



**"He that is least (with a John the Baptist ministry)
is greater than he." (Matt. 11:11)**

The Old Ship of Zion

Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson

Water baptism is accepting God's salvation.

"He that believeth and is baptized" (Mk. 16:16)

"Save yourselves" (Acts 2:40)

MESSAGE 28 - 2006

**DID YOU KNOW THAT GOD THE FATHER IS HOLDING BACK THE RETURN OF JESUS?
"WHOM THE HEAVEN MUST RECEIVE (GK. – HOLD [STRONG'S 2983]) UNTIL THE TIMES OF
RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS." (ACTS 3:21)**

By Cpt. Gordon Nelson

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19)

This is the Apostle Peter preaching the greatest sermon of his entire life to an all Jewish, principally male, crowd gathered together in Jerusalem. All Jewish males must appear before God on three of the Jewish feast days, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. This notable sermon was preached on the Day of Pentecost, exactly fifty days after Christ's resurrection from Joseph of Arimathea's tomb, a rich man *"who also himself was Jesus' disciple."* (Matt. 27:57)

Peter is reiterating the message of John the Baptist, *"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Matt. 3:2) Following Christ's temptation in the wilderness by Satan, Jesus came to Capernaum to commence His ministry. *"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Matt. 4:16-17)

Peter is preaching the same message of his predecessors, *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."* I wonder if even Christians understand what repentance really entails? A soldier in the Army knows full well what is meant when the drill sergeant screams out the order, "Right, about face!" You were going in one direction, but obeying the drill sergeant's orders, you are now going in the opposite direction. This is what is supposed to happen when a sinner repents. He was going on a path of destruction, but made a "right, about face," and is now on a way that leads to life.

Darby-Scofield and DTS bait

Our whole society has been so watered down with C.I. Scofield and Dallas Theological Seminary's (DTS) unconditional eternal security, that we have swallowed the bait. Now we are victims to believing we have a license to sin through God's mercy and grace. The very first time the word "grace" is mentioned in scripture, it was applied to Noah who the Bible says was one of only three men who were perfect. With our distorted understanding of grace, just why would Noah need any? Noah was perfect in God's eyes. *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."* (Gen. 6:8-9) Noah was perfect in his obedience to the voice of God. Ezekiel 14:20 lists the three perfect men: Daniel, Noah and Job. *"And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"* (1 Pet. 4:18) Please read 2 Timothy 3:1-5, which describes the end time church condition. Did grace save them?

Times of Refreshing

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,” the Apostle Peter was preaching, *“when the TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord.”* (Acts 3:19) One must obey to receive! You must repent before you can receive the witness of the REFRESHING from God. *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do (to be saved)?”* (Acts 2:37-38) Peter gave them three things to do:

#1 – *“Repent”*

#2 – *“be baptized (in water)...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins*

#3 – *“and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost,”* the REFRESHER.

Isaiah further enlightens us relative to the Refresher, *“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said,*

#1 – *“This is the rest...”*

#2 – *“this is the REFRESHING...”* (Isa. 28:11-12)

The Apostle Peter is telling you that if you repent, *“the times of REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you.”* (Acts 3:19-20) Jesus Christ will come into your heart and live. What a refreshing!

Captain urges a reading

After you are finished reading this letter, I wish every reader would re-read Apostle Peter’s sermon, which begins with Acts 2:14, and culminates with Acts 2:40. Twenty-six scriptures in one chapter. The Captain pleads with you to obey. Apostle Peter’s significance has been so greatly distorted simply because of Romanism. Please don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater! It is my prayer that some of you will even commit to memory some of these twenty-six verses in Acts 2:14-40. Peter’s finest hour is on this day of Pentecost, using those keys Jesus prophesied he would give him (Matt. 16:19) to unlock the door of Judaism to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He later used those keys at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:34-48) to open the door unto the Gentiles of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona”

Do you know why Jesus said unto Peter, *“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona”*? Jesus was commending Peter because he gave Jesus the right answer to a revelation knowledge question, *“But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* He was blessed, *“for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee.”* (Matt. 16:15-17)

Scripturally, there are only two ways to answer a doctrinal question.

#1 – *“Whom do MEN say that I am?”* (Matt. 16:13) MEN, invariably give a flesh and blood answer.

#2 – “Whom do you (Peter) say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15) Peter is giving a “revelation knowledge” answer, which is why Jesus called him blessed.

To better comprehend what I am attempting to teach you, let us visit the disciples in a boat, caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. “*And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled (agitated), saying, It is a spirit (ghost); and they cried out for fear.*” (Matt. 14:25-26) The disciples were filled with fear, therefore they did not have any faith. Peter set himself apart from the rest of the disciples because he never allowed fear to possess him. Peter refused to wear the binoculars of flesh and blood while viewing what appeared to be an apparition of Christ walking on the sea. “*Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona!*” Jesus commended Simon Peter’s faith.

When you open your mouth after viewing any incident, your response will either be a flesh and blood response or a revelation knowledge response as you see Jesus walking to meet your need. “*Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*” (Matt. 14:28)

All a matter of interpretation of one word—Rock

What is Christ referring to by his usage of the word, “rock”? “*That thou art Peter (petros-piece of rock), and upon this rock (petra-rock) I will build my church (ecclesia, gathering of called out ones); and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” (Matt. 16:18) There are exactly three possible interpretations for the word “rock”; only one is “revelation knowledge.”

#1 – Protestant interpretation: Jesus said, “*Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge.*” (Lk. 11:52) Dr. C.I. Scofield was a lawyer, and John Darby, on the payroll of the Illuminati, was a lawyer. They gave us their interpretation. The lawyers say Jesus was referring to Peter’s confession, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” (Matt. 16:16)

#2 – Catholic interpretation: Jesus was referring to Peter as the Rock, and thus commenced the apostolic succession of the priesthood of Popes, Peter being the very first Pope. Constantine, in reality, is the founder of the Roman Catholic Church by his Edict of Milan, which ended the persecution of real born again Christians, who hid out in the catacombs of Rome for their life (read Foxe’s Book of Martyrs).

#3 – Revelation Knowledge interpretation: The Rock represents the council of thirteen, Christ’s legacy to planet earth. In the Lord’s prayer of John 17, Jesus prays for his legacy, “*I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*” (Jn. 17:9) The following have practiced this G-13 form of government: the Politburo of Russia, the Mormon Church, and Bishop G.E. Patterson, the head of the G-13 for the Pentecostal Church of God in Christ in Memphis, TN.

The simplest form of this Rock government is described in Matthew 18:20, “*For where two or three (elders) are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*” “*Let the prophets speak two or (no more than) three*” (1 Cor. 14:29), but never only one! It was in the Antioch church (Acts 13:1-3) we see a G-5, or the five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4:11 ministering together.

“Old bottles” a type of the 21st century church

FREED: Pope Benedict XVI frees a dove upon his arrival Friday at Istanbul's Holy Spirit Cathedral on the last day of his four-day visit to Turkey.

PIER PAOLO CITO, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The pope's dramatic moment of silent prayer in Istanbul's famed Blue Mosque on Thursday capped a wide-ranging effort to win back Muslim sentiments, which included expressing support for Turkey's steps to become the first Muslim nation in the European Union.

Vatican criticizes China ordination

VATICAN CITY • The Vatican on Saturday blasted China for ordaining another bishop without papal approval, calling it the latest in a “series of extremely grave acts” that caused Pope Benedict XVI “great sorrow.”

China's government-backed Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association on Thursday ordained Wang Renlei, vicar-general of the Xuzhou diocese in Jiangsu province. It was the third known ordination in Chi-

“Istanbul is a bridge that unites sides,” the pope said before ending his first papal trip to the Muslim world. “I hope that this dialogue continues.”

Turkey's influential Milliyet newspaper bid the pope farewell with an optimistic headline: “The Istanbul Peace.”

na this year, further aggravating tensions between Beijing and the Holy See.

“The Holy Father learned the news with great sorrow, because the episcopal ordination was conferred without the pontifical mandate” and thus violated Roman Catholic law, the Vatican press office said in a statement.

The Vatican said it had tried to take steps so “a new laceration in church communion” didn't occur, without elaborating what those actions were.

The Associated Press

When you are reading the latest Old Ship of Zion newsletters, do you engage the carnal mind, or the mind of Christ? *“And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.”* (Lk. 5:37)

The old bottles are a representation of the church that is built on the foundation of the flesh and blood family. These old bottles describe the state of the 21st century church, in spite of Apostle Paul's clear statement, *“that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.”* (1 Cor. 15:50) Jesus confirmed it by saying, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh.”* (Jn. 3:6) In the old bottle religion, they are *“teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.”* (Matt. 15:9) The “hireling” survives financially only because of the flesh and blood family mentality. By their own traditions, the flesh and blooder's create a new commandment to enslave us to religion.

Christ after the flesh (2 Cor. 5:16)

It was Oral Roberts who once declared, “All the Bible that one really needs is the four gospels! I've read the gospels over 100 times!” I was shocked at his statement. If you'll just listen when men speak, they will tell you exactly who they are. *“For of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”* (Lk. 6:45) What do I glean from the statement Oral Roberts publicly released? First of all, Oral has told me that he knows nothing about the Christ after the Spirit. Oral Roberts is bound by the Christ after the flesh! He told me so! Just listen to men, and believe what you hear!

“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” (Matt. 12:37) I'm allowing you entrance into a world that I've grown accustomed to. “Who are you? What is your

name?” Wouldn’t you like to know who these folks are who claim to be Christians? Just listen to them when they talk. Jesus did!

Mary and her son

Mary, the Commander of the Old Ship of Zion, has only one son. She came aboard ship about the time of her pregnancy. I laid hands on her baby while still in the womb, and I prophesied over him. Mary and the Captain always enjoyed going to coffee shops and discussing the next message to be mailed out in the name of the Lord. Of course, he was right with us listening to our discussions about various Bible doctrines. My how time flies! Pretty soon, this baby is now close to being a teenager. We would tease him about his height, attributing it to the grease in McDonald’s hamburgers and fries. We were all sitting in a booth at McDonald’s having a cup of coffee, when all of a sudden an uncontrollable burst of tears came flowing from my eyes. I could not figure out why. Suddenly I knew I was crying over Mary’s son. Had not I prayed over him while still in the womb? We pray, but often forget God uses us oftentimes to answer our own prayers. I told Mary, in the presence of her son, “All this weeping is over your son. This boy needs his father. Mary, you need to get your son out of this environment of the Monterey Peninsula. He needs to go to Seattle to live with his father. Failure to obey will result in your having a queer for a son and him to be tempted by drugs.”

Mary sent her son to live with his father in Seattle. Later, she followed after, quitting one of the best jobs she ever had so her son could benefit from the male influence of his father upon his life. Believe it or not, she landed an even better job, which proved to be a blessing. After ten years, her company decided to close its Seattle division, and if she was to stay with them, she had to transfer to another city. This is how we wound up in Arizona.

Being around his father, we saw her son get a mind to work. He is a workaholic today, owns his own home in the area, and is drug free. God works in strange ways, His wonders to perform. None of this would have come to pass had Mary doubted for a minute what I had instructed her to do. *“To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”* (1 Sam. 15:22)

The Tahoe Kid

My gigolo friend of 38 years, whom I call The Tahoe Kid, believes he has been groomed for such an hour as this. The casinos served the same god as the folks in Carmel, so he felt right at home in this survival of the fittest environment. When he first moved into the beautiful Carmel Valley, God warned him in a dream that he didn’t belong there. *“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time YOUR HEARTS be overcharged with surfeiting (headache from drunkenness, a debauch, a glut), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so THAT DAY (of the Lord) come upon you unawares. For AS A SNARE (a trap) shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.”* (Lk. 21:34-35) Lot moved to Sodom, but later had to flee for his life to survive.

Vision of carnal mind

The very first time I met Randy, I saw in a vision this huge oversized head. I saw all the wheels and gears go into motion as he churned something over in his mind in making a decision. It was a vision of

his carnal mind. *“Because the carnal mind is enmity (an enemy) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”* (Rom. 8:7-8)

I used to preach that the mind of man may be good for making a living, but absolutely worthless in following after God. *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”* (Ps. 42:1) Over time, I had laid \$40,000 on the line, with no collateral, only because I did not yet know the name of Randy’s spirit. I gave him another prophecy, “You’ll be looking up to see me all the days of your life.” In this 38-year venture with one spirit, I failed to discern. When you are living in the forest, you can’t see the trees. Also we, as Christians, have a tendency to see only good. What is quite obvious to the world, we are blinded to. What took me five years to learn with the Patten’s, my heathen sister told me the first time I took her to their church. “Dr. Patten and her husband are simply crooks!” Love covereth a multitude of sins, and therefore, we cannot see through this fog of love to see the evil.

When I was a child

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.” (Acts 17:30) We, as fathers, will wink at some sins of our children, but as they mature and grow into adults we can no longer wink. *“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”* (1 Cor. 13:11) We all laugh at the pranks of our children, but as parents we anticipate maturity. Some children are stunted in their growth, and never seem to grow up.

The Son of man?

Jesus had to die on the cross as the Son of man, therefore, *“was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”* (Heb. 4:15) Jesus had to resist the temptation of His divinity. Jesus was born of a virgin and raised as a carpenter’s son. Jesus, therefore, was half God and half man. His sacrifice on Calvary would be meaningless unless He kept His divine powers in check. We do not know what kind of struggle went on in His soul until we look at Gethsemane, where He sweat drops of blood in prayer, saying, *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”* (Matt. 26:39)

Calvary was not a plan that Jesus devised to save humanity. He came to earth as a sacrificial Lamb who one day would be slain by the power of Rome’s Caesar. We, too, are born to die. *“And they loved not their lives unto the death.”* (Rev. 12:11) Our flesh cries out to live! *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and DIE, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”* (Jn. 12:24)

The same warfare that Christ endured goes on in the life of a believer. When we became a Christian, the war began to rage; only our battle is with our carnal brain and our fleshly appetites. The California Monterey Peninsula is where the wealthy come together to live. The wealthy have their own problems, like greed. The Monterey Peninsula does not support Christian television, proving the very wealthy have their own god. *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and (the) mammon (god).”*

(Matt. 6:24) I know of men in that area that have frivolous lawsuits in the hopper all the time. They copy the ACLU in continually suing someone. *“If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses?”* (Jer. 12:5) My Tahoe Kid was not successful contending with the gambling footmen at the Lake. That’s how he wound up in my church. Is he now going to contend with the Masonic horsemen of the Valley? These Masonic riders regard no flesh, only fellow lodge members they’ve taken an oath to defend. They chew up the weak in lawsuits, and spit them out like fodder. God has a controversy with the rich before His coming (Jas. 5:1-6), but that time is not now!

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)

As far as scripture reveals, Ananias and Sapphira only lied one time, and it was over money. They “kept back part of the price.” They gave much more than a tithe, but had vowed publicly to give it all. The reason they went out feet first is because that was the price of membership, to “lay it all at the Apostle’s feet” to join the church, for they *“had all things (in) common.”* (Acts 4:32,35)

Supposing Rupert Murdoch wanted to join such a church. Would he hold something back? People living on the Monterey Peninsula would be in danger in joining such a church for lying about money. The membership fee was the same as he told the rich young ruler, *“sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor...And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.”* (Lk. 18:22-25) *“Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.”* (Jas. 5:3) This is a sign of His coming that is never preached on.

Positive hearing and seeing

This is not positive confession, or positive thinking; it is positive hearing and seeing. These false prophets open their mouth, but haven’t heard a thing. *“Faith cometh by HEARING.”* (Rom. 10:17) TBN evangelists haven’t heard a thing, just Paul and Jan and Matthew barking orders. *“Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name (for ourselves).”* (Gen. 11:4) It seemed like such a good idea! At least the names of Paul and Jan Crouch will live on in infamy in the memory of Pentecostalism’s Hall of Fame. Preachers, like politicians, worry about their legacy. The Captain threw a monkey wrench into the Hall of Fame hopes of Dr. LaBelle Bebe Patten.

Captain hears audible voice screaming out of heaven

I heard the audible voice of the Old Testament God scream out of heaven at high noon, “From henceforth know we no man after the flesh!” It was a command, given to me from Almighty God. *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* (Matt. 10:28)

Captain informs wife of 30 years of his divine call

Speaking on this same note, I happened to be bearing my soul to my wife of thirty years one night. I was telling her that I had a divine call upon my life. To what purpose, I did not know. At the time, I was only preaching; I thought that was the ultimate. However, I did know God’s calling was for the last days of the age of grace. Before our conversation ended, I gave her a warning, “If you get in the way, God

will simply take you out of the way.” It was scary to see my wife shortly after struck with a terminal illness called myasthenia gravis.

Seeing the words spoken from my mouth literally come to pass, I knew she had a “sickness unto death.” *“There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.”* (1 Jn. 5:16) Is lying before God and man at your nuptial vows taken before the man of God a “sin unto death”? Who knows? She was a child of incest, and therefore turned on to sex at a very tender age. Perhaps the guilt of lying to me brought on this cousin to MS and Lou Gehrig’s disease. Who knows?

But, I would learn one profound truth through this incident; one cannot speak “revelation knowledge” to a flesh and blood trained congregation. I prophesied the death of my wife to my church. They never recovered from the shock. Preachers, men of faith, lay preachers in my own church came from far and wide with their oil bottles to pray, to no avail.

Jesus said a long time ago, *“no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.”* (Lk. 5:37) There is not a single message I preach in the Old Ship of Zion newsletter that wouldn’t break your church bottle of family focus. You’re getting new wine: *“Let the elders that rule”* (1 Tim. 5:17); *“The elders which are among you...feed the flock.”* (1 Pet. 5:1-2) This gospel is not a one-man show business. When will the church wake up?

Captain had a prenuptial agreement

It is not an easy job being a father. It is the most thankless job in the world. Usually, the average father in our society would be confronted by the mother if he ever dared use the rod on her little darling son, regardless of his guilt.

I had explained to my wife before we ever got married. “I have only One to please, and He is God. If I please and obey God, that should please you. You were created to please your husband.” With that understanding at the outset of marriage, she didn’t interfere in the discipline of my son. However, my son quit stealing in department stores and merely found different outlets, like his own mother’s purse. He must have reasoned that she surely wouldn’t turn him over to the police if he got caught. Stealing can become an addiction, just like drugs, alcohol, obesity and gambling. The Bible says, *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”* (Prov. 29:15) *“He that spareth his rod (a stick for punishing) hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him.”* (Prov. 13:24)

The straw that ignited me was when he stole money from our next door neighbor’s purse, the mother of his best buddy. My son received a lot of love that day to where the demon of stealing was literally driven from his body. To this day, I can’t recall anyone ever accusing my son of stealing again! He is now a retired Captain from the San Francisco police force. My son would be one of the last people on earth that I would guess would be in law enforcement, telling other people how to live their lives!

“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” (Heb. 12:9)

Restitution, what does it mean?

This message is about restitution. Do you know what restitution entails? Let's look at the law of Moses and see if we can't glean a little light.

"If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep...If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double...If fire break out...he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution." (Ex. 22:1,4,6)

The Bible says, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* (Prov. 22:6) We have our public schools training our children. Hillary Clinton will reinvent her "Village Children" concept to where the state trains your children. My natural son, when in his teens, adopted a new profession on his own; stealing. It really commenced by stealing in department stores; then he got caught. I received a phone call from the manager of a local Woolworth's Department Store. I was so glad that he had got caught. Perhaps he had learned a great lesson. The manager said, "I will not call the police this time, but if he is ever caught again, I will call in the police."

Restitution, restoration, asking forgiveness

Restitution, restoration, asking forgiveness, are essential elements in our character to identify with God. These elements are all sadly lacking in our churches as we give way to the musical maestros who make us feel good while our hearts are rotten.

To err is human, to apologize is Christian and to forgive is divine. This is one of the dangers of belonging to a large mega-church. It is viewed more as an entertainment center rather than a place to build character. The church should be another training center to where we are brought under the authority of the "Father of spirits." He knows you better than you know yourself. *"Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee."* (Deu. 8:5) If you can lie, steal, and covet, and receive no chastisement from the Lord, you're simply not one of His children, but a bastard. *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth (educate, discipline [by punishment]) and scourgeth (to flog) every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."* (Heb. 12:6-8)

Captain misses the testimonial worship

I am so glad that I attended church when they still had the old fashion testimonial service. You'll never know the number of times I'd rise to my feet during the testimonial service and ask someone to forgive me. I had said it publicly, so I must confess it publicly. This is how I believed. I didn't know it then, but I was going to school. Sooner or later it would get through to my brain that I could save myself a lot of embarrassment if I'd guard my tongue, *"an unruly evil."* (Jas. 3:8) The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, but the church should have a format to give you the opportunity to acknowledge your sin. It is still *"with the MOUTH confession is made unto salvation"* (Rom. 10:10), to acquire the results we need for victory.

Promise of restoration (Joel 2:23-27)

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly... Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach (shame, disgrace), that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?” (Joel 2:15-17)

If we humble ourselves, and seek His face in prayer, God promises, *“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.” (Joel 2:25-27)*

These are promises to Israel. If we wish to enjoy the benefits, we must line up with Israel in her war against terrorists, who are at war with both Christians and Jews.

Peter given the keys to open the doors!

According to our lawyer, C.I. Scofield, Peter was only given two keys. One key was to unlock the door of Judaism to allow entrance into the kingdom of heaven on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:14-41) The other key was used at Cornelius' house (Acts 10:34-48). I ask you, as you reread Acts 2:14-41, did you glean anything to think that possibly Peter was given more than two keys? *“And I will give unto thee the KEYS OF THE KINGDOM of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matt. 16:19)*

What is Jesus talking about? all this binding and loosing? He is talking about yet another key, key #3, which Jesus gave to the church. We need to get the government out of the marriage business! Marriage is a contract, but only the church has the authority to dissolve marriage. This is what the elders (as priests) do best; “bind and loose” marriages. If the church doesn't stand up to the government on this issue, marriage between one man and one woman will disappear completely, as predicted in the book and movie, 1984.

Key #4 – *“To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Lk. 4:19)* In reading Acts 2:14-41, Peter tells us he opened the door of your brain so you could know when Christ will return. If you can't believe Peter, the man whom Christ gave the keys, to whom shall you go? Lawyer C.I. Scofield? *“And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE the great and notable day of the Lord come.” (Acts 2:19-20)* Peter is plainly telling us this “pre-tribulation” rapture doctrine is a lie. It was invented by John Darby of England. Comprehending this one key #4, you can pinpoint the rapture and know when *“the great and notable day of the Lord come.”*

If you'll now read Revelation 6:12-14, regarding the opening of the sixth seal (six being man's number). *“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and*

the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, AND THE MOON BECAME AS BLOOD.” The moon must turn to blood before the rapture!

Key #5 – “*Whom the heaven must receive* (Gk. – hold) *until the TIMES OF RESTITUTION of all things.*” (Acts 3:21) Jude 3 tells us, “*ye should earnestly contend for the FAITH which was once delivered unto the saints.*” Do you believe this one-man show business going on in Pentecostalism is “contending for THE FAITH”?

“The Pilgrim’s Progress”, a must for your library

Next to the Bible, the world’s bestseller is The Pilgrim’s Progress by John Bunyan. This book was written while John Bunyan was sitting in a New Bedford jail for preaching the gospel. The Pilgrim’s Progress deals with profound theological questions, but is written in a pictorial, novel format to where even a child can grasp what Bunyan is explaining. The Captain cannot stress enough the value that this one book can make in your own spiritual walk with God, but especially to your children. It is an excellent, inexpensive Christmas gift.