

## The Albigenses

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William Cathcart

Taken from the book, *The Baptist Encyclopedia*, 1881

**T**he Albigenses received this name from the town of Albi, in France, in and around which many of them lived. The Albigenses were called Cathari, Paterines, Publicans, Paulicians, Good Men, Bogomiles, and they were known by other names. They were not Waldenses. They were Paulicians, either directly from the East, or converted through the instrumentality of those who came from the earlier homes of that people.

The Paulicians were summoned into existence by the Spirit of God about A.D. 660. Their founder was named Constantine. The reading of a New Testament, left him by a stranger, brought him to the Saviour. He soon gathered a church, and his converts speedily collected others. Armenia was the scene of his labors. They were denounced as Manicheans, though they justly denied the charge. They increased rapidly, and in process of time persecution scattered them. In the ninth century many of them were in Thrace, Bulgaria, and Bosnia; and, later still, they became very numerous in these new fields, especially in Bosnia.

Indeed, such a host had they become that in 1238 Coloman, the brother of the king of Hungary, entered Bosnia to destroy the heretics. Gregory IX congratulated him upon his success, but lived to learn that the Bogomiles were still a multitude. A second crusade led to further butchery, but the blood of martyrs was still the seed of the church, and they continued a powerful body until the conquest of their country by the Turks, in 1463.

There was no direct communication between these Bogomiles and the Albigenses in France. Matthew Parist tells us that the heretic Albigenses in the provinces of Bulgaria, Croatia, and Dalmatia elected Bartholomew as their pope, that Albigenses came to him from all quarters for information on doubtful matters, and that he had a vicar who was born in Carcassone, and who lived near Thoulouse.

At an early period the Paulicians entered Italy and established powerful communities, especially in Milan. They spread over France, Germany, and 3 other countries. In the eleventh century they were to be found in almost every quarter of Europe.

St. Bernard, in the twelfth century, says of them:

"If you interrogate them about their faith nothing can be more Christian, if you examine into their, conversation nothing can be more blameless, and what they say they confirm by their deeds. As for what regards life and manners, they attack no one, they circumvent no one, they defraud no one."

Reinerius Saccho belonged to the Cathari (not the Waldenses; he was never a member of that community) for seventeen years. He was afterwards a Romish inquisitor, and he describes his old friends and the Waldenses, in 1254, in these words:

"Heretics are distinguished by their manners and their words, for they are sedate and modest in their manners. They have no pride in clothes, for they wear such as are neither costly nor mean. They do not carry on business in order to avoid falsehoods, oaths, and frauds, but only live by labor as workmen. Their teachers also are shoemakers and weavers. They do not multiply riches, but are content with what is necessary, and they are chaste, especially the Leonists. They are also temperate in meat and drink. They do not go to taverns, dances, or other vanities."

The Leonists were the followers of Peter Waldo, of Lyons, the Waldenses, as distinguished from his own old sect, the Albigenses. Reinerius then proceeds to charge these men who shun business to avoid falsehoods with hypocrisy. No body of men could receive a better character than St. Bernard and the inquisitor give these enemies of the Church of Rome, and no community could be more wickedly abused by the same men than these identical heretics. For some centuries the Albigenses figure universally in history as externally the purest and best of men, and secretly as guilty of horrible crimes, such as the pagans charged upon the early Christians.

Reinerius mentions several causes for the spread of heresy. His second is that all the men and women, small and great, day and night, do not cease to learn, and they are continually engaged in teaching what they have acquired themselves. His third cause for the existence and spread of heresy is the translation and circulation of the Old and New Testaments into the vulgar tongue. These they learned themselves and taught to others.

Reinerius was acquainted with a rustic layman who repeated the whole book of Job, and with many who knew perfectly the entire New Testament. He gives an account of many schools of the heretics, the existence of which he learned in the trials of the inquisition. Assuredly these friends of light and of a Bible circulated everywhere were worthy of the curses and tortures of men like Reinerius and lordly bigots like St. Bernard.

In a council held at Thoulouse in 1229 the Scriptures in the language of the people were first prohibited. The Albigenses surviving the horrid massacre of the Pope's murderous crusaders were forbidden to have the "books of the Old or New Testament, unless a Psalter, a *Breviary*, and a *Rosary*, and they forbade the translation in the vulgar tongue." No doubt many of the members of the council supposed that the Breviary and Rosary were inspired as well as the Psalter.

Reinerius gives a catalogue of the doctrines of the Cathari, which corresponds with the list of heresies charged against them for two hundred years before he wrote by popes, bishops, and ecclesiastical gatherings, the substance of which has no claim upon our credulity, though some of the forms of expression may have been used by certain of these venerable worthies.

Reinerius says that the Cathari had 16 churches, the church of the Albanenses, or of Sansano, of Contorezo, of Bagnolenses, or of Bagnolo, of Vincenza, or of the Marquisate, of Florence, of the Valley of Spoleto, of France, of Thoulouse, of Cahors, of Albi, of Slavonia, of the Latins at Constantinople, of the Greeks in the same city, of Philadelphia, of Bulgaria, and of Dugranicia.

He says, "They all derive their origin from the two last." That is, they are all Paulicians, originally from Armenia. He says that "the churches number 4000 Cathari, of both sexes, in all the world, but believers innumerable." By churches we are to understand communities of the Perfect devoted to ministerial and missionary labor.

The Believers in the time of Reinerius were counted by millions. Upon *infant baptism* the Albigenses had very decided opinions. A council held in Thoulouse in 1119, undoubtedly referring to them, condemns and expels from the church of God those who put on the appearance of religion and condemned the sacrament of the body and the blood of the Lord and the *baptism of children*.

At a meeting of "archbishops, bishops, and other pious men" at Thoulouse, in 1176, the Albigenses were condemned on various pretexts. Roger De Hoveden a learned Englishman, who commenced to write his "Annals" in 1189, gives a lengthy account of this meeting.

He says that Gilbert, bishop of Lyons, by command of the bishop of Albi and his assessors, condemned these persons as heretics; and the third reason, according to Hoveden, given by Gilbert for his sentence was that they would not save children by baptism.

He also preserves a "Letter of Peter, titular of St. Chrysogonus, Cardinal, Priest, and Legate of the Apostolic See," written in 1178, in which, speaking of the Albigenses, he says, "Others stoutly maintained to their faces that they had heard from them that baptism was of no use to infants."

Collier gives the meaning of Hoveden correctly when he represents him as stating, in reference to the Albigenses, "These heretics refused to own infant baptism."

Evervinus, in a letter to St. Bernard, speaking evidently of Albigenses, in Cologne, in 1147, and consequently before the conversion of Peter Waldo, says, "They do not believe infant baptism, alleging that place of the gospel, 'Whosoever shall believe and be baptized shall be saved.'"

Eckbert, in 1160, in his work against the Cathari, written in thirteen discourses, says in the first, "They say that baptism profits nothing to children who are baptized, for they cannot seek baptism by themselves, because they can make no profession of faith."

The Paulicians received their name because they were specially the disciples of the Apostle Paul. They were established as a denomination by a gift of the Scriptures to their founder, through which he received Christ, became a mighty teacher, and gathered not converts simply, but churches.

At the great trial in Thoulouse in 1176 they would not accept anything as an authority but the New Testament. Throughout their wide-spread fields of toil from Armenia to Britain, and from one end of Europe to the other, and throughout the nine hundred years of their heroic sufferings and astonishing successes, they have always shown supreme regard for the Word of God. If these men, coming from the original cradle of our race, journeying through Thrace, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Italy, France, and Germany, and visiting even Britain, were not Baptists, they were very like them.

If all the wicked slanders about them were discarded it would most probably be found that some of them had little in common with us, but that the majority, while redundant and deficient in some things as measured by Baptist doctrines, were substantially on our platform. This position about the Paulicians of the East is ably defended by Dr. L. P. Brockett in *The Bogomils*.



# Independent? Bible? New Testament? Premillennial? Conservative? \_\_\_\_\_

Norman H. Wells

Taken from the book, *The Church That Jesus Loved*, 1973

It has become increasingly apparent that the name Baptist has about lost any definite meaning!! It is used by so many different folks and covers such a wide variety of beliefs that it would be difficult to answer: What is a Baptist? The name Baptist covers the area from the Hard-shell to the extreme Armenian, from the Modernist to the Fundamentalist, from the Convention to the Independent, from Close Communion to Open Communion, from Premillennialism to Post-millennialism, from the Universal Church theory to the Local Church, from foot-washing to no foot-washing, from acceptance of all immersion as Baptist to only an acceptance of Baptist baptism, from anti-missionary to missionary, from Seventh-Day Baptists to Sunday Baptists, from anti-tithing to tithing, etc. You name it, and somewhere, somebody called Baptists have it! Baptists have developed into a Heinz 57 varieties!

Long ago these folks started trying to identify themselves as to what kind of Baptist they were!! This necessitated adding to the name Baptist and thus we have American Baptist, Southern Baptist, Christian Unity Baptist, Freewill Baptist, General Baptist, Six-Principle Baptist, National Baptist Evangelical Life and Soul-Saving Assembly of the U. S. A., Primitive Baptist, Regular Baptist, General Association of Regular Baptist, Seventh Day Baptist, Conservative Baptist, Two Seed in the Spirit Predestinarian Baptist, United Baptist, World Baptist, Bible Baptist, Hardshell Baptist, Orthodox Baptist, etc.

This diversity of meaning concerning the name Baptist has created many difficulties and much confusion!! There has to be a declaration as to what kind of Baptist. Throughout the land those who were trying to maintain the distinctive principles and the historical position of Baptists were being submerged in the conflicting claims of these numerous kinds of Baptist! Conventions, association, fellowship, etc. that were trying to hold these different kinds of Baptist in organizational ties had their difficulties. Some began calling themselves Missionary Baptist to distinguish themselves from Hardshell groups!

Others began to call themselves Independent Baptists in protest to conditions that existed in the conventions and associations. Still others used the name fundamental Baptist to show themselves opposed to modernism. The word "Pre-millennial" came into great usage. It is not uncommon to see a Baptist church call itself an Independent, fundamental, missionary, Pre-millennial, Baptist church. Great use was made of the words Orthodox, Conservative, etc.

Missionary! Independent! Fundamental! Pre-millennial! Conservative! Orthodox! New Testament! Bible! All these were used, and for a while these names usually designated a sound Baptist church and in most cases still do, however, these names have also been assumed by those who deny what they were originally intended to mean. The name Missionary has been warped to designate a particular convention. Independent Baptists have bound themselves together in the same kind of organizational ties that they once so bitterly fought. New Testament and Bible Baptists find themselves involved in compromises that destroy the meaning of these words!

The meaning of the word Fundamental has been drastically changed! In a general sense, as applied to all Christianity, the word Fundamental means those who accept the literal, verbal inspiration of the scriptures, the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, vicarious death, bodily resurrection, literal, visible, bodily, second coming and salvation by grace through faith! There are Fundamentalists of this sort among practically every denomination and we thank God for them!! A preacher or church can be Fundamental in this sense and still not be a fundamentalist as far as being a Baptist! If being a Baptist means nothing more, then, why be one? If the truths Baptists have always held are "not important and non-essential" why bother carrying the name?

If being a Baptist means nothing more than an acceptance of those things that all Fundamentalists of all denominations are agreed upon, where is our purpose? What is our reason for existence?

What identifies a Baptist? What particular distinction gives the right to a separate identity from the rest of Christianity? It is not what we believe about the Bible, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Man, Sin, Heaven, Hell or the Second Coming. Most of the folks in any denomination would be in agreement as to these things. Most fundamentalists in all denominations will acknowledge salvation by grace through faith. Where, then, is the difference? It narrows down to the fact that a Baptist exists to maintain all the above-mentioned truths — PLUS, the completed truth concerning salvation, the church and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. If we deny these last three things we have lost any reason for being Baptists! There no longer exists a purpose!

Some would have us believe all fundamentalists are preaching the same way of salvation. On the surface this may appear to be so, but as our gaze goes a little deeper we see that what Baptists believe about salvation is a distinctive principle held by them alone. Incidentally, who among us has been ordained of God to declare what is non-essential and what is essential in God's Word? This sounds like a modernist wanting to show us what is inspired and what is not.

Baptists believe in salvation by grace, plus nothing and minus nothing. This eliminates all who would teach baptismal regeneration, that is, that an individual has to be baptized in order to be saved. This eliminates baptism as being part of salvation and necessary to salvation. The doctrine of the necessity of a good life in order to obtain salvation is eliminated. The doctrine that would make church membership necessary to salvation is eliminated. To hold out faithful in order to maintain salvation is eliminated. Salvation is by grace! We have those who seemingly concur in this doctrine as do the Baptists but when really held to their doctrine they add one or more conditions. They will say a man is saved by grace, plus baptism. Saved by grace, plus good works. Saved by grace, plus ability to hold out faithful. Away with this! It is not Bible and it is not Baptist!

Baptists reject the universal, invisible church theory. Baptists believe that Jesus Christ established the first church during His sojourn in the flesh and the work of the construction was begun with the material prepared by John the Baptist. Baptists believe that churches, after the order of the one Christ established, have existed in every age and are in existence now! Baptist believe that a local, New Testament Baptist Church bears all the marks and preaches the same doctrine as the one Christ established. It also has the same responsibility and authority.

Certainly, all who repent and by faith accept Christ as Savior are redeemed whether or not they ever hear of a Baptist Church, however, this does not change the truth concerning the church.

To the local church God gave the great commission. The local church is God's way of giving the gospel to this age. The New Testament pattern is simple. The only organization mentioned, described, and sanctioned in the New Testament is a local church. The local church sent out the missionaries. The local church taught and preached the Word. The local church received the Lord's offering. The local church administered discipline. The local church governed itself. The local church is a pure democracy, complete in itself and therefore cannot join anything like or unlike itself. If it did join anything, it would then, in the larger unit, be only a representative and not a true democracy. The local church had the authority, given to them by God to administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

This commission was given to the local church. If not, to whom was it given?

Baptists believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is a prerequisite to the privilege of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate the dying love of Christ, preceded always by a solemn self-examination.

As B. H. Carroll has stated the church uses four ways to declare the gospel:

1. Proclaim it through its ministry.
2. Pictorially represent it in its ordinances.
3. Vindicate it in discipline.
4. Illustrate it in life.

The gospel we preach is pictured to the world in the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In a true New Testament Church the ordinances will picture the gospel that is preached. If the ordinances are wrong then the message is wrong. If we accept alien immersion or baptism into our church we are guilty of presenting a false picture of salvation to the world. May God help us! Open Communion and alien Baptism are the two greatest forces on earth being used by Satan to destroy Baptists. These truths must be maintained.

To compromise our position on Baptism and the Lord's Supper is to compromise our position on salvation. The main distinction that identifies the Baptist with the New Testament church is our Baptism. To falter here is to fail.

Thus we see that these truths concerning salvation, the church and the ordinances are distinctive Baptist! To deny them is to destroy!! Why, oh why, will pastors and churches deny these truths and yet still want to carry the name Baptist?

All of this has been written to bring us up to this one last fact. It has always been the lot of genuine Baptists to identify themselves before the world by coming out and being separate.

Sound Baptist churches and pastors are linked up in so-called Bible-believing Fellowships, with those so-called Bible-believing fellowships, with those who deny the Baptist truths concerning salvation, the church and the ordinances. The main churches and supporters of some of these groups practice Open Communion and accept Alien Immersion.

It is just as much the duty of a Baptist pastor and church to separate themselves from this kind of error and denounce it as it is to stand against worldliness, modernism, false teachers, etc.

It stands to reason that colleges and seminaries that are maintained and supported by these Baptists who practice Open Communion and accept Alien Baptism will turn out preachers who will do the same!! To support such schools is to promote this kind of grievous error.

We are living in perilous times! Never has it been so vital as it is now for Baptists to stand forth and declare themselves!! All over our land are thousands of Baptist preachers and churches that still cling to the historic Baptist position. These churches feel they have the truth that will set men free and that they are obligated before God to declare this truth. The tragedy of this hour is that the voice of these pastors and churches is being lost in the clamor of compromising Conventions, Associations, Fellowships, etc.!



# The Family, Kingdom and Church of God Differentiated

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Roy Mason

Taken from the book, *The Church That Jesus Built*, 1923

*"The popular teaching that all of the saved compose the church of Christ is a man-made theory without Bible proof."*

*"We recognize every saved person as a brother or sister, but not every saved one as a member of a gospel church."*

-J. T. Moore, in *Why I Am A Baptist*

When one sets forth the Baptist claim to perpetuity and attempts to demonstrate that Baptist churches alone can claim Jesus for Founder and Head, there are always those who immediately jump to the conclusion that Baptists claim that none are saved but Baptists. They get the idea that Baptists deny them a place in the kingdom and family of God. Such is by no means true. Far be it from any true Baptist to claim that one must be a Baptist in order to be saved. Indeed, they believe just the reverse, for according to their view one must be saved before he can be a Baptist.

And as for the kingdom and family of God, true Baptists are members of both before they ever become members of a Baptist church. If not, they are not fit to belong to the church, for they are yet unsaved. The things that I have said in former chapters concerning the church have nothing to do with anyone's membership in God's family or kingdom, for the church, family, and kingdom are three separate and distinct things. Because of the confusion that reigns in so many minds on this point, I have thought it worthwhile to devote an entire chapter to a discussion of the differences between these three.

While considering how best to present my ideas for this chapter, in reading what others had written along this line, I came across an old tract published some years ago by H. B. Taylor, editor of *News and Truths*. The tract is such a clear, concise statement concerning the differences between the kingdom of God, the family of God, and the church of God, that I can do no better than to quote it. I make only a few changes such as to adapt it to the present use. I invite the reader to ponder very carefully the distinctions made and to verify them from the Scriptures.

**1: FAMILY OF GOD.** "The Family of God includes all of the children of God in heaven and on earth. In Ephesians 1:15, Paul speaks of the 'whole family in heaven and on earth.' This family includes all believers. 'Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.' Gal. 3:26. All believers are God's children. Since Old Testament saints were saved by faith in Christ (Acts 10:43, Rom. 4:16, etc.), they are all members of God's family.

God's family is bigger than the kingdom of God or the church of God, for it now contains all of the saved from Abel to the last man who believed, whether in heaven or on earth. God has only one family. All believers are children and heirs of God.

**2: THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** The Kingdom of God includes all of the saved on earth at any given time. In Matthew 13 the kingdom is used to include all professors.

But the kingdom as used in John 3:3-5, Matthew 16:19; 11:11, Luke 16:16, Romans 14:17, Col. 1:13, John 18:36, etc., is composed of all the born again on earth. This is not the kingdom of Daniel 2:44, Luke 19:11-27, Acts 1:6, etc. Those passages refer to the millennium. That kingdom is yet future. What is sometimes called the spiritual kingdom is composed only of those who have been born again, who have been 'translated out of darkness into the

kingdom of His dear Son.' In John 3:3-5 the Master said, "Except a man be born anew he can neither see nor enter the Kingdom of God." In Matt. 18:16 and Mark 10:13-15 the Master shows very clearly that the kingdom is composed of only such as have received Him, whether children or adults.

"The family of God includes all of the saved of all the ages, whether in heaven or on earth; the kingdom of God includes that part of the family of God who are on earth now."

**3: THE CHURCH OF GOD.** "The church of God is never used of any institution, except of an assembly or congregation of baptized believers in some given locality. E.g., the church of God at Corinth."—I Cor. 1:2.

The local individual church is the only kind of church God has on this earth today. There is only one family of God, composed of all the redeemed of all the ages in heaven and on earth. There is only one kingdom of God, composed of all the born again on the earth now. There are thousands of churches of God on earth. Every individual Baptist church is a church of God. No others are. When a man is born again he is born into God's family. He is in the family of God forever. The relationship does not change. Whether in heaven or on earth he is in God's family. When he is born again he also enters God's kingdom. This relationship is for life. When he dies he passes out of the kingdom of God on earth and enters 'His heavenly kingdom' (II Tim. 4:18). After he has been born again he is not yet in a church of God but is now a scriptural subject for admission into a church of God. 'The Lord added to the church daily the saved' (Acts 2:47).

Church membership was not something a man got with salvation, but a subsequent blessing he got after salvation by being added to the church. Baptism is not essential to admission into either the family of God or the kingdom of God; but baptism is essential to admission into a church of God. Men are born anew into the family of God and into the kingdom of God; but they are baptized into a church of God (I Cor. 12:13). The 'one body' referred to by Paul in I Cor. 12:13 was the church of God at Corinth. Note in I Cor. 12:27 he says, 'Ye are a body of Christ and members in particular.'

That local church at Corinth was the body of Christ at Corinth. The members of the church at Corinth belonged to only 'one body' of Christ. That body of Christ probably did not contain all the saved at Corinth (I Cor. 1:2) and none of the saved anywhere else except at Corinth. Since they belonged to only 'one body' and that was the local church at Corinth, Christ has no other kind of a church or body except a local church. If they had belonged to a local church at Corinth, which Paul said was a body of Christ, and then to the kind of church that some believe in, composed of all the saved everywhere, they would have belonged to two churches or bodies of Christ—one local and visible, the other universal and invisible.

The New Testament shows nothing of any such confusion as that. God is not the author of any such confusion. Jesus Christ has only one kind of church or body on this earth, and that is the local assembly—the organized body of baptized believers in any given community. The church which Paul called 'the house of God' was a local church. The church which Paul said was the 'pillar and ground of the truth' was a local church. The church to which the Lord Jesus promised perpetuity (Matt. 16:8) was a local church, for He never spoke of any other kind. The meaning of the word ecclesia permits of no other kind. On that we will let others more competent than the writer speak.

Prof. Royal, of Wake Forest College, North Carolina, who taught Prof. A. T. Robertson, of the Louisville Seminary, and Prof. C. B. Williams, Greek, when asked if he knew of an instance in classic Greek where ecclesia was ever used of a class of "unassembled or unassembling persons" said: "I do not know of any such passage in classic Greek." With this statement agree Professors Burton, of Chicago University, Stifler of Crozer, Strong of Rochester and many other scholars.

Joseph Cross (Episcopalian), in a book of sermons entitled "Coals from the Altar," says:

"We hear much of the invisible church as contradistinguished from the church visible. Of an invisible church in this world, I know nothing, the Word of God says nothing; nor can anything of the kind exist, except in the brain of a heretic. The church is a body; but what sort of a body is that which can neither

be seen nor identified? A body is an organism occupying space and having a definite locality. A mere aggregation is not a body; there must be organization as well. A heap of heads, hands, feet and other members would not make a body; they must be united in a system, each in its proper place and all pervaded by a common life. So a collection of stones, brick and timbers would not be a house; the material must be built together, in an artistic order, adapted to utility. So a mass of roots, trunks and branches would not be a vine or a tree: the several parts must be developed according to the laws of nature from the same seed and nourished from the same vital sap."

Exactly so.

The limbs of a body scattered on a battlefield are not a body. The material of a house in the woods or quarries is not a house. These members and this material must be put in place before you have either a body or house. So the saved are not a church unless brought together and organized or builded into a body or house of God. There is not and cannot be such an institution as a universal, invisible church on this earth, composed of all the saved, because the material has never been brought together and builded into a house or body.

When the Lord Jesus and Paul spoke of the baptized believers of a larger territory than a local church they always said churches. There was no confusion in their speaking, though there is much confusion in modern thinking upon this question.

Once more we try to make the distinction clear. The family of God is composed of all the saved in heaven and on earth. Old Testament saints and babies who died in infancy are in God's family. They are not now nor were they ever in the Kingdom or in any church of God.

All believers on the earth at any time since the days of John the Baptist (Luke 16:16) compose the kingdom of God. There are no infants in it. All true believers, whether Catholic, Protestant, Baptist, or non-church members on earth are in the kingdom; for if true believers they have been born anew. Only baptized believers or Baptists are members of the churches of Christ.



## Tithing Established by Law ---

**Available in Tract Form**

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all." Gen. 14:18-20

This text gives the first record of tithing, and it was some four hundred years before the giving of the Law of Moses, for Abraham lived over four hundred years before Moses, Gal. 3:16-17. However, nothing is said in the Genesis text to show that this was a new thing even in Abraham's day.

What is suggested, is that inasmuch as Abraham is the "father of all that believe," Rom. 4:11, and Melchizedek was an outstanding type of Christ, Heb. 7:1ff, therefore Abraham's paying of tithes is an example to believers today, who are to tithe to the representative of Christ, the local assembly. We must remember that Bible examples are equally as authoritative as commands where there are no commands to the contrary.

Many Christians reject tithing, but their rejection of it must be for one of two reasons:

- (1) Ignorance of the duty. Or
- (2) Rebellion against that duty because of selfishness.

Sometimes it is objected that "I earned what I have by my own labor, and it's mine to do with as I please." But this is to ignore the teaching of Deut. 8:17-18: "And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for IT IS HE THAT GIVETH THEE POWER TO GET WEALTH, that he may establish his covenant which he aware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

Tithing - the paying of ten percent of our income to the Lord - is an acknowledgement of God's ownership of all things, and that we are but stewards of what He has committed to our hands.

Tithing is not just based upon a need, for every believer has the duty of tithing regardless of the condition of the church treasury.

Tithing is an established duty; and it is established by law, but not just by the Law of Moses, for it is not a mere legal duty, to be forgotten when one becomes a Christian. Tithing is not legalism any more than any other duty, such as repentance, faith, baptism or consecration, is, for they are all the commands of the Lord to His children, and it is but an attempt to becloud the issue to call it legalism.

#### **I. IT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE LAW OF THE LORD.**

The proof-text for this is Lev. 27:30: "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord." All the tithe of all produce was holy, and not to be used for selfish purposes except, in some cases when one wished to keep some especially good grain for seed, by adding 20 per cent to it, V. 31. But when the animals were run under the rod to count them, there could be no changing of the tenth for the ninth or eleventh, as one might be tempted to do, if the tenth appeared to be a superior breeding animal, V. 32-33. These things are here couched in pastoral terms for the Israelites were a pastoral people.

But of course, the immediate objection that is lodged by non-tithers is: "O but that was before Christ came. That was in the Old Testament." May we be permitted to ask: "What difference can that possibly make? Do we serve a different God than Israel did?"

Before we assume that ANYTHING in the Old Testament has been abrogated, we must see a specific command revoking it. Such a revocation of the law of tithing does not appear in the New Testament. But a specific statement is made in the New Testament which does bear upon the very issue at hand. Matt. 5:17-18: "Think not that I am come to DESTROY THE LAW, or the prophets: I AM NOT COME TO DESTROY, BUT TO FULFILL. But verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Our Lord declares that He did not come to disannul or abrogate the law. Who dares to argue with this? Let him be ready to answer for his rebellion against the revealed will of God if he does.

But even more specific in this matter is the inspired comment of Paul on this issue in I Cor. 9:13-14: "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? EVEN SO HATH THE LORD ORDAINED THAT THEY WHICH PREACH THE GOSPEL SHOULD LIVE OF THE GOSPEL."

The reference in V. 13 is to the support of the ministry of the Tabernacle and Temple by TITHES AND OFFERINGS. The Lord has "ordained" that the ministry of the church is to be supported "even so", or "in this manner" as the word is also rendered. This ought to be clear enough, shouldn't it? What then will you do about this duty?

## II. IT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE LAW OF LOVE.

Our Lord Himself said in John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments," and the law of tithing is as much a commandment from Jesus Christ as it is from the Father. In proof of this, we have but to recall 1 Cor. 9:14; the Lord Jesus has "ordained" the tithes for the support of His churches and the ministry of the Word. The word rendered "ordained" appears sixteen times in the New Testament, and is rendered "commanded" seven times; "appointed" four times; "ordained" three times; "set in order" once; and "give order" once. Clearly, the word is used in the sense of an authoritative command. Who dares to disobey this commandment?

Who can claim to love the Lord while disobeying Him? Such is a strange kind of love. When we eat in a restaurant, we "tip" the waitress, yet it is an unwritten law that the tip shall be at least a minimum of ten percent of the check. Does the Christian love that often unknown waitress more than he loves the Lord who died for him? Shame on him if his love is no deeper than this!

Who can claim to love the Lord while robbing Him of that portion of his material possessions that He claims as His own? Mal. 3:8-9 says: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

Tithing has always been a test of the Lord's people:

- (1) It tests their love: do they love Him more than Mammon--the god of riches, Luke 16:10-13.
- (2) It tests their faith: do they believe God's promises, Matt. 6:24-25, 33-34.
- (3) It tests their concern for the souls of men: do they love souls enough to give to get the gospel preached, I Cor. 9:14.

Tithing is intimately associated with the gospel, both in the church and on the mission field.

This law of love also is concerned with those who preach the gospel, for those who hear are to share their material possessions with those who do the preaching. Gal. 6:6: "Let him that is taught in the Word COMMUNICATE unto [share with] him that teacheth in all good things."

Interestingly, this same word is used of giving for the preaching of the Word on foreign fields in Phil. 4:15: "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church COMMUNICATED with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only."

Love for the Lord and love for the souls of men will compel the believer to tithe every time, for Christian love (that highest of all kinds of loves as signified by the Greek word AGAPE) is always a GIVING type of love, not a selfish kind of love, John 3:16; I Cor. 13:5.

## III. IT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE LAW OF LOGIC.

One of the objections lodged against tithing is that the New Testament says so little about it. But it is unnecessary to say much about that which is already established. What the New Testament does say, strengthens rather than takes away from its authority. Heb. 7:5-8: "And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth."

This is in reference to the text in Gen. 14, and notice the contrast that is drawn in V. 8: "Here" refers to the Levitical priesthood (under the Law) which had just been dealt with, while "there" refers to the Melchizedecan

priesthood which typified Christ's priesthood under the New Testament dispensation. The conclusion is irresistible: tithes are to be received in the New Testament dispensation as well as under the old dispensation. This is the only logical meaning of this text.

Some argue that the reference to tithing in Matt. 23:23, which says: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for YE PAY TITHE of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: THESE OUGHT YE TO HAVE DONE, and not to leave the other undone," had only to do with "a self-righteous Pharisee", and so could have no bearing on Christians. It is true that it was addressed to the Jewish leaders, many of whom were self-righteous hypocrites, but is it logical that we who have received so much more under grace would be required to do less than they? Does love obligate us to less or more than mere law does? Find a person who really loves the Lord, and he will give at least a tithe every time. This is the logic of love.

We knew a godly deacon once who expressed his doubts about tithing being the duty of believers in this age, but when pressed about his own practice, he admitted that he personally gave a double tithe. His love for the Lord overpowered his mental reservations against tithing. And it will ever be, but until the heart-strings are strongly attached to the Lord Jesus, and there is a compelling love for the Lord, the purse-strings will be tightly shut and the idol Mammon will continue to reign in the heart.

Logically, no church can survive unless it has many, many non-tithers putting in their pitiful one dollar per week, but on the other hand, a small church that is made up mostly of tithers can be very successful in missionary and evangelistic work. Ten family heads who are tithers can support a pastor adequately. The writer was called some years ago to pastor a small church whose attendance only ran thirty to fifty, but he was told by the church treasurer that all the adult members were tithers, and the result was that the church was able to pay the pastor an adequate salary, support numerous mission works, plus purchase a nice parsonage, yet without any financial problems whatsoever.

But it is illogical to expect a church to fulfill its work when no one is willing to give to pay its expenses. The church is the Body of Christ, and He never meant for His Body to be a beggar. He has decreed, not only the correct means to do His work, but also the correct way to support that work, and NOTHING ELSE WORKS JUST AS WELL.

Notice how Paul was inspired to establish tithing logically in the context of I Cor. 9:13-14. In V. 7-10 he shows that:

(1) Soldiers are not expected to supply their own support, but they are decreed a daily ration, V. 7.

(2) The keeper of the vineyard is permitted to eat of the fruit, V. 7.

(3) The shepherd eats of the flock, V. 7. The law decreed this.

(4) Thus, even the ox that treads out the grain was permitted to take bites of it, V. 9, and this fact is intended as an instructive example to Christians, V. 9-10.

(5) The farmer likewise labors in the assurance that he will partake of the fruits of his labors. Then

(6) he shows that on the basis of these facts, it is but logical that the same principle holds true in spiritual things as well, V. 11. And

(7) he declares that this was the practice of other preachers of his day, though he personally had not asked for this support, V. 12.

All of which leads up to the declaration that just as the ministers in the Tabernacle and Temple were supported by the tithes and offerings, so those who labor in the gospel ministry likewise are commanded by the Lord to be so supported.

Logically it may not seem that one can get by and prosper easier on the nine-tenths left after tithing than on the whole ten-tenths, but this is only because we often forget God, the sometimes UNSEEN FACTOR In all things. If we but take into account the threat against non-tithers and the promise to tithers in Mal. 3:9-11, immediately the logic changes in favor of the tither. Every tither has seen how that God sometimes seemed to miraculously make the nine-tenths go further in paying the bills than even the ten-tenths would. And every non-tither, though he may not have considered this, has had unexpected bills come from every direction because God's curse was on the work of his hands.

**CONCLUSION:** It is both foolish and sinful for church people to expect outsiders to support their church through sales, suppers, subscriptions, etc., if the members themselves are unwilling to support the church. In so doing, they give their own estimation of their church; i.e., that it is unworthy of support. Someone once well said of Christ that "He is either worth everything, or He is worth nothing". We believe that since every true church is a Body of Christ, the same thing may be said of it.

Tithing is the only equal means of support for the Lord's work, wherein everyone from the poverty-stricken widow to the millionaire has the same responsibility--duty according to ability. Someone has well said that every Christian is a tither, but from many God must go and collect the tithes, and He is a good collector, and He often charges an additional collection fee when His children refuse to respond to their duty.

Tithing is established upon three strong pillars--the LAW OF THE LORD, the LAW OF LOVE and the LAW OF LOGIC. Nothing can or will raise its voice against tithing except one of two things: Ignorance or Greed, and neither of these is a Christian virtue. Are you a faithful tither? If not, why not begin today to honor the Lord with the firstfruits of all thine increase, Prov. 3:9-10? It will be a blessing to you, your church, your minister and your missionaries.



## Recipe for Disaster

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E.L. Bynum  
Available in Tract Form

**Note from E. L. Bynum:** *The terrible event in Littleton, Colorado happened on Tuesday, April 20, 1999. Two high school boys killed 15 people including themselves. I preached the following message in Tabernacle Baptist Church on Wednesday April 21, in order to help our people know what is really happening in America.*

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (Ps. 33:12)

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (Ps. 9:17)

"Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand." (II Chronicles 36:14-17)

Who were the messengers of verse 15? We do not know who all of them were, but we can name at least 13 that God sent in a space of about 250 years. The messengers were, Elijah, Elisha, Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk and Jeremiah.

The wicked people mocked these faithful messengers of God. They rejected the truth of God over and over again. They worshiped false gods, and lived on in their immoral sins. They did this "until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy." While I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, we must be very close, if we have not passed the time, where there will be no remedy.

My wife has many recipes that she is always trying on me, and most of them are really delicious. These tasty dishes result from knowing how to take the ingredients that are called for, and blending them carefully together. I can almost taste some of them as I deliver this message.

There are also recipes or formulas to make rat poison, roach poison, and rodent poison. When any one of them is ingested by human beings, it can often be fatal. Our society has for many years been mixing up a recipe for national disaster. The news media does not seem to have a clue as to what is going on in our nation. Those of us who have a knowledge of the Bible certainly know that God's Word casts a lot of light on the situation.

The terrible tragedies in Littleton, as well as other disasters in our country, need to be analyzed to find out the identity of the ingredients used to produce such a deadly recipe. Here is the recipe which should not have been followed.

#### **I. FORSAKE THE GOD WHO MADE THIS NATION GREAT.**

Our nation as a whole has concluded that one God is as good as another. That is the reason for the frantic attempt to take God out of our political life. Our founding Fathers recognized the God of the Bible, and said so in the great documents of our nation. Today our nation is afraid to do this, because to do this might offend the Muslims, the Hindus, the practitioners of Witchcraft, or the Atheists. Besides if you recognize the God of the Bible, you must face the fact that there is such a thing as the judgment of God, and that is unthinkable to many in our nation.

That is the reason why a judge in the State of Alabama is fighting for his life. The ACLU and other assorted organizations have millions of dollars, and hundreds of lawyers ready to prosecute the judge in court. What awful sin has he committed? He posted a copy of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom. Just read those terrible commandments in Exodus 20 that would be so harmful to criminals and all others that come into the court room. Why those poor criminals might get the idea that they should not kill, steal, and lie. Wouldn't that be a terrible tragedy?

The Governor of Alabama fully supported the judge and vowed that he would call out the Alabama National Guard to protect the judge and his courtroom. In the last election, the Governor was voted out of office by the good people of Alabama. The present Governor wants the Ten Commandments removed from the wall. I am not surprised that is the way our nation is going. The ACLU should look at the building of the U. S. Supreme Court, for there they could find the Scriptures engraved on the walls, long ago before we turned our back upon God.

Little by little, and sometimes in giant strides, we are removing God from our government and public life. We are embracing new philosophies and rejecting old truths. Freedom of speech is almost absolute, except for Christians. All kind of filthy talk is permitted in our society, but gradually Christians are being denied from expressing their faith in God. Godless humanism, atheism, and other false ways are rising up to take the place that Christianity once held in this nation.

Our nation now supports and protects immorality, adultery, fornication and homosexuality. If you own rental property, you cannot refuse to rent to them. If you own a business, you cannot refuse to hire them. Homosexuals were once prosecuted in this nation, now they are protected and promoted. They are even elected to the

Congress, and appointed to high places in our government, by the president and others. Attempts are being made in some States to make it a crime to say anything against their evil practice. I have heard that at least one State would even forbid this condemnation from the pulpit.

Abortion has been legalized in this country and more than 30 million abortions have been performed since the Roe vs. Wade decision was made by the Supreme Court. Partial birth abortion is permitted in the third trimester. This procedure allows the doctor to remove part of the infant until he can get to the head, then long scissors or some sharp instrument is placed at the base of the skull and inserted into the brain. They open the incision large enough to insert a vacuum hose and suck out the brain. Yet, the president refused to sign a bill which would have outlawed this procedure. Now we are bombing Serbia at a cost of billions of dollars, for their ethnic cleansing. What insanity, when we are practicing something that may be worse! If our nation had any moral fibre left, we as a nation would rise up and stop the abortion racket, in a legal manner. The most dangerous place for a baby in America is in its mother's womb.

A baby is a living human being before it leaves its mother's womb. Common sense should tell you that. Many Scriptures teach that the baby in the womb is a person, and not a fetus or some tissue. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou earnest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jer. 1:5)

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Ps. 139:13-16)

When Mary visited Elisabeth, the babe leaped in her womb. It was already a baby in the womb, and not just a fetus or a lump of tissue. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." (Luke 1:41, 44)

## **II. DESTROY OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.**

This is a second ingredient that you can add to the mixture for "The Recipe for Disaster." Teach evolution and atheism in the schools. Remember that is the recipe that the Soviets used for the destruction of Soviet Russia. If you teach evolution, you are teaching children that there is no God. Atheism is the result, so there is no judgment of God to fear, and no hell to suffer in. So why should anyone fear to do whatever they want to do.

Of course, we must get the Bible out of the schools if we are going to complete this recipe. If the little darlings would read the Bible they might learn that killing, stealing, and fornication would be wrong. Now that would be a tragedy would it not? Having the Ten Commandments posted in the classroom might offend some atheist, Hindu, or Muslim. Now wouldn't that be a tragedy. Never mind that the Bible was once a textbook in our schools, and children learned how to read, by using it. Never mind that teachers used to keep a copy on their desk. Now children have been punished for bringing a Bible to school, even if they read it on their own time. We are really making progress in adding the ingredients for producing disaster in our country.

This is not an attack on godly teachers in our classroom. They are doing the best they can under the restrictions that they are burdened with. There are many other decent teachers who are sincere, but their heads have been filled with mush while getting their education. They have been victimized by a godless system of teacher education.

To succeed they have also taken prayer out of the schools. Thanks to O'Hare and the liberal Supreme Court that was done years ago. Of course if O'Hare is dead, she knows better by now, but this awful curse continues year

after year. Since they are teaching that there is no God to pray to, why bother to pray. Not many people seem to care, and therein lies the problem. We are far more interested in treating the symptoms of the problem, than dealing with the real cause of the disaster.

Take discipline out of the schools. No longer can children be spanked or seriously punished for their conduct in the classroom. The teacher, who does spank a child, may be attacked by an irate parent, or sued in court. The teacher will lose his/her job. When I was going to school, disobedient children were spanked. If they had not been, it is doubtful if there would have been much learning in class.

Frankly, I am ashamed to admit it; I received a spanking at school a number of times. I never ever thought of going home and telling my parents. I was always hoping that I could keep it from them, because if they knew, they would give me another one when I got home. Usually there was some blabber mouthed kid that would tell it, so I was in for it then.

Take the three R's out of school. *Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic*, used to be at the heart of our teaching in the schools. Now we have substituted social studies, and many other almost meaningless studies. Children finish school, and they know very little of history, reading, writing or arithmetic. Many read poorly, cannot write a legible sentence, and cannot handle numbers without a calculator. Don't blame the kids; put the blame where it belongs. Now the president wants to put a computer in every classroom, so they can hook up to the Internet. This is insanity! Unproven philosophies are being substituted for time proven truths. Be sure and teach a lot of self-love, self-esteem, and self-gratification if you want to help produce the recipe for disaster.

### III. UNDERMINE THE HOME.

Before World War II, there were very few mothers in the work place. The ones that worked outside the home were single girls, widows, and some who had to work to feed their children, because of a husband who was disabled or had abandoned them. World War H brought the mothers into the factories and they never have returned home. Now both parents have been put in the work place. Baby sitters and nursery schools can raise the little ones, and when they are a little older they can become latch-key kids. That way they can come home and do whatever they want to do, watch anything they want to, or go anywhere they want to go.

Now most couples cannot get by on one income. The advertising media has led them to want more things than they can afford. Credit card companies have passed out cards like they were just scraps of plastic. Never mind what happens to the kids, just get all those wonderful things that the world has to offer.

Another part of the recipe is, raise your children without taking them to a Bible teaching church or Sunday school. After all, the kids can make up their own minds whether they want to go to church or not. Don't push your kids into Bible Christianity; the devil will give them all the religion they will need.

Make sure you make the TV the entertainment center of the home. The children can watch all the violence, sex and immorality they want to, and it will keep them entertained for 17,000 to 25,000 hours before they are 18-years of age. The youths in Littleton watched *Natural Born Killers* over and over again. Why deny such pleasures to your children? They can learn that homosexuality is just an alternative lifestyle, and that everybody should try it someday. Make sure you eat all of your meals in front of the TV. It will keep you from having to carry on a family conversation around the table. Be sure and not turn it off, after all you might miss something.

Give the children all the violent games that can be played on the TV. Make sure they have some of the designer death games, so they can enter into the game. Never mind that some of their targets are innocent and virtuous. The good part is that they will be able to watch the animated body parts explode and disintegrate like a firecracker. Don't be too surprised if they try it someday with real guns and explosives. It really helped the two young men that killed fifteen in Littleton, Colorado, as they played these kind of games over and over again.

Get your computer hooked up to the Internet, so your children can learn how to make pipe bombs, and do a lot more cool things, they can't learn in schools. They can view pornography, child porn, homosexual acts, and even bestiality. They can learn how to get high on drugs, and how to make them, on the Internet. Don't pay any attention to the preacher's advice when he says that children should never be allowed to hook up to the Internet when a parent is not in the room.

Leave prayer and Bible study out of the home. Besides it takes up too much time. You don't have time for that, because there is a new movie down at the theater, or there is a good movie coming on HBO. You should never deprive your children of the opportunity of watching all of the 63 channels you get with your cable service. Of course you don't have time to sit down and talk to your children and learn what they think, what they are doing, and who their friends are. You can find out all that after they get in trouble. After all you must stick to the recipe for disaster. If you don't get all the ingredients in there, the disaster may not happen.

#### **IV. HELP HOLLYWOOD AND THE TV TO BE UNGODLY.**

Hollywood and TV are as wicked as hell. They produced *Natural Born Killers*, which the boys from Littleton watched over and over again. Hollywood and TV are not there just to entertain, but their purpose is to destroy Christianity, morals, and everything that is decent. They are there to dethrone God in our lives. They tantalize and create lustful desires in the viewer. Fornication, adultery, and homosexual scenes are being produced to seduce, degrade, and to destroy decency in your children. Sam Morris used to say that when the angels flew over Hollywood, they traveled a thousand miles in the air, so they would not get their wings dirty. Of course he said that to show people how wicked this industry is.

Give the children a handful of money and send them off to Movie 16. This will get them out of your hair for most of the day. They can watch all kinds of violence, cars blowing up, buildings being bombed, and people being destroyed by many methods. Beside all this they can get their sex education from homosexuals and adulterers. Anyone in Hollywood that has not been married several times, and who does not cheat on his mate is freak and an outcast in Hollywood.

When a person wrote Disney and protested the homosexual lifestyle promoted in their films, and quoting Scripture against it, he was strongly rebuffed. According to the American Family Association, a Disney executive wrote and told the person, "How about getting your nose out of the Bible (which is ONLY a book of stories compiled by MANY different writers hundreds of years ago) and read the Declaration of Independence (what our nation is built on) where it says 'All Men are Created Equal' — and try treating them that way for a change? Or better yet, try thinking for yourself and stop using an archaic book of stories as your crutch for your existence."

Walt Disney would turn over in his grave, if he knew the company he founded was doing such things.

Be sure and get all of the news and opinions from the major TV networks. That way, you can think like the robot they will program you to be. The major networks will twist the news, emphasize the wrong parts of the news, and promote twisted ungodly thinking. If you think they won't, then they have already have gotten you. They do almost everything in a manner to support liberalism and ungodliness. Their "in depth" reports usually have about as much substance and depth as a saucer full of Kool-Aid.

#### **V. HELP THE CHURCHES TO DEPART FROM THE FAITH.**

Here is where I lay most of the blame for the debacle we are in. Years ago most preachers stopped preaching the Bible and standing for righteousness. Liberalism long ago captured the denominational colleges, seminaries and publishing houses. The preachers in the main come out as liberals. The publishing houses produce the brain washing books and Sunday school literature. The fundamentalists, who are not the modernists, are busy promoting themselves, and producing unsaved church members who will end up in hell. Even the Bible believing Baptists among them have quit teaching the distinctive doctrines of Baptist.

Churches are now in the entertainment business. Rock music, plays, skits, jokes and visual aids have replaced the preaching of the Word of God. Most churches have no dress standard, nor do they stress the practice of personal separation of the members. Now it is popular to watch the Super Bowl in the church, rather than to have a worship service. Where is the stressing of holy living, and consecration to God?

The few Bible believers in the churches have become cold, indifferent and worldly. Conformity to the world is the order of the day, and no attention is given to Romans 12:1-2. Most people are not interested in how much Bible is preached in a church, and how closely it adheres to the Word of God. No, they are interested in the social life, and a program that will make them feel good. Most are not interested in what their children will be taught in Sunday school and church, but they are interested in how many worldly activities the church can furnish their children. That way the church can take responsibility for their children, and that will get them out of their hair.

The Supper Room has been substituted for the Upper Room. There is not much emphasis on prayer, worship, and the learning of the things of God. The church has become a glorified country club, a place to be entertained, appeased, and to make people to feel good about themselves. Thank the Lord all churches are not like that. There are still seven thousand that have not bowed the knee to Baal, but they are getting smaller in number every day. I am sorry that many are defecting to the church growth movement, and the Charismatic movement. One by one they are falling by the wayside. A few sound churches are being started, but not nearly as many as are needed.

The recipe for revival is the key to survival. We need to see revival in the churches that still believe the truth. We cannot sit at ease in Zion, while a world around us is damned. The Bible has the answer to the disaster of the day. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (II Chron. 7:14) If we do not take God's recipe, we are doomed to complete our recipe for disaster. Then it can be said of us, as it was with Israel long ago, "the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy." (II Chron. 36:16)

## CONCLUSION

What about the role of the government in the recipe for disaster? Unfortunately our government is immoral, ungodly, and is dominated by some of the most wicked men. Some of them are liars, adulterers, crooks and homosexuals. When most of them get elected they are far more interested in getting re-elected, than doing what is best for our country. It is helping to bring about the disaster.

Many people think the government ought to pass more laws to suppress crime and violence. The truth of the matter is, we cannot expect them to have the solution. They are a part of the problem, but more of a symptom than the actual cause of our disaster. Expecting the solution to come out of Washington is just as foolish as thinking that you can get a cool drink of clean water from a mud puddle in the street. Gun control laws will not stop the events like happened in the school shootings and bombings in Littleton, Colorado. The solution is far more complex, and it is unattractive to the average American.

Long ago President John Adams said, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

If President Adams was correct, and he was, where does that leave our country today? We are following the recipe for disaster. Does anybody care? Thank God some do, but they are very much in the minority. As long as the economy is good, the stock market is high, employment is easy to find, and money is plentiful, most Americans are satisfied to follow this dangerous recipe for disaster.

