already established church. He used the word

THE GRACE PROCLAMATOR AND PROMULGATOR (USPS #000476) is published monthly (subscription free) by the authority of Pilgrims Hope Baptist Church, 3084 Woodrow, Memphis, TN 38127. Periodical postage paid at Memphis, TN 38101.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE GRACE PROCLAMATOR AND PROMULGATOR, 3084 Woodrow, Memphis, TN 38127

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oikodomeiso [*οικοδομησω*] that has in it the idea of a continuous building up thus assuring that the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

I used the word **church** in the generic or institutional sense several times in that message, as I will in this. As all who regularly read these pages know, this writer does not believe in the mythical universal invisible church. Please do not read that into any use I make of the word church in these messages.

In this message we are considering Christ's

promise of ***the perpetual preservation of his church***. The same church to which he promised a ***perpetual doming up*** is also promised a ***perpetual preservation***.

THE PERSON OF THE PROMISE OF PERPETUAL PRESERVATION ASSURES THAT IT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED

Who is it that promised his church a perpetual doming up and a perpetual preservation? It is Jesus Christ who knows all things. ***John 16:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. John 21:17 Lord, thou knowest all things.*** When the one who knows all things says that the gates of hell shall not prevail, I believe it; I am assured of it and do not question the validity or certainty of the promise.

Who is this that promised a perpetual preservation to his church? It is Jesus who made the world and all that therein is. It is Jesus who is not only man but also Lord of all. It is Jesus the Christ who stilled tempestuous storms, calmed raging seas, and made the blind to see and the deaf to hear.

Who is this that promised a perpetual preservation to his church? It is Jesus who went into the arena of death and conquered it. He then came forth with the keys of both hell and death. ***I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death (Rev. 1:18).*** Could we ask for a greater one than the incarnate Word to promise that the gates of death, or the gates of hell will not and cannot prevail against his doming up of his church?

Who is this who promised a perpetual existence to his church. It is Jesus the true and faithful witness. ***Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*** He is the faithful witness and when he bore witness to the perpetuity of his church, he was faithful and true in that promise. He does

not lie because he is the faithful witness. When he said that the gates of hell would not prevail against it, he was giving a true witness and testimony. For over 1900 years the Lord's churches have embraced that promise and they are not disappointed. Furthermore, they will not be disappointed in the future.

It is true that Jesus did unequivocally and sovereignly declare that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. **Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** The word *hell* used here is sometimes used in Scripture to refer to the realm of death. I personally believe that is included in the idea that Jesus has in mind here. Of course, Satan is the habitual murderer. **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning (Jn. 8:44).** He goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Let it be said that there is nothing and no one that can prevail against the church to which Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, has promised a perpetual preservation.

Satan sought to prevail against the church by killing her Head and Founder but he could not be held in the prison of death. The death of her Head and Founder cannot cause the church to perish from the earth. Dear Readers, death had no rightful claim on Jesus and when he had paid in full the sin debt of his people and his body had lain in the grave for three days and nights, God raised him up from the dead. **Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.** Since death cannot hold our Head and Founder, it cannot destroy the church to which he promised perpetual preservation.

In his death and resurrection he stormed the

gates of hell and came forth with the keys of hell and death. Again, let us look at the precious word of God. How it does cheer our hearts. Let Herbert W. Armstrong come along and claim that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ died out about 100 A. D., but don't believe it. Let the Pentecostals claim that it died out sometime back there and that they rejuvenated it early in this century, but don't believe it. Let the Campbellites, those impassioned followers of Alexander Campbell, claim that the Bible was lost in the church and the church was lost in the world from about A. D. 100 to about 1809 when they restored it, but don't believe it. The promise of Jesus has not failed and the gates of hell have not prevailed. He who lived on earth for over 30 years after his incarnation and worked so many miracles during his life that the world could not contain the books if an account of all of them were given promised the perpetual preservation of his church. He who went to the cross and triumphed over principalities and powers openly humiliating them, he who could not have his life taken from him but willingly laid it down, he who walked the halls of the dungeon of death and came out victorious over hell, death, and the grave has the keys of hell and death; such is the one who promised a perpetual existence for his church. It is he, the great Amen, the alpha and omega, the first and the last who has promised unequivocally that the gates of hell cannot prevail against his church. **Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

Go tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere, the head and founder, the builder and perpetuator of the church holds in his power and under his authority the keys of death and hell. There is no way he will allow hell and death to prevail against his church to which he has

promised a perpetual preservation.

In his victory over death, hell and the grave our great head has subdued the archenemy and murderer of his church and he has no power to prevail against the church. **Hebrews 2:14** *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.* I played basketball in high school. I remember a district tournament in which we reached the semi-finals. When you are from a school that had a total of 29 in its graduating class not much is expected of the ball team when you go up against a school which is 10 times your size. The sports writers were playing up the finals between the two schools that were certain to be in that last game. They picked the team we were to play in the semi-final to be the champion of the district. Our coach, in a pre-game meeting Friday night said, "Men, I want this game tonight. No matter what happens tomorrow night, I want this game tonight." He proceeded to vent his feelings about the reporters who had written us off without a second thought. He fired us up. We went out, played the game of our lives, and beat the chosen favorite. The headlines read, ***Alzheimer Red Devils Pull Off Biggest Upset In Many-a-Moon.*** But, Saturday night was a different story. We had so exhausted ourselves the night before that no amount of encouragement could get our adrenaline flowing. We lost the final game by a score of 48 to 98. Our victory the night before defeated us in the finals.

When Satan inspired the religious leaders and others to put Christ to death, it appeared to all that he had won a tremendous victory. He put his all into this event of the crucifixion. He had killed the Prince of life. He had slain the Saviour. He had crucified the Lord of glory. He had bruised the heel of the Head and Founder of the church. But, My Dear Readers, his apparent victory became his sure defeat. By going into the realm of death, and pulling out its sting, our Head and Founder delivered Satan a defeat from which he has never recovered. Moreover, he will never recover. No longer must

Jesus' sheep fear death for he has laid down his life for us and taken it up again. No longer should his true churches fear death and hell for in shedding his blood he has purchased us with an exceedingly precious price. What he has purchased with such a price he must have, and have forever. The gates of hell may appear to prevail at times. But, Christ turns what appears to be defeat into victory.

We can be assured the gates of hell will not prevail against the church because it is written in the word of God and the Scriptures cannot be broken. **John 10:35 . . . the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken.** God's word is eternally settled in heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ, as revealed in Scripture, has declared certain preservation for his church. The gates of hell cannot prevail against her. That certain promise is found in Matthew 16:18. And, the Scripture cannot be broken.

THE POWER OF THE ONE PROMISING A PERPETUAL PRESERVATION ASSURES ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT

We are assured that the gates of hell have not and will not prevail because of the ability of the one who made the promise. **Romans 4:21** *And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.* Oh yes! It is true. What he has promised he is able also to perform. What he has spoken he will bring to pass. What he has purposed, he will do. None can stay his hand. None can say, "What doest thou."

Regardless of what may come and how stormy things may become, there is nothing that can keep him from keeping his promise of perpetuity for his church. **Luke 1:37** *For with God nothing shall be impossible.* Since he is Emanuel, God of very God, and the King of kings and LORD of all lords, nothing is impossible for him. A perpetual preservation he has promised, and what he has promised he will surely fulfill. What he has purposed, he can surely do. And, what he has spoken, he will surely bring to pass.

We can be assured of the promise of perpetuity because he who gave the promise is

able to subdue any adversary of the promise. **Philippians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.** He has the power, the ability to subdue all things unto himself. He has the power to subdue death. He has the power to subdue hell. He has the power to subdue Satan. He has overcome the world and has the power to subdue the world. He not only has the power to subdue all things, he has the power to so subdue them that they are subject to him. Every knee shall bow to him. Every tongue will confess him to be Lord of all. Such is the power of our great Promiser who has assured his churches of a perpetual preservation in this world and in the world to come.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE ONE PROMISING A PERPETUAL PRESERVATION ASSURES ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT

Jesus is the great Promise Maker and he has promised a perpetual preservation of his church. And, he is the persevering Promise Maker. He never starts a work that he does not finish. Paul wrote, **Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.** Yes, we can be confident that the doming up of the church that was begun by Christ will be completed. We can rest assured that the perpetual preservation that was promised by Christ will be accomplished because of the faithful perseverance of the one giving the promise.

He always finishes what he starts. As to his work of redemption, of giving eternal life to those given him by the Father, he finished that work. **John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.** When he left this earth he had completely finished the work of redemption and nothing need ever added to it. I love to read his cry from the cross, **"It is finished! It is accomplished."** "τέτελεστα." Jesus definitely finishes what he starts.

This was the end to which Christ worked

during his entire public ministry. He must finish the work given him by the Father. **John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.** This accomplishment of the work was ever on his mind. **John 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.** He declared that a man had been born blind and had lived that way many years just for the purpose that in him the works of God should be manifested as Jesus pressed on toward Golgotha.

Jesus came into this world to do the will of the Father. He always did the will of the Father while on earth and I doubt that any would be so rash as to suggest that he is not now doing the will of the Father. **John 6:38-39 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.** Here we all face a question. "Did Jesus always do the will of the Father?" To fail to do the will of God is sin. Jesus did no sin. **1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.** Jesus knew no sin. **2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** Since failure to do the will of God would be sin and since Jesus knew no sin and did no sin, we must affirm that he will lose nothing and no one given to him by the Father.

If it be true that Jesus has done all the will and work which the Father gave to him to do during his earthly ministry, and if it be true that he is still doing the will of God, let me pose another question. "Are there any of you reading these lines who would not be willing to take the position that it was and is the will of the Father that Jesus preserve his churches just as he preserves his sheep?" Jesus declared that the words that he spoke on earth were the words given to him by the Father. Therefore, we must conclude that it was and is the Father's will that the gates of hell not prevail against the church

of the Lord Jesus Christ. He always finishes what he has started and he started the preservation of his church from the day he called those first members into it during his personal ministry. He continues to preserve his true churches as he has promised. He will continue to dome up his true churches and the gates of hell will not prevail against the church or the doming up of it.

CONCLUSION TO PART TWO

The promise of a perpetual preservation of his church was given to the church, not to any parachurch organization that is less than ten years old, such as the Promise Keepers movement. Promise Keepers is not a church of the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot, therefore, possess the promise of a perpetual preservation.

Promise Keepers' founder, Bill McCartney, unwittingly admitted that Promise Keepers is not a church in his statement reported in the Feb. 20, 1998, *Denver Post*. He said, "***I believe that every church that names the name of Jesus is supposed to give Promise Keepers \$1,000.***" He did not say, "Every other church should give to Pks." He said "that every church that names the name of Jesus is supposed to give Promise Keepers \$1,000." The discerning reader will readily see that McCartney, in this statement, makes Promise Keepers a separate organization from the churches that "name the name of Christ." It is not a church and if it were, it has several problems that disqualify it for possessing the promise of a perpetual preservation.

1. Promise Keepers was founded by the wrong person to be the church of the Lord Jesus Christ which has the promise of a perpetual preservation—Jesus established his church; Bill McCartney founded PKs.
2. Promise Keepers was founded at the wrong time to be the church of the Lord Jesus Christ—Jesus established his church during his personal ministry on earth, or around 30 A. D.; PKs was founded in the last decade of the 20th century, nearly 2,000 years too late to be the church of the Lord Jesus Christ with the promise of a perpetual preservation.

3. Promise Keepers was founded in the wrong place to be the church of the Lord Jesus Christ—the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ had their origin in Palestine; PKs was founded in Colorado, USA, literally thousands of miles from the scene of the founding of the first New Testament church on this earth from which have come all other true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Promise Keepers was founded for the wrong purpose to be the church of the Lord Jesus Christ—the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ were founded for the purpose of preaching the gospel into all the world and making disciples, baptizing those disciples, and then teaching those disciples; many PKs have written to me and stated the purpose of the PKs movement and not one has ever given the Biblical purpose of the church as the purpose of PKs.
5. Promise Keepers was founded far too late to be able to claim the promise of a perpetual preservation.

The rock of Promise Keepers is not as our Rock, Pks themselves being witness. Jesus is our Rock; Bill McCartney is their rock. Since Jesus finished his work while on earth, the founding of any **new** religious movement such as PKs, or the Vineyard movement from which PKs was spawned could not be a work of Christ on earth. PKs came out of the Vineyard movement and the Vineyard movement was founded by John Wimber who recently died.

The promise of a perpetual preservation is the exclusive possession of true New Testament churches. It was given exclusively to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It cannot be claimed, it cannot be possessed by any other organization. The churches of the Lord Jesus Christ were promised a perpetual preservation over 1,950 years before PKs was formed. It has never been theirs to claim. It will never be theirs to claim.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Ephesians 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

PROMISE KEEPERS ASSEMBLY

National Mall

Washington, D.C.

October 4, 1997

An Eye Witness Report

By Dr. Ralph G. Colas

Fundamental News Service

{**Editor's note:** Several letters from Promise Keepers have suggested that if I would just go to one of their assemblies my mind would be totally changed about this new movement. Here is the message from one who did attend the Washington, D. C. Rally. I recieved this and permission to print it about three months ago but in the interest of variety, I have delayed printing it. Before it is too out of date, I am printing it this time.}

"At Promise Keepers, we're not concerned about a man's denominational label," said PK founder and CEO, Bill McCartney. Dozens of denominations sent official representatives to ***Stand in the Gap***, PK's Assembly on October 4, 1997, at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.—including American Baptist, Assembly of God, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Christian Reformed, Church of Christ, Episcopalian, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Messianic Jewish, Nazarene, Presbyterian Church, USA, Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist Convention, and United Methodist.

A number of the above religious groups are a part of the National Council of Churches (NCC) or the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). Other denominations represented in Washington are outside the NCC and NAE, such as the Roman Catholic Church and the Free Will Baptist Churches. While more than forty speakers addressed this large gathering, not one would be identified as a separatist Fundamentalist. Some of the men who were participants on the speaker's podium were Mike Timmis (a Roman Catholic who was recently added to PK's Board of Directors), Joe Stowell (Moody Bible Institute president), Max Lucado (Oak Hills Church of Christ, San Antonio, TX, pastor), Jack Hayford (Church on the Way, Van Nuys, CA, pastor), Joseph Garlington

(Covenant Church, Pittsburgh, PA, pastor), Tony Evans (Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas, TX, pastor), James Robison (TV host and charismatic Southern Baptist from Texas), and James Ryle (Bill McCartney's pastor, Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Longmont, CO). Bill McCartney spoke for 20 minutes while the others took a shorter amount of time.

The Public Relations organization used was the DeMoss Group, Atlanta, GA. They handled all of the media contacts and credentialing of the more than 1,000 members of the press who had come from 10 countries. Strict procedures regulated the press, who met in a large tent with numerous videos set up so they could see and hear what was taking place on the large stage set up on the Mall. The one and only press conference that day was held with Bill McCartney in the media tent before the program began. At that press conference, before inviting any questions from the press, McCartney shared that this long-planned meeting came into existence because Rev. Randy Phillips, PK President, had a vision as he was jogging around the National Mall. According to McCartney, this vision came from the Lord, and Phillips saw a large gathering of men for a religious service at that place.

McCartney read the purpose statement that had been adopted for this giant assembly—"...to gather a diverse multitude of men in the name of Jesus Christ, to confess personal and collective sin, so that we may present to the Lord godly men on their knees in humility, then on their feet in unity, reconciled and poised for revival and spiritual awakening." Coach McCartney gave the members of the press a preview of his talk scheduled for later in the day. He said, "The church of Jesus Christ has been

divided and a house divided cannot stand. The reason that we see a downward spiral in morality in the nation is because the men of God have not stood together. We ask each guy to go back to his own local church and to make a stronger commitment inside that church." McCartney made another important statement: "We are asking that churches, through the leadership of the pastor, connect with other churches in the community over a broad scale. Weekly we want them to come together—the leaders—to pray and share the needs of the community so that these pastors can bring the burden back to their own men." In listing one of PK's major goals, the former coach said, "As a matter of fact, on January 1, in the year 2000, in every state all across the United States, we are asking the pastors and their men inside that geographical state to gather on the state capitol steps and take roll call.... We do not speak against other denominations, but as a matter of fact, we are all one brotherhood."

This event, which cost about \$10 million, was emceed by Jack Hayford, a charismatic pastor from Van Nuys, CA. His skill in behavior tactics was evident. He kept the program moving along in steps that were structured around various appeals to the men. At given times, the men were urged to bow their heads, to kneel, to fall prostrate on the ground, and even to hug one another. The music, for the most part, was not as wild as at some of the previous rallies held in stadiums or even at the PK Clergy Conference in Atlanta, GA.

As speaker after speaker issued proclamations and confessions, the men formed small groups to confess and repent for moral failures: cheating their employers, hating their enemies, ignoring their children, and abusing their wives. They were asked to take a family photo from their wallet, hold it and look at their loved ones, and then lie prostrate before God and confess "I have been an abusive man. I have sinned against you."

Max Lucado (Oak Hills Church of Christ, San Antonio, TX) led in confessing the sin of disunity in the Body of Christ. Using the same technique that he did at the PK Clergy Conference in Atlanta, in February 1996, Lucado had them call

out all at once the various denominations with which they were identified. Of course, the result was a confused, loud sound. Then they were asked to shout out the name of Jesus, and they willingly did so in unison. In this manner Lucado shows that PK is unified because they claim to love Jesus.

The PK men at this assembly were asked to pray for "the Miracle of the Millennium." This was to be done so the "sin of sectarianism" could be confessed. It was declared that "those who think they know all the truth and that their denomination is more faithful to God's Word than another are guilty of sin. The world has never seen a united church. We have seen a divided small church in communities from which we have come. Today we see a united Great Church." An example given to this large crowd of a great and noble Christian was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Yet Dr. King rejected foundational truths, namely the virgin birth and physical resurrection of Christ. History revealed that King was an adulterer; but this, of course, was not shared at the PK Assembly. The pastor of the Above and Beyond Baptist Church, Houston, TX, Rev. William J. Lindsey, said, "I believe part of the dream that Martin Luther King expressed here in 1963 is being fulfilled today."

Although for a long time PK leaders had boldly announced that no offering would be taken at the Washington Assembly, reduced income during 1997 necessitated a different strategy. A strong appeal was made by charismatic evangelist James Robison. He announced that it would be the greatest offering ever given in all history. The free New Testament (Contemporary English Version) given to everyone contained two offering envelopes, one for the person with the New Testament and the other for someone else who did not have one and thus had no offering envelope. The men were strongly urged to write out their check or to use a credit card. Robison encouraged everyone to put down a monthly pledge to PK--\$100, \$50, \$25, etc. "Give the greatest gift you have ever given. Give a love offering to Promise Keepers," he pled. **{Note that Robison was asking them to give more**

than they had ever given to their local church. Yet, they claim to be very supportive of the local church. Editor}

It took so long to take the offering that no time was left to present the pre-recorded address by Billy Graham. The press were given an advance copy of Dr. Graham's remarks. Graham said, "Coach McCartney has just challenged each of you to return home with a renewed commitment to your local church and pastors. Return to your churches as one who is a player, not a spectator." (As usual, and not unexpectedly, Dr. Graham failed to distinguish between solid, Fundamental, Bible-believing churches and those who are a part of Roman Catholic, Charismatic, salvation by works, etc., churches).

Some observations by this reporter:

1. The large crowd—700,000 up to more than 1 million—was orderly. The police actually stood around with very little to do besides directing the traffic. The only time we witnessed any strong rebuke and warning came when a member picketing the PK men got out of line and tried to thwart the PK men from reaching the National Mall. The policeman told this member of the National Organization for Women (NOW) he would haul him off to jail if he tried it one more time.
2. Some have suggested that Promise Keepers is an organization approved by God because the NOW and the gay and lesbian organizations oppose it. However, bear in mind that these same radical groups also oppose the U.S. National Catholic Bishops and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Holy Scripture is the test of truth, not the presence or proclamations of opposition groups. **{I have been told that I am a supporter of NOW and the gay and lesbian movements because I oppose PKs. Editor}**
3. Promise Keepers continues to "break down the walls," biblical truth being replaced with the perceived benefit of a male-bonding experience. Promise Keepers is an ecumenical hodgepodge, for it brings together, under one umbrella,

churches and individuals with various non-Fundamentalist affiliations (e.g., NCC, WCC, NAE, WEF, Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist, Mormon, Oneness Pentecostal, independent groups), as well as many compromising Fundamentalists.

4. Bill McCartney is a Roman Catholic who has become a convert to charismaticism since visiting the Vineyard Fellowship Group in Boulder, CO. In his autobiography, *From Ashes to Glory*, he calls himself a "born-again Catholic." He adds in that book, "Making a profession of faith like I did may not be expected and may not even be important in the Catholic Church." Can anyone who is truly born again treat so lightly what the Lord Jesus declared to be an absolute essential? John 3:3 says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." PK continues to seek the approval of Roman Catholic leaders and even changed its doctrinal statement so it would not offend Roman Catholics who reject "by faith alone." The National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family said, "Catholic men are being drawn to Promise Keepers.... PK is the proverbial wake-up-call to the Church to encourage and offer more ministry suited to the needs of men." One need not be surprised when a Roman Catholic Monignor in New York leads a special mass to help Roman Catholic men prepare for a PK Conference. Promise Keepers continues to welcome Catholic participation in its ministries. Mike Timmis was added to PK's Board of Directors and clearly identified himself at the PK Assembly in Washington as a Catholic. Speakers at the PK rallies include signers of the manifesto "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission of the Third Millennium." Among those who signed this unbiblical document, which called on Evangelicals to stop winning Roman Catholics to Christ, were Chuck

Colson, Jesse Miranda, Pat Robertson, Bill Bright, J. I. Packer, and a large number of Roman Catholic leaders. Yet, PK leaders apparently consider unimportant or irrelevant—in comparison with PK's goal of "breaking down the walls"—Roman Catholicism's heresy of teaching salvation by belonging to their church. Steve Green sang "Let the Walls Come Down" at PK's Assembly just as he did at the PK Clergy Conference in Atlanta.

5. No less than five of the 16 PK board members have ties to charismatic churches. In spite of his extra-biblical beliefs and practices, many Evangelicals associated with PK look with favor on John Wimber, the Vineyard Denomination, and its third wave theology. A leading charismatic leader, Jack Deere, has said that every Christian has the capacity to receive prophecy. He declares, "In order to fulfill God's highest purpose for our lives, we must be able to hear His voice both in the written Word and in the Word freshly spoken from heaven." Another charismatic, Marc Dupont, believes that when a spirit of revelation is upon a person, that person can go into a mall and discern whether an individual is involved in homosexuality or adultery or is suffering from child abuse. The facts reveal that PK's unbiblical base is composed of charismatics and those who defend or excuse maintaining membership in liberal, apostate denominations. Years ago, a rancher from one of the Western states shared with me how they killed gophers that were damaging their fields and causing injuries to their cattle and horses. "If you take a bushel of poison and just a peck of wheat," he said, "the gophers will not eat it. However, if you take a bushel of wheat along with a peck of poison, the gophers take the bait and the gopher population goes on the decline."

There are pastors and laymen who suggest that there is "good" in PK's goals and program.

However, mixed in with the wheat (truths) is the "poison" that gullible individuals swallow because of the bait of psychological manipulations and mass confessions. Religious error is being propagated by "biblically illiterate" people led by Bill McCartney.

Isaiah 8:20 spells it out most forcefully: ***"To the law and to the testimony: If they speak not according to this Word, it is because***



I GOOFED LAST ISSUE AND LEFT OUT SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS I FULLY INTENDED TO INCLUDE. I ask the forgiveness of those whose services have already passed. I ran out of space and simply cut off the Bouquets and Brickbats at the end of the last page and hidden in what I cut off were those announcements. After the paper was mailed I was checking to see where I left off and found the announcements at the end of the letters.

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 6209 Denver Ave, Pensacola, FL 32504 is seeking a pastor. Any interested Elder should contact Buzz Barrell, Phone 334-981512 [Editor: Not sure about phone number. This is what I received.]

**FRIENDLY BAPTIST CHURCH
Columbus, Mississippi**

The Friendly Baptist Church of Columbus, Mississippi, has established a building fund as they seek land on which to build a church building. If any church desires to assist them in this project offerings may be sent to:

Friendly Baptist Church
%Darrell Gregory, Treasurer
4013 New Hope Rd
Columbus, MS 39702

If you have questions you may call the Pastor, Eld. Samuel West at (205) 662-3480 or the Treasurer at (601) 327-8413.

MOUNTAINEER CONFERENCE ON HISTORIC BAPTIST DOCTRINE

The Morris Fork Baptist Church and Pastor John Kohler will host a Bible Conference from April 16-18, 1998.

The following subjects will be addressed in this special meeting by 21 different Baptist preachers

The Supreme and Final Authority of the Holy Scriptures
The Superiority of the King James Version of the Bible
The Absolute Sovereignty of God
The Triune Godhead
The Holiness of God
The Love of God
The Total Depravity and Inability of Man
The Free Agency of Man
The Doctrine of Unconditional Election to Salvation
The Doctrine of Reprobation to Damnation
The Sufficiency and Efficiency of the Atonement
The Instrumentality of the Gospel in Regeneration
The Biblical Plan of Missions
The Relationship Between Regeneration and Conversion
The Biblical Evidences of Regeneration
The Doctrine of Justification By Faith
The Place of Prayer in the Christian Life
The Ten Commandments and the Christian
The Perseverance of the Saints
The Evils of Arminianism
The Evils of Hyper-Calvinism

For further information contact Pastor John Kohler at:

Morris Fork Baptist Church
RR 1 Box 117
Meadow Bridge, WV 25976
Phone: (304) 392-9876
E-mail: Landmarker@aol.com

Bouquets and Brickbats

CALIFORNIA: Praise the Lord! I knew I wasn't alone, but it sure is a blessing to find someone else publicly standing up to the "pedigree pushers." I've been fighting the same battle here in California for some time.

Bro. _____ sent me copies of the April through September issues of *The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator*. You have done an exceptional job of sticking to both the Scriptures and history in your debate with Bro. Joe Wilson.

ILLINOIS: I am enjoying your writings and am looking into the things you are exposing. Thank you.

CALIFORNIA: I am a Christian who has been blessed by your newsletter. Your ministry has truly been a blessing to me and to the believers with whom I share the information. Keep up the good work.

KANSAS: I would like to receive your newsletter, *The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator*.

MINNESOTA: Could you please put me on your mailing list.

INDIANA: Just a note to say how much I appreciate much of what you write.

The Nov. 1 issue arrived a couple of days ago. In the "brickbats section" the one under WWW is a good example of the shallowness and confusion generated by groups [and emphasis like theirs] that is so prevalent today in Christendom. Some of his statements are so far from biblical truth that one wonders how a true believer could even say them. And SUCH ideas are widespread in fundagelicalist circles, and increasingly so,—in my opinion.

So, be encouraged, my brother. Your work is very worthwhile and much needed.

VIRGINIA: You will never know how will your tapes and paper are enjoyed. Keep up the good work and may the Lord richly bless you.

NORTH CAROLINA: My pastor recently let me borrow his copy of *The GP&P* and I would like to receive them also.

MISSISSIPPI: I just thought that I would let you know that I really did appreciate your article about the church rescinding the membership of some of its members. Isn't it amazing how far modern day Pharisees will carry their new brand of "Landmarkism". But I guess when you go about to establish your own laws concerning church order you have to keep making them up as you go. Whenever you totally disregard the pattern of the New Testament all you have left are the precepts of men and they can come up with some tangled webs indeed. This case that you have written about is a classic example.

Another thing that this case brings to light is the danger of individuals or churches blindly following the advice of preachers. We have some preachers in our midst who have set themselves as bishops or popes over churches and other preachers. Whatever these self appointed bishops say is taken as gospel truth without any regard to Biblical principle or precept. The idea is that a thing must be right simply because brother so and so said that it was true. What ever happened to simply checking with God's Word to see if a thing is so or not? I will never understand this mentality of blindly following the advice of a self appointed authority and completely ignoring God's Word.

I believe that this one thing has caused more harm to the churches in our generation than anything else. I think that you have exposed some of this in your articles and discussions concerning how churches are started. It does not take very long for the thoughts and ideas of some preachers to be accepted as laws that are to govern churches. Then, those that will not go along with these man-made laws are regarded as heretics and those who blindly follow the precepts of these men are regarded as orthodox. It

really is a tangled web.

WWW: I have been a born again Christian for over 20 years now. I read your article on Promise Keepers and James Dobson while I was searching for Wake up Call dates for Promise Keepers. I have gone to 4 out of the last 5 conferences in my tri-state area and admit I really love the worship, but last year at Stand In The Gap in D.C. I got a very uneasy feeling when they started talking about going global. The first thing I thought was, Oh no!

I have been looking for some more information on the Board of Directors for P.K. I've read some disturbing material on one of them, namely James Ryle. If you have any more information on him or any other board members please send them to me e-mail. I read the book Counterfeit Revival by Hank Hanegraff and he mentioned James Ryle in the as being on the

board. I don't have the book in front of me so I don't recall exactly what he had to say but I know he [Ryle] claimed to be a prophet by prophesying and saying that prophets of today aren't judged by their accuracy but by their lifestyle. Please send more info if you have any. Thank you very much!

WWW: I found your web page recently and have marked it as one of my "favorites". My wife and I are born-again Christians and find your lengthy articles on the "Promise keepers" organization to be very enlightening. I attended one PK convention in Oakland, CA, several years ago and was somewhat turned off by the moneymaking aspects I observed with the organization. Now you and others have opened my eyes to the many false and deceptive aspects of the organization. I will have nothing to do with "PK". Thank you for your excellent information you have provided.

I have a problem maybe you can help me with; We attend a A/G Church and the ministry is pushing a men's group called "Honorbound", which is a direct take-off from the PK organization. Most of the men are getting involved and I am not! I need to present our Pastors with the truth but I need to be careful and I want to have all my facts straight and to present this truth in Love! How do you suggest that I proceed? The "Honorbound" concept comes from the A/G headquarters and the A/G organization is pushing P/K. Would it be easier for us to find another Church that focuses on true Bible teaching and is not supporting the false teachings of the PK organization? There are so many false teachings in these last days! My wife and I are trying to be careful and research every new organization and teaching we hear by what the Bible says. Many are being deceived in these last days!!! Thank you again for all your help.

ILLINOIS: Keep up the good work on the PK subject. It sure is strange how "hateful" some of these "do-gooders" are, isn't it? Don't grow weary in well doing.

Dear Sir:
Most men in our church—a solid Bible church until PK appeared on the scene—attended a big PK rally in Plain City, Ohio. At that meeting a man got up and wasted about twenty minutes on how we should take up an offering for Russell Means, a Native American Indian who had been radicalized by the communists at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. By the time he got through I was steaming, and walked out of the meeting. I told them that I didn't need to hear the spoutings of a left winger about communist Indians.

The vigour of faith is the death of anxiety, and the birth of security. CHS

PLANNING TO MOVE? If at all possible, please notify us three weeks in advance of your change of address so that we may keep your paper coming. It costs us 70 cents to get your new address from the Postal Service and that may take long enough that two papers are returned at a cost of \$1.40 before we get the correction. This will mean you miss one or two papers. Your help in saving us this expense will be appreciated.

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