



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

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

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CHRISTIANS PROTECTED FROM SATAN, DEMONS, AND EVIL SPIRITS

BY GOD'S INVINCIBLE POWER

A SERMON PREACHED IN A JUNGLE VILLAGE OF THAILAND JANUARY 2003

By Wayne Camp

A WORD TO THE READER: Here in the United States where the Word of God has been preached freely and where rank paganism has been somewhat subdued (Except that paganism that parades as Christianity) until the recent increase of Muslims and Buddhists in this country, we have not heard a lot about evil spirits, demon possession, and other such things that normally accompany rampant paganism.

Evil spirits are real but sometimes I think some of the supposed spirit activity is a product of the imaginations of superstitious people. Real or imagined, evil spirits get a lot of attention in the Kingdom of Thailand. The country is predominantly Buddhist. In fact, an official Thai WebSite gives these statistics for religions in Thailand:

1. Buddhists 93.47% (I have mistakenly said 94.47%)
2. Muslims 3.96%
3. Christians 0.52%
4. Hindus, Sikhs 0.01%
5. Unidentified 2.04%

The Buddhist religion is the official national religion in the kingdom of Thailand but it is especially tolerant of other religions, especially spirit worship. Many Buddhist are also animists and worship Buddha and evil spirits. It is not uncommon to see spirit houses (such as the one pictured here) very near Buddhist shrines and at the homes of Buddhist worshippers or at

the entrance to a skyscraper in Bangkok.

The Buddhist, or a member of one of the Hill Tribes in the jungle, will place offerings in their spirit houses such as is seen next. It is as if they are bribing the spirits to keep them from harming them.

Like most other paganistic religions, the worship of evil spirits is mainly a worship of appeasement. Offerings are made to placate the spirits so that they do not cause a pig to die, keep the hens from laying her eggs, cause a rash, or any number of things. On one WebSite I found this statement, ***“It is believed that each dwelling or business will have spirits that inhabit it, and the best way to appease those spirits is to provide them with their own beautiful home to live in. This will help keep the spirits from being mischievous.” [Emp. Mine, RWC].***

When a person is too poor to have a nice spirit house like the one above which is listed at a price of \$379 he may simply put a little shelf on the wall of the house and place offerings there. Or, he may also tie strings around the wrists, the neck, and/or the ankles to appease the evil spirits.

On one of our earlier visits to a village in the jungle where one of the churches is located, we learned shortly after arriving that a teenage girl believed an evil spirit had attacked her. That evening as we were leaving she had another attack and appeared to be writhing in pain. We took her to the hospital but they found nothing

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CO-EDITORS' ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Editor, Eld. Wayne Camp, may be reached at the address given above, or at his home address. His home address at present is: 3809 Strider Rd, Scobey, MS 38953.

Home: (662) 229-9578

E-mail address: rwcamp@gpp-5grace.com

Visit our Home Page on the Internet

<http://www.gpp-5grace.com/>

Editor, Eld. Bill Lee may be reached at PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38901-0876.

Editor Lee's phone number is 662-226-2715.

E-Mail Address: billandjan@cableone.net

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wrong with her. It turned out that her attacks were either imaginary or simply put-on for when no one would take her to the hospital on her last attack she recovered quickly and had not had any more attacks when I left Thailand on February 28, 2003.

Nevertheless, what she did caused quite a stir in the village and the fear of evil spirits was wide spread. Therefore, I prepared this study and preached it the last time I was in the village. The church members declared that they were very encouraged by it. But, I have learned

recently that there is another stir in the village. As I write this we are trying to get the material translated to send to Thailand to try to help in this matter.

I personally believe that evil spirits, demons, etc. are fallen angels. And they did not pass away when the Bible was complete. Satan is alive and well and he and his angels are still at work. To the Christians that were scattered abroad, the Apostle Peter wrote, **1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Jesus warned this same apostle that Satan had desired him. Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.**

I do not know how much of the alleged activity of evil spirits is real and how much is imagined by the superstitious but I do know that Satan and his fallen angels still roam this earth and seek to devour whomever they can. **1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.** This clearly indicates that all false prophets work under the influence of demon spirits. **1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.**

Let us now consider our subject.

SCRIPTURE READING: Numbers 23:17-26

TEXTS: Numbers 23:23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

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.

(See **EVIL SPIRITS** Continued Page 6)

THE REGULATIONS ON SPEAKING IN THE ASSEMBLY

By Wayne Camp

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 *Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

INTRODUCTION

While we were in Thailand recently the students asked a question one day concerning the matter of tongues. I answered their questions briefly and then went home to the condo and prepared the following lesson. I did so thinking the question would come up again but it did not. Therefore I never taught this lesson. But, realizing that there is a need for this information in many circles today I wanted to print it in this issue of the paper. I have called it ***The Regulations On Speaking In Tongues In The Assembly.***

In the early history of the New Testament churches there were some gifts that were needed because the New Testament was incomplete. That which was perfect (the completed word of God, the perfect law of liberty, **James 1:25**) was not yet come. Paul makes this clear in the passage above. He does so by speaking of his own childhood and saying, **1 Corinthians 13:11** *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.* Because they did not have the full word of God to back up those things which they taught and to supply those doctrines that were not yet fully developed in Scripture they needed the gift of prophecy,

the gifts of tongues and the gift of healing. Among other things these gifts served to validate what they taught.

In fact even the ministry of Christ was approved by God before the people by the signs that he worked. **Acts 2:22** *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.* This was also true of the apostles. **Hebrews 2:4** *God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*

Even the various sects of the Pentecostal movement here in the United States do not put as much emphasis on tongues and the other gifts as they once did. That is not true, however, in such countries as Thailand, Burma, and other countries that are predominantly pagan.

The purpose of this article is to show that even when all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the passage at the beginning of this article were still in existence there were some very specific regulations on their use.

I want to deal with five Scriptural regulations on the use of the gift of prophecy and tongues. I should also mention that the gift of tongues was not just a bunch of ecstatic gibberish but it was the gift of being able to speak in a language of which the speaker had no prior knowledge. These regulations are laid out clearly in 1 Corinthians 14:27-40. They are as follows:

1. *No more than three people could speak in tongues or prophesy in one service.*

1 Corinthians 14:27 *If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*

It appears from this verse that the

preferable thing would be that no more than two speak in any one service. But Paul adds **“at the most three”** indicating that there might be those occasions in which it would be profitable to allow for a third speaker. It is clear that Paul and the Holy Spirit put an absolute limitation of three on the number who could speak in a service.

2. *Those speaking in tongues must not all speak at the same time; only one was to speak at any time; they were to rotate.*

1 Corinthians 14:27 *If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*

John Gill explains it this way, “The apostle’s sense is, that two such persons as had the gift of speaking in an unknown tongue, or three at most, . . . and that these should speak not together, which would be a mere jargon and confusion, and make them look like madmen, and render them entirely useless indeed; but in course, one after another, that so an interpreter might be able to take their sense, and render what they said, and express it in a language the people understood.

I can well remember during my pre-teenage years my brothers and I had a trio and I regret to say we often sang in Pentecostal churches. I have seen two and as many as four people speaking at the same time in what they called tongues. I never heard anyone at any time call them down and point out to that they should do it by rotation. Neither have I ever heard in one of their services a Pentecostal preacher place a limitation of three on the number who could speak. Neither did any of them ever speak in a foreign language. It was just so much ecstatic gibberish which no one understood.

3. *Under the divine regulations there was to always be the interpretation of what was said in tongues.*

1 Corinthians 14:27-28 “. . . and let one interpret. 28 **But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and**

to God.

This regulation is explicit and incontrovertible. One speaker was to speak and then that was to be interpreted before another speaker spoke. There was absolutely to be no speaking in tongues where no interpreter was present

4. *If there were no interpreter present there could be no interpretation; consequently, those with the gift of tongues were commanded to remain silent.*

1 Corinthians 14:28 *But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

This regulation magnifies the error of one of the great lies of the charismatics. An enthusiastic charismatic once told me, “If you ever get the gift you will not be able to help yourself. You cannot control it.” That was definitely a lie concerning the real gift of tongues and their exercise. Prophets and tongue-speakers that were under the influence of the Holy Spirit had complete control of what they did and did not do. Their own spirits were to be subject to their good sense. The idea of a spiritual gift causing a person to lose control of what he says is rank, nonsensical error.

This idea that the exercise of the spiritual gifts of tongues and prophecy cannot be controlled by those speaking is further proven erroneous by the following verses.

1 Corinthians 14:29-32 *Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. 30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

Shortly after our third son was born I stayed up late one night to mop and wax one of the floors in the house. I had the radio on and a black preacher from a northeastern city came

on. If I remember correctly he was “Bishop S. C. Johnson” a charismatic preacher. But I shall never forget that he was strongly rebuking charismatic churches for allowing more than one to speak at a time in their services. He said, “When everyone is speaking at the same time it sounds like a dog party. That is why Paul said you were to speak one at a time.” I just had to say a resounding “Amen!” to what he said. At least he had part of the matter straight. As Paul said in verse 39, **“God is not the author of confusion.”** And it is confusion when two or more people are trying to talk at the same time, especially if it is only ecstatic gibberish that no one understands. It does indeed sound more like a dog party than a church service.

5. *The next divine regulation Set Forth by the Inspired Apostle Paul forbids women to speak in the church assembly.*

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

Tongue-speakers were to be men only. The women are commanded to be under silence. John Gill wrote that allowing women to do certain things was, “a practice which seems to have prevailed in this church at Corinth, allowing women to preach and teach in it; and this being a disorderly practice, and what was not used in other churches, the apostle forbids and condemns, and not without reason.”

When Paul said that allowing these women to do things that put them in a place of authority over men—preaching, teaching, speaking in tongues, and prophesying—was forbidden he did so with very good reason. He declared that it was a shame for women to conduct themselves in such a manner. The Greek word that Paul used (*αἰσχρότης*) means to do that which is *filthy, debased, and dishonorable*. The word *shame* used in our English Bible means *disgrace, crime, and guilt*. One can see that it was no light thing to the Holy Spirit for the women at Corinth to abuse the spiritual gifts. It was no light thing for the men at Corinth to permit such abuse.

Paul is not above using some sarcasm in his rebuke of this disorder that was going on with the spiritual gifts in the church in Corinth. **1 Corinthians 14:36-38 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.**

The church in Corinth was acting as if the word of God had come out from them. They were introducing new practices that were not even practiced by the churches in Judea. New Testament doctrines and practices had come out of the churches in Judea under the guidance of the apostles. Rather than seeking to introduce new laws and new practices, Corinth should have been seeking to follow the example of the churches in Judea.

Paul also reminds them that the word of God had not come just to them. It had come to others a long time before it came to them. They did not have a corner on truth. In fact, the church in Corinth was further from the truth than most New Testament churches were. I am reminded of something that Paul had written to them earlier in this epistle. **1 Corinthians 4:8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.** The attitude at Corinth was that truth had started with them and ended with them. It is a sad day when any church or churches get the attitude that they are right on every point and all other churches should pattern their work, doctrine, and practices after them.

Paul closes this discussion of the spiritual gifts which he started back in chapter 12, verse 1, with another admonition rebuking their disorder. **1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.** Earlier he had reminded them that God is not the author of confusion. Now he admonishes them to do all things decently and in order. Do not do things in a shameful and disgraceful manner as they had been doing. Our God is a God of grace and that which is disgraceful is contrary to his will and word. Our God is a God of order and that which is not orderly is disorderly and contrary to his ways and his will.

(EVIL SPIRITS Continued from Page 2)

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.*

INTRODUCTION

Four verses have been read that I especially want to call to your attention. The first one shows that the children of God cannot be hurt by the enchantments of false prophets who work by the power of Satan and evil spirits. These demons may try to work against us but they cannot be successful for God's people are protected by His invincible, irresistible power.

The second assures us that no weapon that men may form against us can prosper against us. Even if one is able to kill a Christian he has only done them good for they go to heaven when they die and Paul declared that for the Christian, **"To die is gain."**

The third verse is especially directed to the Lord's churches. It declares, **"The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** Hell has sought to destroy the Lord's churches ever since the first one was formed on this earth during the personal ministry of Jesus Christ but the promise of Jesus has not failed and the gates of hell have not prevailed. The churches of the Lord Jesus Christ have stormed the gates of hell and taken away many of those Satan had sought to take down in destruction but God reached down and by his invincible power brought them to Jesus to whom the Heavenly Father had given them before the foundation of the world.

The fourth passage, Hebrews 2:14-15 tells us that Jesus took upon himself the form of a man, took on him our flesh and blood, so that he could destroy the power of the devil over us. The devil and his demon spirits have no power over the children of God. And we should not let our imaginations run away with us and think that evil spirits do have power over us.

Now I want to look at the truth that is set forth in these four Scriptures.

THERE IS NO ENCHANTMENT OF EVIL SPIRITS THAT CAN AFFECT THE CHRISTIAN

Numbers 23:23 *Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!*

Balaam, a false prophet had sought to place a curse on the nation of Israel because a man named Balak had offered him a great position of honor to do this. That this man was a false prophet working his enchantments and curses by the power of Satan is evident. **2 Peter 2:15-16** *Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.*

This false prophet, Balaam, was one who was greedy for the gain he could have received if God would have let him curse Israel. **Jude 11** *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

All false prophets work in the power of demon spirits and their doctrines are the doctrines of demons or devils. We are told to not give heed to evil spirits but to try what they teach by the word of God. **1 John 4:1-3** *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

I should point out that Satan's ministers do not declare to those to whom they preach their pernicious doctrines that they are ministers of the devil. No! They parade themselves as ministers of Christ just as Satan transforms himself as an angel of light. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** *For such are false apostles,*

deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

The doctrines taught by false teachers are the doctrines of demons or devils that are the same as the evil spirits worshipped in Thailand. **1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.**

The sacrifices of false prophets are sacrifices to evil spirits—devils or demons. This is why Paul told the church at Corinth that they should not have fellowship with devils or demons. **1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.**

All paganism is the worship of demons. Whether it is Buddhism, the worship of evil spirits, Catholicism with all its idols, images, and relics, or any other form of idolatrous worship. **Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk.**

Balaam, though a false prophet, knew that the word of God was supreme in all things and he could not do anything unless it was the will of God that he do so. **Numbers 24:13 If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?** Balaam, where is your free will? Surely you can exercise your own alleged free will. But the false prophet declares, **“I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?”** Notice that he did not say, **“I will not go beyond the commandment of the Lord.”** No, he said, **“I cannot go beyond the**

commandment of the Lord.” If Balaam had truly had a free will, he would have cursed Israel in a moment. But he could not do anything good or bad of his own mind. He must do according to the commandment of the Lord.

Balaam, the false prophet who worked according to the power of evil spirits, had no power to curse someone unless God had already cursed them. **Numbers 23:7-8 And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel. 8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?**

Even though the words of our first text come from the mouth of a false prophet, it comes after Balaam has been told this by God, so this text is an infallible, absolutely dependable, and perfect promise of God and we need to believe it. **Numbers 23:23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!**

It should be noted that the Bible does not deny the presence and power of evil spirits but it does deny that those evil spirits can do anything against the children of God unless God wills it for their good and his glory.

The bodies of saved people are the temples of the Holy Spirit and evils spirits cannot inhabit the same place that the Spirit of God dwells. **1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?** No true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ should ever fear a demon entering into his body and those who worship such spirits believe that they do.

There is no place that a child of God can go that will separate him from the presence of the Holy Spirit. **Psalms 139:7-10 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy**

hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. One of God's children need not fear being in a certain village where evil spirits are said to be very active. David said, **"If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."** One who is indwelt by the Spirit of God is truly free from the indwelling of evil spirits. **2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** Examine these verses carefully and lay hold of the truth that is in them.

Where Christ is evil spirits cannot be, so if you are saved, then Christ is in you and no evil spirit can enter where Christ dwells. **Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

NO WEAPON THAT IS FORMED AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE WILL PROSPER

Look now at our second text. **Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.**

Nothing that anyone can do can remove a child of God from the protective hand of Jesus Christ and God the Father. **John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.**

The child of God is held in the almighty hand of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the hand of the Father and these two omnipotent persons of the

Godhead are united in their purpose to protect their sheep. **John 10:30 I and my Father are one.**

Nothing and no one can ever separate us from the love of God. **Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Those who are lost and die in that state are permanently separated from God, Jesus Christ and their love. But, nothing of the kind can ever happen to any child of God. Paul was persuaded of this wonderful truth (Verse 38) and we lack faith if we are not also persuaded of it. No effort of evil spirits, demons or devils, or Satan himself can accomplish this separation.

Nothing and no one can ever cause us to be condemned in the sight of God. **John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

There is no weapon in the hands of men or demon that can prosper against us unless what they do is for our good and God's glory. God has a hedge around his children and no weapon has been made that can make a breach in the hedge unless God be in it.

THE GATES OF HELL CANNOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE LORD'S TRUE CHURCHES

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 devil has been trying to destroy the Lord's churches ever since he started that first one on this earth. Satan would, if he could, wipe the Lord's churches from off the face of the earth. He has been seeking to do that for over 1900 years but the old serpent has failed. **Acts 4:29-30** *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*

One of the first agents Satan used to try to destroy the Lord's first church was a man named Saul of Tarsus. **Acts 9:1** *And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest. Acts 8:3* *As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.* It appeared that Saul was going to be successful for a while but the Lord just saved him and made him one of the greatest missionaries this world has ever known. What he had sought to destroy; he now established in place after place. **Acts 9:3-6** *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*

**JESUS CAME AND TOOK UPON HIMSELF
HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD SO THAT HE
THROUGH HIS DEATH COULD DESTROY
THE POWER OF SATAN OVER THE
CHILDREN OF GOD**

Hebrews 2:14-15 *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; 15*

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

If Jesus did not destroy the power of the devil over the children of God then these verses contain a serious lie. ***“that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”***

When the devil bruised the heel of Jesus by crucifying our Saviour, Jesus delivered a powerful blow to the head of Satan so that he could not control or possess the children of God. **John 12:31-32** *Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.* The very thing that Satan thought would destroy the saving power of Christ was the thing that assured that saving power. Through death he was able to destroy the murderous efforts of Satan.

In his death Jesus triumphed over Satan's kingdom. **Colossians 2:14-15** *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.* The principalities and powers in this passage are referring to the kingdom of Satan. He is the God of this world; the prince of the world and governs his kingdom. He was the master-mind behind the crucifixion of Christ. He thought he could make an open show of the claims of Christ by crucifying him. Instead, Jesus Christ made a show of Satan and his kingdom through his death on the cross.

Jesus, in his death, seized the keys of hell and death and took away much of Satan's power. **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.*

In his death and resurrection Jesus took the sting out of death and the victory away from the grave. **1 Corinthians 15:55-57** *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be*

unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We can approach death with victory over that dark realm assured. Jesus has removed the sting of death for the Christian. Jesus has stolen the victory of the grave over the Christian. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

Why should we fear what evil spirits might try to do to us? Nothing they can do can hurt us unless God has some purpose in permitting Satan to cross the hedge that he has around us. ***Job 1:9-10 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? 10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.***

TENNESSEE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REMARKS ABOUT PRAYER AT A FOOTBALL GAME

EDITOR'S NOTE: I have researched this article to determine if it was a hoax or not. According to the webpage, Truth or Fiction <http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/j/jodymccloud.htm>, the article is definitely the truth. In September, 2000, Principal Jody McCloud, made the following statement at the opening of the game. This statement was read over the PA system at the football game at Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee.

I thought that it was worth sharing with our readers. Our country is rapidly going down the tubes in many ways. Let me remind you that this was in the year 2000 long before the current administration took office. The ruling by the Supreme Court to which Mr. MacLoud refers what's issued by the Supreme Court of the United States. This address is much more than a political statement. It shows how far our country

has moved from its foundations laid by our founding fathers. It is a spiritual and moral problem, not just a political problem or an ideological problem. What follows is principal McCloud's address to those present at the football game.

It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the National Anthem to honor God and Country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law.

As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it an alternate lifestyle, and if someone is offended, that's OK.

I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it safe sex. If someone is offended, that's OK.

I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem.

I can designate a school day as earth day and involve students in activities to religiously worship and praise the goddess, mother earth, and call it ecology.

I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depict people with strong, traditional, Christian convictions as simple minded and ignorant and call it enlightenment.

However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and ask Him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, Federal Case Law is violated.

This appears to be at best, inconsistent and at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone except God and His Commandments.

Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be at best, inconsistent and at worst, hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.

For this reason, I shall, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying

at this time.

However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God, and ask Him in the name of Jesus to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law—yet.

Snopes, another hoax reporting site, also reports this to be the truth. Their copy included the following comment:

“One by one, the people in the stands bowed their heads, held hands with one another and began to pray. They prayed in the stands. They prayed in the team huddles. They prayed at the concession stand and they prayed in the Announcer's Box! The only place they didn't pray was in the Supreme Court of the United States of America—the Seat of ‘Justice’ in the ‘one nation, under GOD.’ Somehow, Kingston, Tennessee remembered what so many have forgotten. We are given the Freedom OF Religion, not the Freedom FROM Religion. Praise GOD that HIS remnant remains!”

THE ENEMY WITHIN

Cicero

“A nation can survive its fools, and even ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and he carries his banners openly. But the traitor moves among those within the gates freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears no traitor; he speaks in the accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their garments. And he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He robs the world of a nation; he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city. He infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to be feared.”

Editor's note: This article was contributed by Brother Billy Holladay. Bro. Holladay wrote, “I recently came across this article that I clipped from a paper in 1980. After more than 2,000 years, Cicero still seems relevant.”

OUR EVERLASTING SONG!

The following is from Spurgeon's sermon, "CHRIST—PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS"

In Christ's Soul there was an exceeding heaviness even unto death, and an agony which no tongue can tell, for we have found no words in which to speak of it. We believe that this agony was commensurate with the agonies of the lost in hell—not the same agony, but an equivalent for it; and remember, not the equivalent for the agony of one, but an equivalent for the hells of all that innumerable host whose sins he bore, condensed into one black draught to be drained in a few hours. The cost set down on miseries of an eternity without an end, miseries caused by a God infinitely angry because of an awful rebellion, and these miseries multiplied by the millions for whom the man Christ Jesus stood as covenant head. What a draught was that, men and brethren! Well might it stagger even him!

And yet he drained that cup, drained it to its utmost dregs not a drop was left. For you, my soul, no flames of hell; for Christ the Paschal-lamb has been roasted in that fire! For you, my soul, no torments of the damned, for Christ has been condemned in your stead! For you, my spirit, no desertion of your God, for He was forsaken of God for you! It is done, it is finished, and by your sufferings, Jesus, you have become perfect as the expiation of your people's sins.

Do, my brethren, remember that your sins are perfectly expiated. Do not let them trouble you as to punishment; the punishment is gone. Sins cannot lie in two places at one time—they were put on Christ, and they cannot be on you. In fact, your sins are not to be found—the scapegoat has gone, and your sins will never be found again. Your sins, if they were searched for, could not be discovered. Not even by the piercing eye of God can a single blemish be found in you!

Oh! how we will sing, how we will chant his

praise when we get to heaven! This shall be the highest note—that we owe ALL to that bright one, that Lamb in the midst of the throne. We will tell it over, and over, and over again, and find it an inexhaustible theme for melodious joy and song that He became man, that He sweat great drops of blood, that He died, that He rose again.

While the angels are singing "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" we will bid them stop the song a moment, while we say, "He whom you thus adore was once covered with bloody sweat." As we cast our crowns at his feet, we will say, "And He was once despised and rejected of men." Lifting up our eyes and saluting Him as God over all, blessed for ever, we will remember the reed, the sponge, the vinegar, and the nails; and as we come to Him and have fellowship with him, and He shall lead us beside the living fountains of water, we will remember the black brook of Kedron of which he drank, and the awful depths of the grave into which He descended.

Amid all the splendors of heaven, we shall never forget His agony, and misery. And when we sing the loudest sonnets of God's love, and power, and grace, we will sing this after all, and before all, and above all—that Jesus the Son of God died for US, and this shall be Our Everlasting Song—***"He loved us and gave himself for us, and we have washed our robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb!"***

OH, WHAT PRECIOUS FRUIT!

(Octavius Winslow, "Evening Thoughts")

"As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can you, except you abide in me." John 15:4

Oh, what precious fruit does such a living branch bear!

The broken heart; the contrite spirit; the mourning over sin; the low, abasing, humbling views of self; the venturing by faith on a full, mighty, willing Savior; the going out of self, and resting in His all atoning work, and all satisfying righteousness.

This is followed by a progressive advance in

all holiness and godliness, the fruits of faith which are by Jesus Christ abounding in the life, and proving the reality of the wondrous change . . . the close walk with God; the submission of the will in all things to His; the conformity of the life to the example of Jesus; the "power of His resurrection" felt; the "fellowship of His sufferings," known; and "conformity to His death," marking the entire man.

These are some of the fruits of a truly regenerate soul.

**ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**
Grenada, Mississippi

March 19-21, 2010

Bill Lee, Pastor
Phone: 662-226-2715

Further details concerning the conference
will be in the next issue, the Lord willing.

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