

# A Biblical Philosophy of Christian Music

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## **Introduction**

**T**here is much controversy today surrounding the subject of music in our Independent Baptist Churches. The average pastor today will often admit that he knows very little about music, and generally leaves decisions regarding the music ministry to the song leader/choir director. The primary reason most pastors know very little about music is that they have never been taught a Biblical philosophy of Christian music.

Most Bible colleges today do not teach much in the way of Biblical music standards, and often leave such decisions up to the students themselves as to what they listen to and perform. There are 749 references to music in the Bible, and every one of those references is in the context of worship.

Music is worship. Worship is always directed upward to God, never outward to the people. Music is not entertainment, or to be used to draw a crowd, or even for evangelism, but is always worship! I have heard pastors say, after special music, "I could skip the preaching, and give the invitation." That is a sad commentary on that

pastor's understanding of what brings about Christian decisions.

My Bible says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God!" One very important fact that we must understand is that Satan is the world's greatest expert in music! Ezekiel 28:13 tells us that Lucifer was created to be the song leader in heaven. God built into him the greatest knowledge in the universe concerning music. When Satan attacks the churches of Jesus Christ today, he uses his best and sharpest weapon, the one that he is most expert in, music. There are very few subjects that cause more anger in churches today than that of music.

I have seen a song leader walk out of a service, and out of the church, because the pastor had not gushed with gratitude over a special that had just been performed (not ministered, performed). That which we love the most, we defend the most. We should stop defending our music, and start defending our churches from the onslaught of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

We must learn to love the Lord and His church more than we love our music, and our preferences, and our entertainment. We must put Christ first on our list, and His church must be honored as He would honor it. We must learn to "love not the world." We must learn to identify the things of the world, and avoid them. I propose the following principles for the use of music in our churches:

### **Seven Reasons for Including Music as a Major Part of Church Services.**

1. Music is a means of worship and praise. The psalmist states: "Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp." (Psalms 150:1-3). The Apostle John, in his vision of heaven, witnessed the angelic host praising God with music and song, "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:8-10).

2. Music is an effective channel of Biblical instruction. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord". (Colossians 3:16). We have children in our junior church who are so young they do not even know how to read, but they can quote scripture because they have been singing scripture songs right out of the book of Psalms! When I was a kid I learned the books of the Bible by singing them, and that song comes back to me today, almost fifty years later, when I am going over the order of the books of the Bible in my head!

3. Music is an evidence of Spirit-filled lives. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" (Ephesians 5:18-19). A person who refuses to participate in the singing of Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual songs is a person who is publicly demonstrating the fact that he is not filled with the Holy Spirit! I didn't say you had to sing well, or even on key. The Lord and all my congregation knows that I don't. But that doesn't stop me from singing at the top of my lungs at every service.

I used to have a piano player that stopped playing in the middle of a song one Sunday evening and just stared at me. I asked her what was wrong, and she said, "Pastor, there are 88 keys on this piano, and you keep singing in the cracks!" About a month later I was practicing for a special when I asked her to play the song in my key, she replied "No problem, Pastor, your key is the key of "off". I was teasing her one Wednesday evening when I asked her to play my favorite song in the key of E-flat, she said, "How 'bout I just play it in E and let you flatten it yourself!" It is not the quality of our voice that makes singing a great joy; it is the filling of the Holy Spirit!

4. Music is a vehicle of Christian service. "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. (Psalms 100:1-2) Everyone can't be a preacher. Everyone can't be a deacon. Everyone isn't qualified to be a Sunday school teacher, but everybody can lift up his heart and voice in songs of praise to God during the congregational singing.

5. Music is an appropriate way to testify and express faith in Christ.

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:25-30).

By the way, it wasn't the singing, but the testimony of Paul's and Silas's faith in the power of God that convicted the heart of the keeper of the prison. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (1 Peter 2:9). My wife has a beautiful voice. Nothing touches my heart more than to hear her singing old gospel hymns when she thinks she is alone.

One day last year I was helping a plumber who is a member of our church install a new hot water heater in the missionary apartment. I looked around and he was gone. I looked outside and saw him sitting under the window to our living room. He was sitting there in the shade listening to my wife singing in the house. I sat down beside him and enjoyed the beautiful music coming from that parsonage window.

6. Music is an indication of joyfulness. "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms." (James 5:13). I fear that we as a people have lost our joy. We are much more likely to be heard griping and complaining than singing songs of joy.

7. Music is a source of comfort and encouragement. "And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him." (1 Samuel 16:23). When the heart is heavy with the cares of this world, what a joy it is to sing one of those old gospel songs telling of another one who went through trials and testing, but emerged victorious through faith in the Lord.

#### **Specific Purposes of Music in the Church Service**

1. It relaxes visitors who may be tense and/or nervous. Nothing is better at making visitors feel relaxed and comfortable than to hear the old gospel hymns that they recall from childhood. They recognize the music and recall the simple things of childhood, and are placed in a much more receptive frame of mind to hear the message being preached.

2. It prepares the hearts of God's people for the ministry of the Word. God's people are just like everyone else when it comes to being pressured by the work-a-day world. They got up late, had trouble getting the kids dressed, fought traffic on the freeway to get to church, and are feeling anything but spiritual and close to the Lord as they pull into the parking lot on Sunday morning. But when they come in and open the hymnbook, and lift their hearts and voices in songs of praise unto the Lord, their thoughts are focused on the Lord and all that He has done for them, putting them in the right frame of mind for the preaching of the Word of God.

3. It prepares the heart of God's preacher for the preaching and/or teaching of the Word. Music is worship. Preachers need to worship God just like everyone else. I had a guest preacher in not long ago to hold special meetings for our church folk, and while the rest of the congregation was singing, I looked over and saw that the guest preacher didn't have his song book open, but instead was studying his sermon notes. After the song was over I leaned over and asked him why he hadn't been singing. He said that he needed some last minute study of his message. I told him the time to study (and pray) was before he got up on the platform, and if he wasn't ready to preach, just let me know and I would call on someone who was ready!

4. It encourages the congregation to make necessary spiritual decisions. The congregational singing can be as important in preparing God's people for making necessary decisions as the invitation is in encouraging them to do so publicly.

#### **Guidelines for Music Selection and Use**

"And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?" (1 Corinthians 14:7).

##### *1. Words*

The words of the songs we sing are very important. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of

good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8). It is so very important today to be careful in selecting songs that have good Bible doctrines in them.

Many so-called Baptists today are abandoning the old fashioned hymns of the faith in favor of the theological mush of the modern day ecumenical movement. I even heard of one Baptist church that quit singing "The Old Rugged Cross", because the third verse says, "In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;" and that church and its heathen pastor no longer believe in the literal blood of Christ!

What does the song say? What is the message? Is this a song of praise unto the Lord, or a song of pride and bragging about self. Count the number of times the words "I", and "me", are used, and the number of references to God, Father, Christ, and Lord. Who is being magnified in this song, the Lord, or the singer?

Are the words a force for God (righteousness) or Self (sin)? "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34) More about the words of our songs later.

## *2. Life-style and testimony of writers and/or performers*

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20)

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Matthew 12:34)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Is the life-style and testimony of the writers and/or performers in agreement with God's Word? I recently attended a Preachers conference where a fine Christian lady with a beautiful voice got up to sing a special. The song she sang was written and recorded by a well-known charismatic new-evangelical with a questionable lifestyle.

After the meeting I approached her pastor husband and asked him if he knew who wrote and recorded the song his wife had just sung. He said "yes," so I asked him if he would ever invite that man to sing in his church. He replied that he would not. I then told him that the man had just been in his church, by proxy! We must guard our churches against invasion by the world, the flesh, and the Devil, whether in person or by proxy!

What do the writers and/or performers think of Jesus Christ?

"Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David." (Matthew 22:42)

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (2 John 7-11).

Many churches that were once "fundamental" have lost their separatist distinctive and as a result, will not receive a "full reward" at the judgment seat of Christ. Many of the songs today are written for profit, and the performers "cross over" into secular music as a means to earn more of the world's mammon. When we use their music in our churches, we become "partaker(s) of (their) evil deeds."

### 3. Effect on listeners

Does this song cause listeners to give glory to God or to the performer?

"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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." (1 Corinthians 15:33)

What does this song motivate one to do or to be? Does this song cause the hearers to want to grow closer to the Lord, and to be more Christ like, or is it merely entertaining them?

Can this selection be used as a vehicle of Christian growth and blessing?

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

Are the hearers going to be better Christians after hearing the song?

### 4. Appropriateness

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Is this musical selection appropriate for this service or occasion? It is very important that church music be appropriate for the service in which it is being sung. Sunday morning is when we have the most visitors present. Our goal is to win them to Christ so we emphasize music which relates well to the unsaved and unchurched.

The special music shares a simple Gospel testimony or a message of Christ's love and saving power. We limit congregational singing to more familiar, fast-tempoed songs. In our evening services we have mostly our own church crowd so our musical emphasis ministers to the needs and hearts of believers. Congregational singing of choruses and joyful hymns and Gospel songs is emphasized.

#### **Special music emphasizes praise and encouragement.**

Does this song agree with the church's "Philosophy of Ministry" in the area of church services? "Let all things be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40). One of the problems I often encounter with preachers regarding their philosophy of ministry is that they don't have one.

If we are to have "all things be(ing) done decently and in order", we better get organized and put our basic principles and philosophy down on paper so as to help us organize our ministries, and to have a document on hand for that visitor who asks "What is your church all about, anyway? What do you believe, and how do you intend to put your beliefs into practice?" Your written philosophy of ministry will go a long way toward answering these questions as well as providing staff members with written guidelines to follow, and in the event of your death or resignation, your deacons or pulpit committee will have a set of guidelines to follow in interviewing and selecting a new pastor.

#### **Basic Music Guidelines**

The following guidelines will provide a starting point from which to build a separated music ministry in your church.

1. Music solos, duets, etc. ought to come from the hymnal; *Singspiration's Favorites Volumes 1-6 but not Volumes 7-10* which require more discernment both doctrinally and musically; also *Praises I and II* from Majesty Music in Greenville, South Carolina.

2. As a general rule, avoid using taped accompaniments. Their weaknesses are as follows:

a. Eliminates the use of people. Music is a ministry, worshiping and serving the Lord in song. People worship and serve the Lord, not machines! I have talked to my musicians and they want to serve the Lord. How would the pastor feel if a tape of some Baptist Big Shot was played instead of letting him preach the message that God had given him? Perhaps the problem is that preachers (and all too often Music Ministers) believe their service to the Lord is more important than other peoples. I would no more ask my piano player to sit by and listen to canned music than I would ask my song leader sit by and let a karaoke machine lead the congregational singing, or I would be willing to sit by and let a tape of a Baptist Big Shot take the place of my area of service, preaching.

b. Most tapes sound very sensual (appeal to the flesh). Remember, what you like, what appeals to you, is not the criteria. If something appeals to your ear, always remember, the ear is flesh!

c. Almost all tapes are recorded by worldly or compromising musicians. A friend once told me this is not a good argument because "you don't know who made your piano either, but you still use it." We are not talking about the instrument; we are talking about the music that is produced by the person playing the instrument. I would no sooner let a tape be played that was recorded by a lost or compromising musician than I would invite that worldly or compromising musician in to play the piano in person.

d. Most tapes emphasize rhythm more than melody. More about this later.

e. The use of tapes leaves no room for musical interpretation. You will be stuck with whatever was recorded on the tape. If there is a questionable portion, you may be tempted to go ahead and use it, thus starting a pattern of compromise that will end in the destruction of your Biblical convictions.

NOTE: I have been criticized by some good men for not using accompaniment tapes. I have been told, "That's not a conviction; it's just a personal preference, because there is not one verse of scripture that prohibits using tapes!" There is not one verse of scripture that prohibits smoking cigarettes either, but I have a conviction (not a preference) against doing so.

It is a conviction with me, not a preference. It is based on Bible principles, and those principles never change. Worldliness is a sin. When we condone worldliness in our churches it is a sin. The world's sounds, the world's styles, the world's motives, and the world's system of approval are all present in almost all tapes today. I won't use them. It's a conviction. Not a preference. If I used them it would by a sin.

3. Plan special music about a month in advance so musicians have time to practice. This will improve the quality immensely. Under normal circumstances it is too late to give or get notice on the Saturday preceding the Sunday services.

4. Criteria for Evaluating Music:

a. WORDS: The words of the song must be doctrinally correct. Most of the contemporary gospel songs have very shallow messages. There is an over-emphasis on "love" and "nature". Be sure to sing a balance of gospel songs and hymns. Minimize the use of experiential songs (songs that focus on us and our experiences such as those that are so widely used by the Pentecostals and charismatics) and maximize the use of songs that focus on the Lord.

b. MELODY: The melody must be strong and clear. Contemporary music makes use of slurring and sliding between pitches, and ornamental embellishments that call attention to the performer rather than the message. A strong melody will build to one major climax and possibly several minor climaxes. Variety is the key. Sliding between pitches destroys a clear-cut melody, and produces a "country music" or "pop music" sound.

c. HARMONY: Harmony should show some creative ability on the part of the composer/arranger. Avoid music that does not resolve; that overuses chord clusters (clusters destroy tonality which is an absolute); that utilizes "blues" notes as found in "rhythm and blues" music. These points are difficult for non-musicians to evaluate objectively.

d. RHYTHM: Rhythm is a vital part of music but should not dominate. There should be a natural accent in the rhythm. ONE-two-THREE-four. Accents should fall on the strong beats. Rock music accents the weak beats and weak parts of a beat (one-TWO-three-FOUR). Do not use music that incorporates too much syncopation. Syncopation is an unnatural shift of accent to weak beats or weak parts of beats. Syncopation creates tension. An overuse of syncopation will call attention to the performer and the music and distract from the message. A steady, driving beat causes tension. Rhythm should not dominate the melody.

e. FORM: Form must exist to present music that is logical and understandable. A lack of variety in form is an element of tension. Repetition of melody, harmony, or rhythm must show creativity.

#### 5. Performance Guidelines:

a. Do not use hand-held microphones. Most people are not well trained in the use of hand-held microphones and hold them in front of their faces, or up against their mouths, relying on the microphone to make up for a weak voice or a lack of practice, thus producing that worldly, sensual, "breathy" sound.

b. The performance technique should draw attention to the message of the song being sung and not to the body of the singer.

c. Solos, duets, trios, and quartets should sing from behind the pulpit. This forces the congregations attention on the faces of the singers rather than on their bodies.

d. Avoid unnecessary bodily movement which would detract from the message of the song. Simple, planned gestures of the hand must be used sparingly. Any bodily movement will either add to or detract from your ability to communicate. Hold still! You are not up there to sing Bee Bop and to dance the Boogaloo!

6. Many of the techniques and songs used by contemporary gospel musicians evolve from the philosophy that there are no absolutes in life and this includes music. We must not be influenced by the patterns and examples of gospel musicians who copy the world's performance techniques and song-forms.

Music is not intended to entertain, but rather to speak to the heart in preparation for the message from God's Word, to bring people to the place of decision. Ephesians 5, verses 10 through 17 gives us five Biblical principles for developing our philosophy of music:

"Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:10-17)

a. First, Prove what is acceptable to the Lord (verse 10). We must prove what is acceptable to the Lord from His Word, not from our likes and dislikes. Remember, music appeals to the ear, and the ear is flesh!

b. Second, Have nothing to do with that which the Lord has nothing to do with (verse 11).

1) Rock music is unfruitful. Or even anti-fruitful. More young people have been destroyed by rock music, and led astray by its so-called "Christian" counterpart "contemporary music" then by all the booze and drugs on the face of the earth!

2) Rock music is the work of darkness. We, as God's people, are commanded to "walk in the light!"

c. Thirdly, Be a discerning Christian (verses 14 & 15).

1) A fool gets as far from God as he can get, and still feel comfortable. Stop thinking you are alright as long as you don't "step over the line", we should not even be near the line, we should be as far from the line as we can get!

2) A wise man draws near to God, and stays there!

d. Fourthly, Be interested in the Will of God (verse 17). We so often get caught up in worrying about whether the congregation will like the music ministry, or whether the visitors will like it, or whether the visiting Evangelist will be impressed with our special music, or whether it will appeal to those new folks we are trying to get to join the church. Wait a minute! What about what God likes? Let's be more interested in what He likes, find that which is in the center of His perfect will, and all the rest will work out okay.

### **Summary of our Philosophy of Music.**

1. The MESSENGER of our music is important (he or she must be Spirit filled) verse 18.

- a. Not people oriented,
- b. But God oriented.

2. The MOVEMENT of our music is important (verse 19).

- a. Not outward to the people,
- b. But upward to the Lord.

NOTE: I have noticed in several good churches that I have been in over the past years a growing tendency to clap at the end of a special music number. Webster's dictionary defines applause as "to acclaim, to approve, to honor, or to praise by the clapping of the hands." Revelation 5:12 says, "...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive... honour, and glory...." If we give such honor and glory to a person, we must first take it away from Him that is Worthy.

We must always direct our honor and glory and praise upward to the Lord and not to people. The great danger of teaching God's people to express themselves in this way leads to even greater dangers. I was in a preachers' conference in a church that expressed appreciation of special music by clapping. It became such a habit to clap (rather than say "Amen", or "Glory", or Hallelujah") that when a young preacher finished his message, the people clapped! They applauded as if they had been entertained by a clever poet or interesting story teller!

Such things ought never to occur in the House of God. How soon before people will be thinking of the preaching of the Word of God as mere entertainment, interrupting the preaching with clapping instead of saying "Amen."

3. The MOTIVE of our music is important (verse 20).

- a. Profit, fame, success, recognition, or,
- b. Thanksgiving and praise.

4. The MANNER of our music is important (verse 21).

- a. Submitting ourselves one to another,
- b. In the fear of God.

5. The METICULOUSNESS of our music is important (verse 20).

- a. Doctrine is of the utmost importance if our music is to be "unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- b. Come now, let us reason together - Isaiah 1:18.
- c. Come now, let us agree that God is right!

**Conclusion**

We must lift up our standard, which is the Word of God. "Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders." (Isaiah 49:22).

We must maintain a difference between the world and the church.

"Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them." (Ezekiel 22:26)

"And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?" (1 Corinthians 14:7)

"And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;" (Leviticus 10:10)

"To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten." (Leviticus 11:47)

There is so much good music available today for use in our churches. Why is it that we so often go to the world, the world's artists, and the world's philosophy of music for the music that is used in otherwise good, solid, fundamental, Baptist churches?

I believe it is because we have been so inundated by the world's music that we no longer notice how truly bad it really is. We watch television, and virtually every commercial is accompanied by rock music. We listen to the radio while driving, and almost every program is accompanied by rock music.

Even the most popular secular radio program among Christians in America, Rush Limbaugh, is accompanied by loud, blaring, rock music. We have lost our sensitivity to the world's music, and because of that loss of sensitivity, we have failed to keep that influence out of our churches.

I pastor a church that is about half active duty Navy personnel. Two of my Associate Pastors are former Navy men. My Academy Principal is ex-Navy. Three of my deacons are current career Navy men. These Navy men understand a very important principle.

Ships are designed to operate in the water, but the water is not supposed to get into the ship. God help the ship that lets the water get inside. Our churches are "in the world, but not of it", our churches are supposed to function in the world, but God help us if we let the world into our churches.

Think about it.



# To Tattoo or Not To Tattoo

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Terry Watkins

Dial-The-Truth Ministries. Used with Permission, Parts 3 and 4 of 8

## Part 3 TATTOO: The Cup of Devils

### TATTOO...YE WORSHIP YE KNOW WHAT

"Ye worship ye know not what. . ." *Jesus Christ, John 4:22*

**T**hroughout history the tattoo bears the mark of paganism, demonism, Baal worship, shamanism, mysticism, heathenism, cannibalism and just about every other pagan belief known. The tattoo has NEVER been associated with Bible Believing Christians. And whenever and wherever, in history Christianity **appears** – tattoos **disappear**. The only exception -- 20<sup>th</sup> century, lukewarm, carnal, disobedient, Laodicean Christians.

The birth of the tattoo has always born the fruits of pagan religion and mysticism. Without exception, research after research, study after study, book after book, the roots of the tattoo never wavers. The following documentation is just a small (very small) drop of the ocean of research documenting the pagan and demonic source of the tattoo.

**Please remember...**The following documentation is from pro-tattoo books simply documenting the obvious spiritual and religious link to the tattoo. These are not Christian writers trying to paint a negative portrait of the tattoo.

No matter how much the carnal, rebellious, Christian desires to justify their perverse reasoning for "marking" themselves with the forbidden demonic tattoo, the facts are loud and clear, backed by tons of research and documentation by the leading pro-tattoo authorities on the planet – **the foundation, origin, meaning and purposes of the tattoo is pagan demonism, shamanism, Baal worship, and occult mysticism.**

A tattooist in many cultures is also a shaman, magick-man, priest or priestess. According to the dictionary a shaman is a "intermediary between the natural and supernatural worlds, using magic to cure illness, foretell the future, control spiritual forces, etc." ([www.infoplease.com/ipd/A0648969.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipd/A0648969.html))

"Tattooing is often a **magical rite** in the more traditional cultures, **and the tattooist is respected as a priest or shaman.**" (Michelle Delio, *Tattoo: The Exotic Art of Skin Decoration*, p. 73)

"In Fiji, Fromosa, New Zealand and in certain of the North American Indian tribes, **tattooing was regard as a religious ceremony, and performed by priests or priestesses.**" (Ronald Scutt, *Art, Sex and Symbol*, 1974, p. 64)

"The actual tattooing process, **which involved complex ritual and taboos, could only be done by priests and was associated with beliefs which were secrets known only to members of the priestly caste...** Hambly concluded that historically **tattooing had originated in connection** with ancient rites of scarification and bloodletting which were associated with religious practices intended to put the human soul in harmony **with supernatural forces** and ensure continuity between this life and the next." (Gilbert, Steve, *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, p. 158)

The tattooist, shaman or the occult priest many times uses the tattoo as a point of contact, or inlets into the spiritual world. The tattoo is much more than just a body decoration. It's more than just a layer of ink cut into the skin. In fact, the tattoo in every culture, in every country, up until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was a vehicle for pagan spiritual and religious invocations. Even today, in many countries (including the United States), the tattoo is believed to be a bridge into the supernatural world.

Famous witch and author Laurie Cabot writes of the tattoo:

**"The origins of tattooing came from ancient magical practices..."**

(Laurie Cabot, *Power of the Witch*, cited in *Masonic and Occult Symbols Illustrated* by Dr. Cathy Burns, p. 301)

"According to Amy Krakow in her chronicle *The Total Tattoo Book*, 'tattooing has had well-defined roles: marking a rite of passage at a stage of life, **calling the spirits**, proudly, defiantly or sneaky showing who you are via body art."

"Many native tribes practiced therapeutic tattooing. The Ojibwa, for instance, tattooed the temples, forehead, and cheeks of those suffering from headaches and toothaches **that were believed to be caused by malevolent spirits. Songs and dances that were supposed to exorcise the demons accompanied the tattooing ceremony.**"

(Gilbert, Steve, *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, p. 90)

"Tattooing is about personalizing the body, making it a true home and **fit temple for the spirit** that dwells inside it...**Tattooing therefore, is a way of keeping the spiritual** and material needs of my body in balance." (Michelle Delio, *Tattoo: The Exotic Art of Skin Decoration*, p. 8)

Among today's latest tattoo craze is "tribal tattoos", which are pure paganism. Tribal tattoos are designs that bear serious symbolic mystical and occult meanings. Tribal tattoos, especially, are possible channels into spiritual and demonic possession.

"When the designs are chosen with care, **tattoos have a power and magic all their own**. They decorate the body but they also enhance the soul." (Michelle Delio, *Tattoo: The Exotic Art of Skin Decoration*, p. 13)

"The reasons why puncturing the skin should be regarded with some degree of awe are not far to seek, for in the first place, there is the drawing of blood, which to the savage world over is full of significance as a rejuvenating and immortalizing factor. **There is in addition to the opening of numerous inlets for evil to enter. . .**" (Hambly Wilfrid D. 1925. *The History of Tattooing and its Significance*, p. 233, cited in Gilbert, Steve, *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, p. 162)

*Rolling Stone* magazine describes famous tattoo artist Paul Booth during his tattoo as, "**...allowing his clients' demons to help guide the needle.**" (*Rolling Stone* magazine, March 28, 2002, p. 40)

"Burmese tattooing **has been associated with religion for thousands of years**. Tattooing among indigenous North American groups including the Arapaho, Mohave, Cree, and Inuit (Eskimo) **is rooted in the spiritual realm as well.**" (Laura Reybold, *Everything you need to know about the dangers of tattooing and body piercing*, p. 15)

"Skulls imprinted on skin abound, and depictions of the Grim Reaper are commonly seen...These images, indelibly marked on the skin, reflect uncertainty about the future, and sublimate the pervasive fear of the unknown. **Possibly, at the same time, to wear a death's figure on one's body may be an invocation of whatever undefinable forces of nature and the cosmos that exist, in an attempt to protect the wearer from such a fate.**" (Henry Ferguson and Lynn Procter, *The Art of the Tattoo*, p. 76)

Ronald Scutt, in his exhaustive book, *Art, Sex and Symbol* (1974) covers a great deal about the history and culture of tattoos. Scutt documents that most of the time tattoos are connected to spiritual, religious and mystical purposes. The following documentation is from Scutt's book:

"In fact **tattooing is much more likely**, in view of its subsequent development, to have had a **mystical significance**, or to have been used as a status symbol, the red ochre carrying an association with blood and life." (p. 22)

[Tattooing] "In association with **sun-worship**, megalithic building, ear-piercing, **serpent worship**... (p. 22)

"These marks [tattoos] are believed to be associated with the **worship of the sun-goddess Neith**" (p. 24)

"Be that as it may, primitive tribes were certainly convinced that the spirit, having escaped from the body at death, retained a replica of its earthly tenement. **They therefore used tattoo marks as a means of identification in the next world and a passport to future happiness.**" (p. 63)

"The Mohave Indians in the Lower Colorado instituted chin tattooing for both sexes because it was believed that a kind of Judge looks over each one who comes to Sil'aid (Land of the Dead) and if a man don't have marks on his face, He sends him down to where the desert rats are." (p. 63)

"Among other Indian tribes there was a conviction that on the journey heavenwards to the 'Many Lodges' they would be stopped by an old woman and examined for the presence of tattoo marks on the forehead, chin or wrists. If absent, the luckless warrior would be pushed off a dizzy height to fall back to earth with no hope of ever gaining readmittance to the spirit world." (p. 63)

"Hindus in Bengal believed that without tattoos parents would not be able to recognize their children in the next world." (p. 63)

"Then there is the ghastly fate of the untattooed Frijan women: 'struck down by the souls of their own sex and without further ado served up as food for the gods.'"(p. 64)

"Yet the **worship of the sun-god Baal had involved the marking of the hands** [tattoos] with the divine token in a mystic attempt to acquire strength." (64)

According to survey and statistics, Scutt lists the reasons why people get a tattoo and the number two reason – "to secure a place in heaven".

"Reasons for getting a tattoo:

2. To secure a place in heaven.
5. To propitiate malignant spirits at time of death.
6. To acquire special characteristics through totemism and ancestor worship.
9. To make the body sexually interesting." (p. 13)

Dr. Hambly, probably the greatest tattooist historian and researcher that ever lived, writes over and over, that tattoos are based on pagan spiritual and religious rituals. Any serious and honest study of the origin and foundation of the tattoo will clearly expose a demonic and supernatural intent of tattoos.

Tattoo enthusiast and historian, Steve Gilbert, in his popular, *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, cites some of the historical facts Hambly found in his extensive research.

"[Hambly] retailed a wealth of examples which he had culled from field work by anthropologists in many parts of the world. Tattooing was supposed to: prevent pain; protect against gunshot wounds; cure illness; confer superhuman strength; preserve youth; **enhance the supernatural powers of a shaman; ensure the survival of the soul after death; identify the soul in the hereafter;** attract good luck; **protect against witchcraft; ensure the protection of a deity; confer occult powers;** prevent drowning; **exorcise demons; ensure the protection of a totemic animal or spiritual guardian;** record a pilgrimage to a holy place, etc..."

Hambly reported that previous investigators had often been misled because obtaining information as to the religious and magical uses of tattooing was fraught with difficulties. In the myths of many cultures tattooing was of divine origin. **The actual tattooing process, which involved complex ritual and taboos, could only be done by priests and was associated with beliefs which were secrets known only to members of the priestly caste.**

Anthropologists were often misled because their informants either did not know or would not reveal the secret significance of the rituals and taboos. **Hambly concluded that historically tattooing had originated in connection with ancient rites of scarification and bloodletting which were associated with religious practices intended to**

**put the human soul in harmony with supernatural forces and ensure continuity between this life and the next.**" (Gilbert, Steve, *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, p. 158)

#### THE TATTOO'S GREATEST ENEMY...THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

In the pages of history, whenever and wherever "tattooing" pagan tribes were converted to Christianity, **without exception**, one of their first pagan practices to "pass away" [2 Corinthians 5:17] – **was the tattoo**. Why? Because, unlike today's disobedient carnal "tattooed" Christians (or so-called?), the converted pagan KNEW the tattoo was against the Word of God. The Holy Spirit quickly "told" the converted pagan – no tattoo.

**"Just as occurred in other cultures with tattoo traditions**, when these pagan tribes were 'converted' to the Christian religion, their spiritual and cultural rites (which included tattooing, piercing and scarification) **were outlawed**. . ." (Jean-Chris Miller, *The Body Art Book : A Complete, Illustrated Guide to Tattoos, Piercings, and Other Body Modifications*, p.9)

**Amazing...When the Lord Jesus Christ enters in – the tattoo goes out.**

"Whenever missionaries encountered tattooing **they eradicated it**." (Gilbert, Steve, *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, p. 101)

"While these and other body modifications continued to be practiced underground as a way for **non-Christian people** to identify each other, God forbid you got caught and your mark was revealed." (Jean-Chris Miller, *The Body Art Book: A Complete, Illustrated Guide to Tattoos, Piercings, and Other Body Modifications*, p.11)

I have many friends before they were saved received a tattoo. And without exception, every one of them is ashamed, and as much as possible they cover it. But before they got saved – like the pagan tribes – they proudly displayed their tattoo. And let me add – most of the time, this is before they've read Leviticus 19:28, or before anyone even told them a tattoo is wrong. After receiving the Lord Jesus Christ, with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, they KNEW the tattoo was displeasing to their God. What about you?

A booming testimony to the author of the tattoo is recorded by Steve Gilbert:

"When Cortez and his conquistadors arrived on the coast of Mexico in 1519, they were horrified to discover that natives not only worshipped devils in the form of status and idols, but also had somehow managed to imprint indelible images of these idols on their skin. **The Spaniards, who had never heard of tattooing, recognized it at once as the work of Satan.**" (Gilbert, Steve, *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, p. 99)

Even though, these Spaniards "had never heard of tattooing" – they "recognized it at ONCE as the work of Satan".

And some of today's carnal, rebellious and disobedient Christians (or so-called Christians?) gibber-gabber nonsense about "marking themselves for Jesus". . .

#### TATTOOS...AND TODAY'S CIVILIZED SOCIETY

Somebody says, "Sure that was back in the dark ages. That was in heathen lands. Today that has all changed. Nobody connects any kind of ritualistic or pagan spiritual rituals to a tattoo."

**Yes...They do. . .**

"These tattoos act as protective and empowering talismans for the wearer. There are even some body artists **who perform ritual tattoos**, piercing, brandings and cuttings. **They may suggest you consult your astrological chart to pick the right time to get your body art. They will burn incense, light candles...**" (Jean-Chris Miller, *The Body Art Book: A Complete, Illustrated Guide to Tattoos, Piercings, and Other Body Modifications*, p. 29)

"Some tattooists in the West are experimenting with ritual tattooing. This method of working incorporates **doing a ritual to create a sacred space** in the area where the tattoo is positioned. Often incense is burned and **the gods invited to bless the proceedings.**" (Michelle Delio, *Tattoo: The Exotic Art of Skin Decoration*, p. 75)

#### TATTOOS: THE CUP OF DEVILS

**Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils:** ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

1 Corinthians 10:21

### Part 4 TATTOO: The Mark of Death

In Leviticus 19:28 the Lord gives a clear condemnation of tattoos – **"...cuttings in your flesh...nor print any marks upon you."**

Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh **for the dead**, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:28

It's very interesting that Leviticus 19:28 links the tattoo with "the dead". Care to take a wild guess as the number one theme of tattoos? Even in today's modern, civilized, society. . .?

**You guessed it. . .!**

#### DEATH. . .

**"Death and darkness have always been a classic tattoo theme – skulls, snakes, demons,** spiders and spider webs are all conventional tattoo imagery. Darkside tattooing takes our fascination with mortality, death, isolation, fear and evil to new levels."

(Jean-Chris Miller, *The Body Art Book : A Complete, Illustrated Guide to Tattoos, Piercings, and Other Body Modifications*, p. 56)

According to authors Henry Ferguson and Lynn Procter of *The Art of the Tattoo*, the most popular tattooed image of today is – **"the all-pervasive grinning skull!"**

**"...probably the most popular tattooed image of today, the all-pervasive grinning skull!"** (Henry Ferguson and Lynn Procter, *The Art of the Tattoo*, p. 76)

**"Skulls imprinted on skin abound, and depictions of the Grim Reaper are commonly seen...**These images, indelibly marked on the skin, reflect uncertainty about the future, and sublimate the pervasive fear of the unknown. **Possibly, at the same time, to wear a death's figure on one's body may be an invocation of whatever undefinable forces** of nature and the cosmos that exist, **in an attempt to protect the wearer from such a fate.**"  
(Henry Ferguson and Lynn Procter, *The Art of the Tattoo*, p. 76)

Take a tour of most tattoo shops and morbid scenes of death, demons, serpents, and hell will engulf you! Grim reapers, flaming skulls, snakes crawling through skulls, demons, Satan, pornography, blasphemy, naked flames of hell – every satanic scene of hell is glorified. Who do you think is the "master artist" painting such hellish scenes in the minds of the tattooist? You know as well as I do who's the real "master tattooist". . .



**ACTUAL TATTOO ART (FLASH) GLORIFYING DEATH**

Incredible. Over 4,000 years ago, the Bible connected the tattoo to "the dead" and despite our so-called civilized, modern society – **death is still the tattoo's "mark"!**

**Wonder why. . .?**

**Now who in the Bible is associated with death? Who is the Author of Death? Who in the Bible is named Death?**

**AND HIS NAME...WAS DEATH**

In Revelation chapter 6, Satan's man, the anti-Christ, is introduced making his grand entrance during the tribulation. And the Bible gives his name as Death. Notice, the capital "D" for a person.

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: **and his name that sat on him was Death**, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. Revelation 6:8

Death entered into the world in Genesis chapter 3 by the seduction of Satan. Satan's victory was death. No wonder his followers decorate themselves with his "trademark" of death. Just as the Lord Jesus Christ is Life and the giver of Life. Satan, "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God" (2 Thess. 2:4), is Death and the author of Death.

**Jesus Christ is Life. . .**

**In him was life;** and the life was the light of men.

John 1:3

**I am that bread of life.**

John 6:48

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, **and the life:** he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 11:25

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, **and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:6

But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed **the Prince of life**, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. Acts 3:14-15

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is **eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** Romans 6:23

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of **the Word of life;**

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 1 John 1:1-2

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, **and this life is in his Son.**

12 He that hath the Son **hath life**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 1 John 5:11-12

### **The Devil is Death. . .**

In Hebrews chapter 2, the Bible says the Devil "had the **power of death**". Death is the devil's masterpiece. Death was his greatest triumph. And Praise the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ took the devil's greatest triumph and the Devil's ultimate power – death, and defeated him with it! Hallelujah!

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus] 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;**

Hebrews 2:14

Also, if you remember the maniac of Gadera who was possessed with a "legion of unclean spirits and devils" lived among the tombs – the cemetery – **the place of DEATH.**

Mark 5:1-5 reads:

1 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him **out of the tombs** a man with an unclean spirit,

3 Who had his **dwelling among the tombs**; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, **and in the tombs**, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

**Notice, also the cutting himself with stones – bloodletting...the beginning of the tattoo.**

The place of death is characterized by skulls, crossbones, crosses, etc. and are among the tattooist (and Satan's) favorite subjects.

### **TATTOOS: THE MARK OF HELL**

It's also worth noting that not only is Death a major subject of tattoos but so is fire, flames and HELL. Revelation 6 says his name was Death and HELL FOLLOWED.

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: **and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. . ."**

Revelation 6:8

It's no coincidence that closely "following" death "sitting" on the tattoo – follows flames, fire and hell. One of the all-time favorite subjects of the tattoo is flames and fire. Now...who is interested in glorifying flames and fire?

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil** and his angels:

Matthew 25:41



**TATTOO'S BIZARRE OBSESSION WITH FLAMES & FIRE**

### TATTOOS: THE MARK OF THE SERPENT

It's also very enlightening that another major theme of the tattoo is the Dragon and the Serpent. Second only to scenes of death and hell – evil, devilish images of dragons and serpents are the tattoo's most wanted.

*Hmm.... ? Now I wonder where that curious topic came from?*

Now **the serpent** was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?  
Genesis 3:1

And the **great dragon** was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.  
Revelation 12:9

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.  
2 And he laid hold on **the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan**, and bound him a thousand years  
Revelation 20:1-2

[Tattooing is associated] "...with sun-worship, megalithic building, ear-piercing, **serpent worship**..."(Ronald Scutt, *Art, Sex and Symbol*, 1974, p. 22)

Are you getting the picture?



**the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan (Rev. 20:2)**

### TATTOOS: THE MARK OF SATAN

*Rolling Stone* magazine had an article on the famous tattooist Paul Booth. Booth, one of the world's most sought after tattoo artist, has tattooed the bodies of many rock stars. Booth has a waiting list of over two years! Booth's tattoo chamber

is desecrated with real human skulls, customers' thank you notes written in blood, torture devices, upside down crosses, Satanic Goat of Mendes, meat hooks, and mummified animals. *Rolling Stone* says Booth's evil work is for those who, "...**love death, perversion, blasphemy and torture...**" (*Rolling Stone*, March 28, 2002, p. 39)

Booth's blasphemy and vile filth includes decapitated Christ figures, ghastly demons, transvestite nuns severing their own genitals, melting skulls and about every other blasphemous filth "spawned from hell". Booth's very first "inspired" tattoo was three fanged, skinless demons on the back of his girlfriend. (*Rolling Stone*, March 28, 2002, p. 40)

Here's how Booth's own web site describes his blasphemous, Satanic tattoos and mission:

**"Spewed from the depth of Hell, Paul's mission has been to reconfigure human hides and spread divine declarations of Blasphemy."**

**May I remind you -- this is one of the most sought after and top tattoo artists in the whole world!**

Tattoo artist "Liorcifer" says on his web site:

**"Liorcifer is a spawn of Satan, brother of Lucifer, Soldier of Darkness, warrior against all that is good and holy. Liocifer has been leaving his mark on flesh since the dawn of time."**

Another popular tattoo artist, Tim Kern writes of his Bio on his web site:

**"A faithless Deviant, Tim has been staining skin since the Black Plague. Soon to be one of Satan's leading henchmen, Tim will spread Profane Immorality with each stroke of his Evil machine. . ."**

***Is there any doubt who is the "master tattooist"?***

For some are already turned aside after Satan.  
Ephesians 4:27

Neither give place to the devil.  
1 Timothy 5:15



## Gambling

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David Stone

Available in Tract Form. Contact the Editor.

**A**fter being condemned as a social evil for years, gambling has now become an acceptable practice. State lotteries and "church bingo" have promoted and dignified gambling so as to make it appear as a harmless past-time, a respectable recreation. Pressing financial needs and the reports of multi-million dollar lottery winners have whetted the appetites of many who hope to win a fortune.

It is estimated that the yearly amount of bets in the U.S. equals one-third of the gross national product. Two-thirds of all Americans participate in gambling. One of the nation's leading authorities on gambling is Washington attorney, Rufus King, who was Chairman of the American Bar Association and counsellor for the Presidents' Crime Commission. In his book *Gambling and Organized Crime*, he says, "...there seems to be general agreement that the total sum spent annually by Americans in all forms of illegal gambling (the yearly 'handle'), runs in the range of \$15 to \$25 billion (that was in 1969). Some reputable estimates double those figures. But, let us say \$20 billion! If the 'take' of the gambling promoter amounts to one-third of this, (and the

patron in illegal gaming assuredly gets no breaks), the income shared by those who control this form of criminal activity would be between \$6,000,000,000 and \$7,000,000,000."

He then goes on to illustrate the significance of a billion dollars by saying, "...if you piled a million dollars in new thousand dollar bill one upon another, you would have a handsome stack 8 inches high; if you did the same thing with a billion dollars, the stack would extend 111 feet above the top of the Washington Monument."

Gambling is a much more serious problem than many suspect! Based on reports from Johns Hopkins University, in 1980 pathological gambling was certified as a mental disorder by the American Psychiatric Association. In the mid-fifties the Gamblers Anonymous organization was established to help people deal with their gambling problems. In a recent phone conversation with their representative of the Cincinnati chapter, I was told that they get from 12 to 15 new members each week from the Cincinnati area alone!

Of course, most gamblers never seek help, nor do they consider their condition as abnormal or their actions as morally wrong. It is a "closet problem" that few people ever talk about. The highly respected magazine, "Today's Health" said, "Gambling is America's most unrecognized social cancer. It is unrecognized because most of it is done secretly and goes undetected, thus, it never becomes an awareness."

## **I. GAMBLING IS HARMFUL TO ONESELF**

### **1. It defiles our character.**

Henry W. Grady, in an editorial in the Atlanta Constitution on Sept. 20, 1884, said:

"Never gamble. Of all the vices that enthrall men, this is the worst, the strongest, and most insidious. Outside of the morality of it, it is the poorest investment, the poorest business, the poorest fun. No man is safe who plays at all. It is easiest never to play. I never knew a gentleman and man of business who did not regret the time and money he wasted in it. A man who plays poker is unfit for every other business on earth."

Judge Michael L. McKinley, past Chief Justice of the Cook County (MO) Criminal Court, said, "Gambling has grown gigantically as a business which produces nothing but grafters, embezzlers, forgers, confidence men, pickpockets, burglars, and bandits." You can think what you will about gambling, but those are the facts!

Before the casinos opened in Atlantic City, there were an estimated dozen prostitutes — after only a few weeks, more than a hundred were counted. Also, the city's rescue mission had to quadruple its bed capacity. It is a well-known fact that the most vile members of society participate in gambling. That alone should tell us something!

### **2. It destroys our compassion.**

The Bible teaches us to love one another, which means that we should gladly sacrifice to meet the needs of others. But, gambling puts self-interest first. It builds resentment and makes enemies. It removes love from society and creates a spirit of unconcern for others.

### **3. It develops the hope of getting something for nothing.**

Gambling destroys initiative. Instead of rolling up his sleeves and going to work, the gambler hopes to live off the misfortune of others. This attitude of something for nothing is destroying America.

Tom Anderson, in the publication "Straight Talk," tells of the rangers in Mount Rainer National Park who cautions the visitors against feeding the animals. He says, "The ranger explains that the deer grow accustomed to visitors' handouts and lose the ability to fend for themselves. Bears, he says, come to believe that free food is their due — and become grouchy and violent if they don't get it. Chipmunks and squirrels congregate where the handouts are supplied and thus, upset the balance of nature.

The 'balance' of our country is likewise being upset: The leeches are taking over." He then goes on to say, "One reason the welfare rolls grows is because it is more profitable for millions of our people to stay on welfare than to work. There are

millions of third generation welfarers whose grandparents, parents, as well as themselves, have never found a 'suitable job.' There is no suitable job for a bum. Our government has made bums out of millions of our people."

I haven't forgotten my subject — it's gambling, not welfare. But, the fact is that they both lead to the dangerous attitude of wanting something for nothing. The welfarers consider it their right to live at the expense of others and the gambler hopes to prosper on the losses of others. By the way, gambling has put more than its share on welfare!

The Bible says, "that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Thess. 3:10) and "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" (Gen. 3:19). God intends that we earn our living by honest labor.

## **II. GAMBLING IS HURTFUL TO SOCIETY**

### **1. It destroys families.**

The gambler loses, children go hungry, wives do without, bills go unpaid, tension builds, arguments increase, and eventually the family is destroyed. The gambler doesn't have time for his wife and children. He would rather be at the race-track or the poker table than with his family. The compulsion to gamble destroys a man's compassion for his family to the point that he is willing to neglect them to satisfy his own carnal desires.

### **2. It divides friends.**

The Bible teaches us that friendship is a precious thing that is to be carefully guarded. But gambling causes you to take advantage of others. Your friend becomes your victim. He's look upon as a villain standing between you and something you want. Even if the gambler could control his feelings toward others he cannot keep his victims from becoming bitter toward him. Our concern for others should far exceed our desire for financial gain.

### **3. It decreases respect for the law.**

When pressed for funds people will resort to all sorts of illegal activities to finance their gambling habit. They will steal from their loved ones, write bad checks, and even commit armed robbery.

Also, those who promote and prosper from gambling will go to any lengths to protect their interest. The "Presidents' Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice" in 1967 reported that "law enforcement officials agree almost unanimously that gambling is the greatest source of revenue for organized crime...Estimates of the annual intake have varied from \$7 to \$50 billion...Analysis of organized criminal betting operations indicates that the profit is as high as one-third of the gross revenue."

Of course, some think that the answer is to legalize gambling and put it under the guidance and control of government. But, that isn't the answer. Such foolishness only further corrupts the government.

Rufus King said:

"No public authority can long withstand the pressures and corrupting effects of legalized gambling enterprises...Lotteries began to emerge after the turn of the 19th century as what the Supreme Court was prompted to call a 'widespread pestilence;' corrupting the legislators and public officials who authorized and administered them and subjecting the public to a variety of increasingly outrageous frauds and scandals...Nearly every large community had its much-publicized bankruptcies, embezzlements and suicides attributable to profligate spending for lottery tickets..."

"Widely in the last three decades and occasionally today, the gambler-gangster has managed to hit an even higher target: instead of corrupting and capturing local police forces, he has been able to gain control of local governments..."

"When Kentucky closed out coin-machine gambling in 1966 by a new state law, the gamblers made so strong a come-back in the next session of the General Assembly (under a new Governor and with new faces in the State House in

Frankfort) that only a spirited press campaign coupled with rumors that bribes had reached a choking seven figure aggregate, enabled anti-gambling forces to effect a cliff-hanger rescue of the new law.

"The Kefauver Committee exposed patterns like this in small cities such as Covington, Ky., and Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley which it chose almost as random samples."

If you think the promoters of gambling aren't serious about this matter, listen to what Mr. King says: "To attribute half the gang killings and mob violence of the forties and fifties to battles over control of this gambling empire would be a very conservative speculation."

### **III. GAMBLING IS HEINOUS TO GOD**

#### **1. It disobeys the commandments.**

It is written in the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not covet..." (Ex. 20:17). Our legal desires are limited to our necessities. The Bible says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have..." (Heb. 13:5).

The ambition for worldly goods has destroyed many lives and is strictly forbidden by the Lord. That doesn't mean that it is sinful to prosper. God has often blessed his people with material goods, because they gave him top priority. But, that doesn't give us the right to seek wealth. We are to serve God and then be satisfied with what He gives us.

#### **2. It denies God's law of order.**

According to the word of God, work comes before wealth, sowing before reaping. But, the gambler seeks to reap what others have sown. Of course, not wanting to do things God's way has always been a characteristic of the world. When parents teach their children to gamble, they are teaching them to ignore what God demands. And this disrespect for God then affects every other area of their lives.

#### **3. It deadens sensitivity toward spiritual matters.**

While our precious Lord was being crucified, wicked men cast lots for His garments. Their desire for personal gain blinded them as to what was really important. When a person is consumed by self-interest, as is the gambler, he will never be sensitive to the will of God for his life.

#### **4. It distracts from the important things of life.**

Solomon said, "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing..." (Prov. 10:2). What seems to be gain is a mirage when God's law is violated. No one ever truly prospers when he disobeys God's Word.

As stewards of God's property, we have no right to gamble with that which has been entrusted to our care. If we waste our time, neglect our responsibilities, offend our neighbors, and squander our goods, we cannot expect God to bless us,

Think about the number of missionaries that could be supported with the money that is spent on gambling. If 50 billion dollars annually are spent on gambling, that amount could be used to support 2 million missionary families in the amount of \$25,000 per year!

In conclusion, let me remind you that prevention is easier than cure. A world of pain and misery could be avoided if folks would steer clear of the gambling trap. Whether it's matching for a coke, playing bingo, betting on a ball game, or buying a lottery ticket, we should refuse to participate. It isn't the amount of money involved, it's the principle. Don't be fooled! "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but, he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:7-8). You can be sure that following Christ is no gamble. No one is a loser who receives Christ as Saviour and follows Him as Lord.



# The Perils of Missionary Service

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E. L. Bynum

Available in tract form. Contact the Editor.

"Of the Jews five times I received forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." II Corinthians 11:24-28

**M**any perils threaten 20th Century missionary service. Communist domination and influence has made missionary service in many countries difficult and in others impossible. A revival among some pagan religions has made them strong opponents of true Christianity. Ecumenicalism has proven to be an enemy of scriptural missions. A rising tide of nationalism in all parts of the world has caused emerging nations to distrust missionaries from the western world. In some nations this has resulted in a nationalized Church, whose affiliation with the anti-missionary World Council of Churches has resulted in Bible believing missionaries being expelled.

Unfortunately these difficulties have resulted in a pessimistic attitude, on the part of some, toward foreign missions. Some speak of phasing out foreign missions, while others speak of concentrating on the home field. Missionary candidates have become discouraged and sought other fields of service. Unless we understand the situation, the devil will surely use the difficulties to discourage us from doing the will of God. There are many open doors to missionary service, and golden opportunities await those who will heed the call of God.

## The Roman World of Paul's Day

From a human standpoint, the world of Paul's day seemed an impossible field to be evangelized. The known civilized world was ruled by Roman power, but it was anything but a calm, peaceful place to do missionary work.

"The empire at that time contained 120 million inhabitants. It extended from the Euphrates on the east to the Atlantic on the west, and from the deserts of Africa on the south to the Danube and Rhine on the north.

"Fully 100 different nations were included in this vast dominion, each speaking its own language and worshipping its own gods...Though tolerant of all religious beliefs in every nation they conquered, the Romans persecuted the Christians. This was due to the fact that they alone refused to offer sacrifice to the gods of the empire. They absented themselves from the games and feasts and were accustomed to hold their meetings at night. Soon they came to be regarded enemies of the state and were persecuted by even the best rulers."<sup>(1)</sup>

Roman military might had succeeded in subduing the many nations that now made up the provinces of the Roman Empire, but there existed in most if not all of these former nations strong segments plotting rebellion. Rebellion was crushed in bloody wars. A case in point was the Jewish rebellion which resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Many other similar internal conflicts troubled the Empire during the First Century. It was into this cross current of intrigue, revolution and immorality that the first missionaries plunged. Humanly speaking, there was no hope of success, but the Book of Acts reveals the marvelous success achieved by these missionary pioneers. These successes were not achieved without personal sacrifice and suffering, as our text clearly reveals. Neither were they achieved without the leadership and power of God.

"It is easy to see how much misery followed in the train of Rome's advancing greatness. Cruel suffering was a characteristic feature of the close of the Republic. Slave wars, civil wars, wars of conquest, had left their disastrous results behind them. No country recovers rapidly from the effects of a war which has been conducted within its

frontier; and there was no district of the Empire which had not been the scene of some recent campaign . . . To take the case of Asia Minor. (Where Paul labored during his first missionary journey). It had been plundered and ravaged by successive generals . . . It would be a delusion to imagine that, when the world was reduced under one sceptre, any real principle of unity held its different parts together. The emperor was deified while untold numbers of men were enslaved. There was no true peace when Augustus closed the Temple of Janus. The Empire was the only order of external government, with a chaos both of opinions and morals within . . . It is true that a remarkable religious toleration was produced by this state of things: and it is probable that for some short time Christianity itself shared the advantage of it. But still the temper of the times was essential both cruel and profane; and the Apostles were exposed to its bitter persecution."<sup>(2)</sup>

### **The Perils Paul Faced**

Paul and Barnabas were called by the Holy Spirit and sent forth by the Holy Spirit and the Church at Antioch. In these early journeys of Paul we find some of the perils of missionary service. Strange as it may seem, 1900 years later, these are some of the same perils faced by God's missionaries today.

#### **I. The Peril of Demonic Opposition**

On the island of Cyprus in the city of Paphos, they met with demonic opposition in the person of a sorcerer by the name of Elymas (Acts 13:6-12). He was a false prophet, a magician and a "child of the devil". His determined opposition to the Word and work of God had to be dealt with, if mission work was to succeed in that region of the world.

One of the perils of the 20th Century missions is the resurgence of demonism, Satanism, witchcraft and sorcery, in the world today. We may laugh at witchcraft, but it is no laughing matter for the missionary in Africa, Central and South America, Haiti, New Guinea, Indonesia and many other parts of the world. As the cloud of spiritual ignorance continues to darken our own country, we are seeing an increasing number of people turning to the occult. Make no mistake about it, witchcraft is an enemy of Christianity, and God's people must be willing to stand against it in any form it may be found.

It was here at Paphos, that Venus the goddess of love was born of the foam of the sea. The city had become the center of the "deification of lust", where every licentious sin imaginable was committed in the name of religion. For in the Grecian-Roman world, "love" was lowered to the awful level of "lust". In much of the world this is so today. Yet in this center of iniquity, Sergius Paulus, Roman Proconsul, became a believer.

#### **II. The Peril of Doctrinal Error**

Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary journey, and reported the wonderful blessings of God to the Church at Antioch (Acts 14:26- 28). Their rejoicing was short lived, because of false doctrine being taught at Antioch (Acts 15:1-5). Certain Judaizers came from Jerusalem and taught that both Jew and Gentile must be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses to be saved. This was a mixing of law and grace. This was in effect teaching that the Gentiles must become Jews to be saved. This would mean that Paul's Gentile converts and churches were unscriptural, and that his mission work was in vain.

This was perhaps the hardest trial that Paul faced in his ministry. The temptation to compromise for the sake of unity must have been very strong. However, Paul did not yield an inch, but withstood their false doctrine. He led a delegation from Antioch to Jerusalem, to see what the apostles and their elders had to say about this matter. Acts gives us the record of Paul's victory in opposing this false misleading doctrine.

Doctrinal error is one of the perils of missionary service today. Missionaries have been known to compromise doctrine for the sake of unity on the foreign field. When professing Christians are a very small minority, it is a temptation to work with groups whose doctrinal teaching is unsound. On the other hand, missionaries have labored hard on the foreign field to adhere to the truth, only to return home to see that churches have changed their doctrinal stand and moral standards. This is heartbreaking to the missionary.

### III. The Peril of Deserting Helpers

When they landed at Perga on the Southern shore of Asia Minor (now Turkey), John Mark departed from them and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). We do not know what excuse he gave. He could have sneezed twice and thus decided that the country was not a healthy place to live. He may have had an ingrown toenail or he may have been home sick for mother's cooking. News of his aging parents may have hastened his return. (Many have never considered the truth revealed in Luke 14:25-33).

"But it is more likely that the cause of his withdrawal was dismay at the dangers upon which they were about to enter. These were such as might well strike terror even in resolute hearts. Behind Perga rose the snow-clad peaks of the Taurus Mountains, which had to be penetrated through narrow passes, where crazy bridges spanned the rushing torrents, and the castles of robbers who watched for passing travelers to pounce upon, were hidden in positions so inaccessible that even the Roman arms had not been able to exterminate them."<sup>(3)</sup>

This may have been the "perils of water" and "perils of robbers" that Paul refers to in our text.

Whatever his reasons, Paul did not accept them, for he refused to take John Mark on the second missionary journey, which resulted in Paul and Barnabas going their separate ways. Years later Paul commends Mark in II Tim. 4:11, so he must have changed.

Departing, deserting helpers, present a problem in 20th Century mission work. The high turnover in missionary personnel is a definite hindrance to missions. It discourages those who remain on the field, for they are pleading for workers. It discourages the supporting churches, as they see sacred mission money wasted. Some desert the field for various reasons. Lack of ability, stability and stick-ability discourage some.

Others find strange cultures, unhealthy living conditions and physical hardships too much to bear. Lack of support, lack of results and lack of dedication puts some to packing. (Judson, pioneer missionary to Burma, labored 6 years before he made his first convert.) Others fail, because churches at home are not praying for them. Many do not last, because they have no Divine call from God. This may have been Mark's problem since nothing is mentioned of his receiving a call from God.

Missionary candidates must be recruited by theological reasons and not by psychological reasons. They must be prepared for hardship and not led to look upon missions as a romantic adventure. We dare not try to convince men to stay on the field whom God has not called. Neither should we discourage those whom God has called.

### IV. The Peril of Division Over Personalities

As Paul and Barnabas prepared to leave on their second tour of missionary service, a serious dispute arose over whether John Mark should go along with them. Barnabas desired to take his nephew along, but Paul was unyielding in his opposition. The contention was so great, that it resulted in Paul and Barnabas going their separate ways. Perhaps this was God's way in getting two missionary teams on the field instead of one. They parted never to work together again. However we do not believe that either one of them remained bitter over this experience. Later on Paul mentions both Barnabas and Mark with honor in his writings.

This is not an uncommon type experience in the Lord's work. Personalities sometimes clash to the extent that some cannot work together. However, it is sad when parties become bitter over such issues and try to ruin those who disagree with them. It is a mistake to try to force people to work together who obviously cannot get along. Most sharp disagreements between fundamental believers seem to arise over personality problems, rather than doctrine. Many times the devil uses this to seek to destroy the Lord's work at home and abroad.

### V. The Peril of Being Denounced By His Own Countrymen

In almost every place Paul went, the greatest opposition that he faced was by the Jews, his own countrymen (II Cor. 11:26). The Jews led in the opposition at Paphos, Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Derbe and Lystra. It was the Jews who caused Paul to

be stoned in Lystra (Acts 14:19). Yet, these people had the same Bible that Paul used, and they spoke of the same Old Testament characters. Imagine how confusing this must have been to the Gentiles in these 'cities.

One of the greatest hindrances to modern day mission work is the American people. The American TOURIST with his big bankroll, his boorish manners, his immodest dress (shorts and miniskirts), and his drunken habits, make a formidable obstacle to missions. Many American SERVICE MEN with their drunken ways, leaving a trail of illegitimate babies behind them, have done untold harm to missions. American MOVIES, shown round the world by theaters and television, with their heavy emphasis on sex and violence, present our nation in the worst possible light. The people on the mission field think of America as being a Christian nation. They identify the missionary with these impressions made by some of these worst elements in our society, and thus close their ears to the gospel message.

Perhaps the greatest threat to foreign missions is American RELIGION. The World Council of Churches is working to halt biblical missions around the world. Most of its influence, power and money come from the United States. It was their teaching and influence in the Congo (now Zaire), that caused a national church to be formed which is affiliated with the World Council of Churches. The law, as it stands in Congo now, prohibits anyone who is not a member of the "Church of Christ in Zaire" from preaching, giving religious teaching, or holding public services. Our missionaries left the country, rather than join such a church. Modernistic religion, with its social gospel and its socialistic teaching is an opponent of all scriptural mission work. Recently, two of our Independent Baptist Indian preachers in Chiapas, Mexico, were severely beaten and barely escaped with their lives. Why? Because Presbyterian-taught natives resented what our Baptist preachers were teaching on baptism.

False cults and unsound missionaries, sent and financed from America, are doing untold harm to the mission field. Recently I visited the scene where religious fanatics mobbed a missionary sent out from our church. Armed with machetes, guns, clubs and rocks, they screamed, "Long live Mary, the mother of God." God delivered the missionary, but the threat of physical peril is a constant danger on many mission fields.

#### **VI. The Peril of Dismissal From The Country**

This was a constant peril in Paul's missionary work. During the early part of his ministry, he had to leave Damascus at night (Acts 9:20-25). He was "expelled" from Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:50), and he had to flee from Iconium or be stoned (Acts 14:5,6). He was stoned and left for dead at Lystra (Acts 14:19). Yet, he returned to some of these places and preached later on (Acts 14:21). These experiences seem rather common in Paul's missionary work. When he was expelled from a city or country, he did not return to Antioch and report that the mission doors were closed. He did not sit down and wait to hear from the home churches before undertaking further work. Neither did he go back to his home country and seek an easy pastorate. When a new door was opened by the Lord, he did not have to return to Antioch and his other supporting Churches and explain to them why he was changing fields. When one door closed, he looked for another door that was open, because he saw every lost soul as a mission field.

#### **VII. The Peril of Being Directed To a New Field**

During Paul's second missionary journey, he had to face the prospects of entering into Europe, which was a new and strange field. Europe was not Paul's choice, but it was God's direction that led him there. At this time, Paul was "forbidden" by "the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia." Then when Paul planned "to go into Bithynia... the Spirit suffered them not."

Just how the Spirit revealed that these doors were closed to Paul, we are not told. It may have been by direct revelation, or by an inward Spirit direction. It could have been revealed by the borders of these countries being closed to Paul. God can open doors and He can close doors. Nevertheless, the night vision at Troas settled the matter for Paul. The Macedonian call, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us", was recognized as a call from God, for Paul and his companions immediately departed for Greece (Acts 16: 6-11).

We might well consider what might have happened if God had sent Paul to the east into India and China, instead of Europe. The East could have just as well have been Christian, and we of the West could have been heathen pagans bowing down to

wood and stone as our ancestors did before the arrival of Christianity. If first century missionary work had been conducted as much 20th Century mission work is being done, we would all be heathen pagans. Thank God there were no denominational headquarters to bind and hinder the missionaries. Denominational Church Conventions were unknown and unformed; therefore, they did not exist to be "the holy spirit" for the missionaries. There was harmony between the churches and the missionaries, and the missionaries were free to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Philippi became the sight of Paul's first missionary labors in Europe. After early success in the conversion of Lydia, Paul and Silas soon were prisoners in the jail at Philippi. From a human standpoint, it looked as if they were at the end of the road. But even the jail proved to be a fruitful place for revival and soul winning. We must remember things are not always as they seem. Sometimes God may be working in unusual ways to bring us into His will. Temporary defeat and disaster do not always mean what they seem.

The 20th Century finds us living in the midst of a changing world. Some missionaries have been dismissed (expelled) from certain countries. Some have found closed doors and have been directed by the Holy Spirit to new fields of service. However, why all the gloom and pessimism in certain circles, about the future of foreign missions? The time has come for us to quit talking about the closed fields, and to **START TALKING ABOUT THE OPEN FIELDS**.

The Indians and the old time buffalo hunters, when seeking buffalo, would place one ear down against the ground. In this manner they could hear the noise made by herds of buffalo, even though they might be miles away. Even so, we need to get down on our knees, put one ear to the ground and the other one tuned to heaven. In this manner we can hear the news of changing events in the world and with the other. We can listen for heaven's directions in the fast changing missionary world. This is not a new method, but going back to the first Century methods of Paul. **THE TRAGEDY OF THE HOUR, IS NOT THE CLOSED MISSION FIELDS, BUT THE TRAGEDY AND SHAME IS THE OPEN FIELDS THAT WE ARE NOT ENTERING.**

In Paul's day, the Roman Empire controlled all of the then known civilized world. As far as we know, Paul never went beyond the bounds of the Roman Empire. This task was undertaken by others at a later date. We may safely say that the fields of missionary service open to Paul, were all to be found within the bounds of the Roman Empire. The total population of the Roman Empire was between 54 million and 120 million, according to various estimates. Today, the population of Latin America alone is about 300 million people. This includes Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean Islands. Latin America is from 2 to 6 times as large a field as the Roman Empire was in the days of Paul. Most of this field is now open to the preaching of the gospel.

Why do we major on the closed doors and minor on the open doors. Less than 10 years ago, Indonesia was controlled by the Communists, and thus was not a likely place to do mission work. In 1966 the Communist Party was outlawed. It is an open field. Where are the workers for this needy field? We know of only one Independent Baptist Missionary preparing to go to Indonesia. Not all the changes on the fields of the World are bad. Here is a field that God has opened in the last few years. The population of Indonesia is over 120 million people, and this is at least as large as the Roman Empire in Paul's day. The time has come for God's people to wake up to their responsibility.

It is time for churches to pray for workers to go into these unevangelized fields. We expect our missionaries to be dedicated and sacrificial in their labors. But we will never do the job until churches and Christians at home are as dedicated to the task, as the missionary who goes to the regions beyond.

\* \* \* \* \*

(1) *The New Teachers' and Pupils' Cyclopaedia*. Page 2444.

(2) *The Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, by Conybeare and Howson

(3) *The Life of St. Paul*, by James Stalker



# Untold Millions Still Untold

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E. L. Bynum, 1967

Available in tract form. Contact the Editor.

**Editor's Note:** *This tract was written 45 years ago, yet the need now in 2012 for the gospel message to go out into the world has never been more urgent. Each day, an average of 150,000 precious souls pass into eternity. How many millions still have never been told the gospel? What will you do about it?*

"... The fields . . . are white already to harvest." John 4:35

**N**o other generation of Christians has ever faced the challenge that this generation of Christians is facing today. No generation in human history, has ever had as many lost people living at one time, as this generation.

AMAZING BUT TRUE: "One-half of all people born since the beginning of recorded history, who has lived to the age of 5, is alive today."

## I. The Urgency Of The Hour

Due to the so-called "population explosion," the population of the world is increasing at the fastest rate in the history of the world.

World Population Over 3 Billion (3,300,000,000)

Yes, there are more than 3 billion people in the world. And the population of the world is increasing 160,000 every 24 hours. This is proven by comparing the birth rate with the death rate:

320,000 births every 24 hours.  
160,000 deaths every 24 hours.

These figures show a net increase of 160,000 every 24 hours, or over 60 million increase every year. It is estimated that 2 million people are reached with the Gospel each year — only about 1 in 30 of the world's population increase.

If all the people of the world were to stand in a continuous line, spaced one yard apart, they would stretch out for more than 1% million miles, more than the distance of three round trips to the moon, or a solid army in close formation marching four abreast, encircling the earth at the equator 16 times! This is all the more amazing when we realize how rapidly this has come about.

- Year 1650, world population 545 million Year 1750, world population 728 million
- Year 1850, world population 1 billion 171 million
- Year 1950, world population 2 billion 500 million
- Year 1967, world population 3 billion 300 million
- Year 2000, world population 6 billion!

If the people of China would march past a given point 4 abreast, they would never cease to march, because a new generation would be born and grow up, before this generation past. Nearly one-third of the world's population is Chinese.

## We Are Losing Ground

The ratio of Christians is dropping every year:

- 8% of world's population called Christian today
- 6% of population will be Christian in 10 years
- 2% of population to be Christian by year 2000.

You must understand that these figures cover professing Christianity. This includes modernists etc., so we have no way of knowing how many of these are really saved. If the decline continues as projected, by the year 2000 Christianity will be an insignificant percentage of the world's population. The year 2000 is only 33 years away.

YES, we believe in the soon coming of Jesus Christ. The signs of the times point to His early return, BUT what are we going to do about the 3 billion souls alive today, while we are waiting for His return?

There are over 3 thousand languages in the world besides English. There are also several thousand lesser dialects in the world.

- 3,000 languages in the world
- 1,232 languages have scripture portions 236 languages have the whole Bible
- 600 Indian languages have no Bible
- 400 African languages have no Bible
- 1,000 languages of New Guinea, Indonesia, and Pacific Islands have no Bible
- 300 languages of Latin America have no Bible.

Most of these people have no written language, and those who now have a written language usually do not have the whole Bible in their language. At the present rate of translation, it will take over 150 years to finish the job.

700 tribes have completely died off in the last 30 years as a victim of the white man's diseases. These never received the message.

100 Indian tribes exist in Mexico alone. Pioneer language work is being done in 84 of these tribes by interdenominationalists. Perhaps 2 or 3 of these tribes have a New Testament Church.

### **200 Versions Of The Bible In English**

YES, America has over 200 versions of the Bible available in English. New versions (or perversions), are constantly announced, printed and sold. Is not this a sad state of affairs, when over 2,000 languages have no Bible of any version in their language?!

### **WHERE ARE THE WORKERS?**

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Matt. 9:37

3 million villages of the world have no gospel witness. Indonesia, with a population of 90 million, has no Baptist missionary. Missionary personnel are shrinking 25% every 10 years, because of the population explosion. The number of missionaries now on the field is inadequate to reach the un-evangelized on the field, as the following figures will demonstrate:

- Pacific Islands, 1 missionary to 5,000 population
- Latin America, 1 missionary to 27,000
- Near & Middle East, 1 missionary to 149,000 Africa, 1 missionary to 18,000
- India & Sub-continent, 1 missionary to 104,000
- Far East, 1 missionary to 52,000.

We are told that there are 43,000 missionaries of the world occupying some 130 fields. We do not know how many of the 43,000 are Baptist, nor do we know how many of the 43,000 do not even preach salvation by grace, much less contend for

New Testament Church truth. There are supposed to be 265 million Protestants and Baptists in the world, yet there are only 43,000 foreign missionaries. What a tragic testimony!

- 9% of the world's population speaks English while 91% of the world does not speak English
- 90% of the world's Christians come from the 9% who speak English
- 10% of the world's Christians come from the 91% who do not speak English
- 94% of the ordained preachers in the world minister to the 9% who speak English
- 6% of the ordained preachers in the world minister to the 91% who do not speak English
- 96% of the church's income is spent among the 9% who speak English
- 4% of the church's income is spent among the 91% who do not speak English.

#### **The United States Has:**

- 73% of the English-speaking peoples
- 7% of the world's population
- 50% of the world's wealth
- 63% of the world's manufactured goods
- 29% of the world's railroads
- 74% of the world's automobiles
- 52% of the world's trucks
- 56% of the world's telephones
- 47% of the world's radios
- 46% of the world's electric output
- 52% of the world's steel
- 53% of the world's petroleum
- 36% of the world's coal

#### **Consider These Facts:**

- In 1903 Communism was born with 17 supporters.
- In 1917 Communism conquered Russia with 40,000 supporters.
- In 1944 Communism ruled one country with 160 million people.
- In 1967 Communism rules over 1 billion people.

In time of war, soldiers who do not obey the orders of their Chief Executive are court-martialed and sometimes executed. Christian soldier, what about the orders given by our Lord Jesus Christ? (Matt 28:18-20)

#### **Money For Missions**

American Communists spend 38% of their gross income for their cause. American Christians spend less than 1% of their income for foreign missions. In fact the average American "Christian" (so-called) gave about 3 cents a week to missions or about \$1.56 for the whole year. Most cigarette smokers spend twice as much each week for cigarettes as the average American "Christian" gave to missions all year!

The average U.S. Protestant gave \$77.75 to their church during 1965. At the same time the average Southern Baptist gave \$59.22 to their church for all causes. We do not have the figures on the giving of independent Baptists, but I am sure that we would be ashamed of that figure also.

The United States is the richest country in the world. The Christians in the United States make up the richest generation of Christians that have ever lived. No other generation of Christians has had as much money to spend in the spreading of the gospel as this generation. Yet, we often hear the excuse, "We just don't have any money to give to missions. It takes all we

can rake and scrape, to just make ends meet." What about the money that Christians are spending on television, vacations, tobacco, luxuries, and multitudes of other non-necessary items?

Are these things more important than the immortal souls of men?

#### **How Americans Spend Their Money**

• Food	\$84 billion
• Cars and use	61 billion
• Housing	46 billion
• Household operation	50 billion
• Clothing, Accessories, etc.	35 billion
• Recreation	21 billion
• Illegal gambling	47 billion
• Alcoholic Drinks	11 billion
• Vacations	9 billion
• Tobacco	8 billion
• Personal Care	6 billion
• Religion and Welfare	5 billion
• Dogs, cats, birds (pets)	4 billion
• Pet food – dogs, cats, birds	712 million
• Toys	500 million
• Greeting Cards	141 million
• Chewing Gum	304 million
• Foreign Missions	190 million
• Ball point pens	144 million

Many sad but informative comparisons can be made in the above figures. Many people complain about the churches always wanting money, but the above figures show that the American people spent 4 times as much on recreation last year as they did on all Religion and Welfare.

The above figures show that over 100 times as much was spent for recreation as was spent on foreign missions. (Yes, 100 times is right). Over 20 times as much was spent on dogs, cats, and birds (pets) than was spent on foreign missions. Over 40 times as much was spent on tobacco, as was spent on foreign missions. Over 200 times as much spent on illegal gambling as was spent on foreign missions.

Nearly 2 times as much spent on greeting cards as was spent on foreign missions. Over 1 1/2 times as much spent on chewing gum as was spent on foreign missions. I could go on and on, but I believe that the reader can make his own comparisons. Oh, shame, shame, shame!

#### **II. The Agency Of The Hour**

During the earthly life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, He established the New Testament Church. ". . . I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.

The word "church" (ekklesia in Greek) meant "Originally an assembly of citizens, regularly summoned." Vincent

"The Greek word EKKLESIA signified primarily the assembly of citizens in a self-governed State." Broadus.

In the New Testament the word EKKLESIA is sometimes used in an institutional sense. Today, we sometimes speak of the home as an institution. But if we are called upon to define a home, or display a home, we must of necessity come to the local visible home.

The "Universal Invisible Church" to which supposedly, all saved belong, DOES NOT EXIST and never has existed. It cannot be found in the Bible, because it does not exist. The Church of the New Testament was local, visible and could be assembled regularly... This was the kind of Church that Jesus built. "God hath set some in the church, first apostles..." I Cor. 12:28. It was this kind of Church that was given the rules for discipline. Matt. 18:15-19.. It was this kind of Church that was commanded to "keep the ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper), as I delivered them to you." I Cor. 11:2 and I Cor. 1:2.

### **The Church Is The Agency Of The Hour**

It was to this kind of Church that Jesus gave the great commission. Matt. 28:18-20. It was to this kind of Church that Jesus said, "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power." Luke 24:49. It was this kind of Church that had about 120 members. Acts 1:15. It was this kind of Church that held a business meeting and elected a man to take the place of Judas. Acts 1:15-26. It was this kind of Church that was in "one accord in one place," to receive the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1. It was to this kind of Church that the Lord added 3,000 souls in one day. Acts 2:41. It was to this kind of Church that "the Lord added . . . daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47. It was to this kind of Church that "the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Acts 13:2.

### **Paul Was A Church-Sponsored Missionary**

Paul and Barnabas were selected by the Holy Spirit and sent forth by the Holy Spirit, but this was done through the agency of the Church at Antioch. Acts 13:1-4. After they had completed their first missionary journey, they returned to Antioch and reported to the Church. Acts 14:27.

Jesus did establish the Church. But you will search in vain through the New Testament, if you are looking for a place where He established a convention or association.

### **Man-Made Agencies**

Paul wrote about the "churches (plural) of Galatia,, and the "churches of Macedonia (I Cor. 16:1, II Cor. 8:1), but he did not say anything about the "convention" of Galatia or the "association" of Macedonia. We read about the "churches of Asia" and the "churches of Judea," but we see nothing in the scriptures about the "fellowship" of Asia or the "union" of Judea. WHY? Because these organizations did not exist then, nor do they have any scriptural right to exist today.

Man has been busy organizing conventions, associations, unions, fellowships, faith mission boards, etc. No scripture authorizing such organizations has ever been found. Many sincere men devote themselves to promoting such organizations, no doubt thinking that the end justifies the means.

Any mission work that does not begin in a New Testament Church, and does not end in the establishment of a New Testament Church, is not Bible missions. Paul was a Church builder. As you read the book of Acts and the epistles of Paul, it is easy to see that he was interested in seeing a soul winning New Testament Church in each city. He wrote to young Timothy about "the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3:15.

Paul did have one brief experience with "boards" while doing mission work. While on a voyage to Rome, the ship Paul was sailing on, was wrecked by a terrible storm While escaping to land, some of the passengers found "boards" were quite useful. However, the context clearly indicates that the "boards" were all wet in this case. Acts 27: 44.

### **The Great Challenge Of The Hour**

True New Testament Baptist Churches face a tremendous challenge. There is probably at least 3 billion lost people in the world. More than half of these have not even heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, and millions have not even heard His name.

Communism controls at least 1 billion people. Modernism holds a death like grip on Protestantism, and sad to say, the same thing applies to the majority of those who wear the name Baptist. Of course, there are many interdenominational missionaries who do preach salvation by grace, but their efforts are largely wasted because of their failure to teach Church truth. This is also true of many who wear the name Baptist, because they are interdenominational in doctrine and practice.

Many of the Independent Baptist Churches that are sound in the faith are sound asleep. Many are strong on orthodoxy, but weak on "orthopraxy." Many are missionary in name, but fewer are missionary in practice. Many are scriptural in the local Church work, but support unsound and unscriptural mission work on the foreign field. Some support missions enough to try to sooth the conscience, but few are sacrificial in giving and going. Some Independent Baptist Churches and preachers seem to think that their calling is to criticize the mission work that other groups are doing. Remember, God did not call us to criticize, but to evangelize. Criticism of another man's method does not constitute obedience to Christ. The servant must give an account to his own master.

Somehow, somehow, we must do more than we have been doing. As great as the challenge, the hour is not hopeless. Though our number be few and the need so great, if we will only become available for God to use, there will be a miraculous advance in the mission work that we are doing. When we work in the energy of the flesh, what is accomplished is dependent upon what we can do. But when we are yielded and surrendered to God, what is accomplished is dependent upon what God can do. And there is a VAST difference between the two.

### **III. The Unction For The Hour**

"But ye have an unction from the Holy One . . ." 1 John 3:20.

Someone has said, "It takes a Divine unction to make Orthodoxy function." That unction is promised to the children of God. The "Holy One" referred to in this verse is none other than Christ. Jesus was the "Anointed One." "God, even thy God, ha\* anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." Hebrews 1:8, 9. The context is clear. Over against the Antichrist and his system with its many followers, God places His Anointed One and His anointed ones. "AN UNCTION. The word means that with which the anointing is performed—THE UNGUENT or OINTMENT. THE ANOINTING is from THE ANOINTED." 'Vincent.

In both the O. T. and N. T., the anointing oil was a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

If we are to accomplish the urgent task of the hour, we must recognize and utilize the power of the Holy Spirit of God. We are not advocating a second work of grace, because the Bible does not teach this. We do not need wild-fire, "strange fire," or fanaticism.

### **Power For The Hour**

After Jesus had given His commission to the Church, He told them, "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49. "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

The task assigned to that little band of defeated, disheartened believers seemed to be far above their capability. Their leader had just been rejected by the nation of Israel. He had indeed risen from the dead, but He had departed from them. From every human standpoint, Christianity had come to the end of the line. Both Jew and Gentile had rejected His message. There seemed little hope that such a small movement, led by men who had deserted their commander in the heat of the battle, could ever survive in such a hostile political, moral and religious climate.

But in just a few years, Christianity had spread to the remote areas of the Roman Empire. The converts were numbered in the hundreds of thousands, and many churches had been established in Europe and Asia. By the year 56 A.D., it could be said "that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks." Acts 19:10. WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE? It was the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church had tarried and the Lord had kept His promise.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." Acts 2:1. The Holy Spirit came, and that Church at Jerusalem was never the same again. On that wonderful day, that old ex-fisherman who had cursed and denied his Lord less than two months before, stood and boldly declared the gospel of Jesus Christ. On that one day 3,000 souls were saved, baptized and added to the Church.

Today, we do not need to pray for the coming of the Spirit, or for the "baptism of the Spirit." God kept His promise. Every truly born again believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within. The reason we do not have the power of the Spirit, is because we so often "quench" and "grieve" the Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30. Then we fail to "walk In the Spirit," and afterward speculate on why we are barren and unfruitful. Gal. 5:25.

We are commanded to be "filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5:18. When filled with sin, we cannot be filled with the Spirit. The question is not whether the believer has the Spirit, but rather, does the Spirit have the believer? Simon Peter said, 'WE ARE HIS WITNESSES...AND SO IS ALSO THE HOLY GHOST ... "Acts 5:32. We need the glory of His presence and power of His person, but we cannot claim this without separation and consecration.

### **A Wonderful Example**

In the great Church at Antioch, we see a wonderful example of the relationship of the Holy Spirit to missions.

"Now there were in the Church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they (the Church) had tasted and prayed, and laid their hand on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia" Acts 13:1-3.

Thus we see the beginning of the great missionary journeys of Paul, which resulted in many souls being saved and many Churches being established.

Please note some wonderful truths set forth in this example of how God works:

- (1) God was working in and through the Church at Antioch.
- (2) The Holy Ghost chose the missionaries.
- (3) The Holy Ghost spoke to the Church.
- (4) The Church was identified with the missionaries by the laying on of hands.
- (5) The Church sent the missionaries away. V. 3
- (6) The missionaries were sent forth by the Holy Ghost V. 4
- (7) Notice the complete absence of any man made organization in the sending out of these missionaries. There was no convention, association or board involved.

We do not believe that man can improve on God's plan. In the last days of this dispensation, as we approach the midnight hour, let us once again return to this great work of carrying out the great commission. With God's message, God's method, and God's motive, we can still reach countless souls. We need, and must have the power of the Holy Spirit.

Statistics contained in this tract have been obtained from many different sources. It is our belief that they are reasonably accurate.

