

RIVERBANK NEWS

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"EARNESTLY CONTEND . . . !" JUDE 3

By Gordon F. Nelson

"It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3. Jude was writing for the defense of the "common salvation" being threatened by previously ordained ministers that had backslid. He was warning the church not to believe a lie: *"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were of old ordained (ministers)...ungodly men (now backslid), turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness..."* (teaching once you are saved, you are forever saved, or "eternal security"). To oppose this one doctrine, Jude affirms it as contending for the faith.

Jude continues: *"I will therefore put you in remembrance"*; five examples from scripture that eternal security is a lie:

1. Jude 4 - *"Turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness"* (giving license to sin), hence become a vile person.

2. Jude 5 - "The provocation", in the day of temptation in the wilderness. *"Ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not."*

3. Jude 6 - Even the angels had no promise of eternal security. *"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day"* (Great White Throne Judgment). We are free moral agents, free to walk out of the Father's hand if we so choose (just as one-third of the heavenly host chose to defy God).

4. Jude 7 - God must repent to Sodom and Gomorrah if gays are "born queer". Under the eternal security umbrella, homosexuals do not have to change their lifestyle, just say, "Lord, Lord".

5. Jude 8 - "Filthy dreamers" are guilty of dreaming up their own kingdom on earth. Jim Jones and David Koresh of Waco, Texas, are examples where congregations have ignored "government" to allow the preacher to become a "lord over God's heritage". Jesus told them, *"Depart from me ye workers of iniquity"* (Gk. lawless) or without government. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two as a check and balance on each other. Any three persons can form a non-profit incorporation: usually the pastor, his wife, and a secretary-treasurer. The preacher becomes "the head" of that church and only the law of the land can deal with him when he backslides, because he owns the church. The people become slaves to the hierarchy. These preachers are "filthy dreamers" according to Jude; guilty of dreaming up their own kingdom on earth.

Eternal Security as taught in the church is as dangerous as the teaching of evolution in the public school. Both doctrines divide the people. If evolution is true, go hug a tree, it is part of your family! If eternal security is true, you need never repent of anything.

I was recently listening to an afternoon talk show on KFIA, the Sacramento Christian radio station. The hosts were preparing the audience for the acceptance of euthanasia as a Christian practice. The scripture to condone murder used by these (foolish virgin) Christian brothers was, 1 Kings 19:4, where Elijah sat down under a juniper tree and *"he requested for himself that he might die"*. The Bible says, *"He that endureth to the end shall be saved."* You are not free to take your own life. Hooking up to the "death machine" will not transport you to heaven. Of course, these are Dallas Theological Seminary graduates with a more superb knowledge of the original Greek and Hebrew text! I assume these "men of God", by this exhibit of wisdom, have already condoned abortion. Whatever Washington D.C. accepts as legal, somehow finds support in the church under the "Eternal Security Flag". Like the World Council of Churches, they just spread out a covering for "theological" liberalism.

Under the eternal security umbrella, we have a tendency to declare that which is "evil as good". Our senses become deadened to reality. If a vaccine is invented to aid the elderly in dying, that will be

declared "good". Why? Because our society has already been conditioned to call "that which is evil, good" through the abortion issue. Euthanasia is knocking at our doors for acceptance by the eternal securitist church. Truly, we must be approaching the midnight hour. What a way to reduce the deficit! Kill the elderly!

But God warns us, *"Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."* Revelation 18:4-5. The power of the church lies in separation, and never in amalgamation. *"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."* 2 Corinthians 6:17.

In the parable of the five wise and the five foolish virgins, recorded in Matthew 25, the number ten means the complete church. It is divided! It is split! Fifty percent of the church believing one thing, and fifty percent having a different opinion regarding "oil", a type of the Holy Spirit. But I am asking the question in light of the church today; could "eternal security of the believer" be the real culprit that caused the great chasm among believers?

I believe the foolish virgins all believed in eternal security. Their preachers had assured them that on that one day, they got it all! I have been on this way now for fifty years, and would never make that summation, "I got it all." Many of these still practice a "gay lifestyle", get drunk, and beat up their wives, but they would say, "Oh yes, I got it all!"

This utter defiance of the Holy Ghost baptism John prophesied about in Matthew 3:11, *"He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire"*, is contempt: contempt due to the rejection of the "fire" that purgeth and "burns off the chaff" in our lives (Matthew 3:12), for religion, which is powerless. The five foolish virgins had religion.

I want you to notice something in this parable in Matthew 25:5-13, #1 they were all virgins (unspotted from the world - Christians), #2 they all slumbered and slept, #3 they all trimmed their lamps (they searched the scriptures), #4 they all responded to an invitation to a wedding, *"Behold, the bridegroom cometh."*

"And at midnight there was a cry made!"

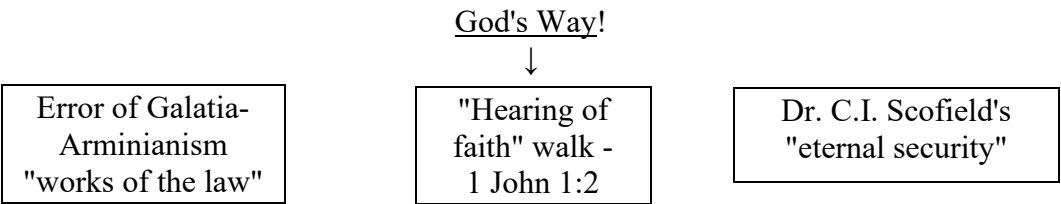
Recently, when President Bill Clinton announced his intention to lift the ban on gays in the military, I awoke out of sleep! This is the midnight hour! Many Christians came alive; even Jerry Falwell woke up long enough to let you know he was disturbed!

This letter is a direct result of that awakening; truly the night is upon us. To even entertain "eternal security" is like the sandman dropping sand on your eyes so you will return to slumber.

You are saved by a person, *"Christ in you, the hope of glory"*, not by a doctrine. Colossians 1:27.

Do you know what the error of Galatia really was? It was being justified by the works of the law. The Apostle Paul in the book of Galatians exalts faith, and faith alone, as our justification. No doctrine, no matter how correct you think it is, has power to save. Paul gives the beautiful example, *"He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?...Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."* Galatians 3:5,7.

It is neither to the right nor to the left. God remains God by staying out of boxes prepared by man.



"Neither to the right nor to the left".

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"And to whom sware he that they should not enter into rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." Hebrews 3:18-19. "But the fearful, and unbelieving...shall have their part in the lake of fire which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the rest whereby we cease from our own works. *"For if Jesus had given them rest (born again), then would he not afterward have spoken of another day (Day of Pentecost). There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Hebrews 4:8-10*

Paul then admonishes us, *"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same EXAMPLE OF UNBELIEF."* Hebrews 4:11. Whatever it takes to "speak in an unknown tongue", it is worth the labor.

"Now all these things happened unto them for EXAMPLES: and they are written for our admonition, (for the people) upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11. Why? Because God is "all knowing", He already knew men at the end of time would choose to believe "unconditional eternal security".

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth (because of a doctrine) take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12.

How do you know that "unconditional salvation" is a lie? By the EXAMPLE, "God hath provided" - Jehovah Jira. *"But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?" Hebrews 4:17. "Now these things were our EXAMPLES (that unconditional salvation is a lie), to the intent we "should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted". 1 Corinthians 10:6. "While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." Hebrews 4:15.*

The word EXAMPLE is referring to the provocation. You should burn the memory of the "Day of Provocation" into your heart. You will need the baptism of the Holy Ghost in order to stand through the "hour of temptation" which is to try all men upon the earth for 3½ years. You will be here. No one is flying anywhere until Antichrist is revealed first. 2 Thessalonians 2:3. The Jews in the field and on the roof top didn't know who Antichrist was until the "abomination of desolation", so how could you, as a Gentile, know before? The Jew in the field did not know "the day nor the hour", but he knew the incident: "the abomination of desolation" spoken of by Daniel the Prophet.

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is a type of the promised land. You were to enter into more of God through this "baptism of fire" where you would learn to cease from your own works. Only unbelief keeps you from obtaining this promise. *"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38-39. "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he*

said, *This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.*" Isaiah 28:11-12. The foolish virgins will not hear!

But suddenly, when they realized they were about to meet Jesus, they came to their senses. They saw their lamps go out through lack of oil. When you get ready to meet Jesus, you will forget about having "received it all" on the day of conversion. They panicked, and asked the wise virgins, *"Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves."* Matthew 25:8-9. These wise virgins were all church members, "unspotted from the world".

The inquiry to obtain "oil" drew these instructions from the wise virgins: *"but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves."* Literally go to them that sell the gospel, or make "merchandise" of the house of God. *"And through covetousness shall they with feigned words, make merchandise of you..."* 2 Peter 2:3.

"Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8), was Jesus' instructions to the disciples. *"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."* Isaiah 55:1.

But the wise virgins knew these foolish virgins needed a "quick fix" because the bridegroom was coming, so instructed them to go to a typical Pentecostal church that was owned by the preacher. The Bible refers to such a preacher as a "lord over God's heritage". 1 Peter 5:3. Further, Jude 8 says they "despise dominion" and, 2 Peter 2:10, "despise government". Of necessity they must own their own church, hence Christ is no longer the head - the pastor becomes "lord" over the flock.

I have spent fifty years of my life in Pentecostalism. The preacher owning the church, via the Articles of Incorporation that only require three signatures, is its besetting sin. Both Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart owned their own church, ordained as Assemblies of God ministers. Playing "lord" and despising government is the lesson that should be learned from their episodes. *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Gr. lawless, or without government)."* Matthew 7:21-23.

The wise virgins knew that everything that a Jimmy Swaggart or Jim Bakker would tell them to do would be Bible: *"All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."* Matthew 23:3. The wise virgins (at this late hour) knew a Jimmy Swaggart or Jim Bakker could help these foolish virgins get "quick fix oil". They could buy everything they had to say on the subject "oil". But, alas, "while they went" the "snatching away" had taken place. It was too late. No one could help them!

Truly, *"the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."* Matthew 13:33.

Dr. C.I. Scofield, the founder of Dallas Theological Seminary, published a King James version of scripture with footnotes and helps to guide the novice through the scriptures. This Bible was accepted in every Bible college and seminary in America. Through the Scofield Study Bible, coupled with his Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. C.I. Scofield became a type of the woman who hid leaven in "three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened". The three measures of meal are:

1. Unconditional eternal security.

Angels were never given "unconditional salvation", as shown in Jude 6. You are predestined for heaven, whether you change your mind at a later date or not, because you are not free to walk out of the Father's hand; once truly converted. John 10:28.

2. Received it *all* at the new birth, or when born again.

According to this, the Holy Ghost baptism that John the Baptist declared Jesus would send is all "poppycock": *"He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."* Matthew 3:11. They say that signs, wonders, miracles, healing, tongues (or glossolalia) died with the Apostles. Peter said, *"Repent (being born again), and be baptized (in water) and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."* Acts 2:38-39. *"These signs shall follow them that believe..."* said Jesus, *"...they shall speak with new tongues."* Mark 16:17.

3. Pretribulation rapture.

According to Dr. C.I. Scofield's footnotes, the church will never see the Antichrist or his kingdom. Of course, he is already wrong on one count; the ten-toed kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's image, is already in existence - the European Common Market. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:3, the student of prophecy will recognize and see him before the "day of Christ". *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed"*, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, is referring to the Antichrist, the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, entering into the Jewish temple. This is the revealing to the entire world. The Jews in the field, and those on rooftops did not know who this man was until then. Luke 17:34-36.

The Apostle Paul tells us to "purge out the old leaven." 1 Corinthians 5:7. We must learn to reject the "traditions of men". In Jesus' day, the Scribes and Pharisees taught for doctrines the commandments of men. Walter Martin's Christian Research Institute defends the leaven sown by Dr. C.I. Scofield and his pastor Dr. Barnhouse. We must earnestly contend for the faith by purging out this leaven (Gr., fermenting or boiling over), as yeast put in dough left overnight is all puffed up with pride by morning.

The Book of Revelation splits the church once again between "the overcomers", being members of the Philadelphia church, and those classified as "non-overcomers", or neither hot nor cold, Laodiceans. If all believers had "unconditional salvation", they would all be Philadelphian Christians.

Apparently, the Laodiceans are the foolish virgins having failed on three fronts, even though "virgins". Revelation 3:14-21. Jesus counsels them:

1. Buy from Him gold - search the scriptures; and

2. White raiment - don't trust in a doctrine, "unconditional salvation" to save; and

3. Anoint with eye salve - "type of anointing". "...neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Laodicea pictures Christ on the outside of the church, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock...*"; attempting to gain entrance into the church.

"I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe...and searched it out." Deuteronomy 1:24

LAODICEA

Church of the "closed door". Revelation 3:20.

Mark 16: 15-18. Signs of a believer "died after the Apostles".

John Darby, *Moses*

"Darbyism Theology" is less than 100 years old.

ARK OF (unconditional eternal security) COVENANT

Dr. C.I. Scofield - #1 spy

Aaron - Larkin's "Dispensational Charts"

Pope of Fundamentalism

The Pope's Staff (Type of Aaron's Rod) - Elimination of the last twelve verses of St. Mark 16, by the unlawful authenticity of the most ancient manuscripts, thereby declaring the King James version as heresy.

Cardinal Dr. H.A. Ironsides - #2 spy
Moody Church, Chicago

Cardinal Dr. Donald Barnhouse - #3 spy
Radio Pastor

Cardinal Dr. Paul Rader - #4 spy
Rader Tabernacle, Chicago

The Ironsides mantle

The Barnhouse mantle

The Rader mantle

Archbishop Dr. J. Vernon Magee - #5 spy
The Bible Bus

Archbishop Dr. Walter Martin - #6 spy
Christian Research Institute

Archbishop "Heaven and Home"
radio broadcast - #7 spy

Evangelist Dr. Charles Fuller - #8 spy
Old Fashioned Revival

The Fuller mantle
Evangelist Dr. Jerry Falwell - #9 spy
Old Time Gospel Hour

Evangelist Billy Graham - #10 spy
Founder, "Go to church of your own choice"
World citizen: representing
"The World Council of Churches"

Jesus said, "*Behold I stand at (the church of the closed door) and knock!*" Revelation 3:20. The lukewarm members had "closed the door" on the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire as a second work of grace; evidenced by "speaking in tongues". Mark 16:15-20. They were sheep that could "hear his voice". The unsaved are not so, but are cold and "dead".

"Because thou sayest I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing...", Rev 3:17, therefore, representing the church of the "great falling away", 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

"...saved, yet so as by fire." 1 Corinthians 3:15.

PHILADELPHIA

Church of the open door. Revelation 3:7.

Mark 16:15-18 - Sign of a believer is alive and well thanks to Christian television and "no man can shut that door".

Dwight L. Moody - R.H. Torrey - #11 spy
"Baptism of liquid love" as a second work of grace

Charles Finney - #12 spy
Converted lawyer

The church of the open door to evangelize the world. No man can shut the door of Pentecost (Revelation 3:7) on parade by way of Christian television, much to the dismay of the scoffers (C.R.I.).

Elder Seymour
A black Nazarene minister
Topeka, Kansas - Azuza Street outpouring

William Branham - Ordained Baptist preacher
John Wesley and Oral Roberts - tent revivals

Pray that America will be spared by a revival similar to that which England experienced through the preaching of John Wesley. Wesleyan Methodism sparked the great "holiness movement" that extinguished the flames of Calvinism's "eternal security".

The church's banner should have been, "Let your moderation be known unto all men". Like the pendulum on a clock, man swings from one extreme to another, never finding the middle of the road. Wesleyan Methodism, once the spirit subsided, found itself in the throes of Arminianism, justified by "the works of the law".

Failure of Methodism to find the middle of the road probably laid a foundation for the extremism of the women's movement of today. When I first entered the church, fifty years ago, women were regarded as whores if they wore lipstick, and were going to hell, for sure. Many a woman chose between heaven and hell over a tube of lipstick. The majority of women, however, found solace in Dr. C.I. Scofield's eternal security, from which evolved the women's movement of today. The church drives its sheep to stranger's folds, and practically forces them to believe a lie because of "clothesline" preaching.

A classic illustration is Hillary Clinton. She, as a Southern Baptist, according to her doctrine of "unconditional salvation", is naturally feeling secure in the Father's hand. Jerry Falwell says of a believer, "All his past, present, and future sins are already forgiven." Such a deal! Hillary certainly won't pass that one up! When something sounds too good to be true, it usually is!

According to this doctrine, God can't look upon sin, so can't see you except through the blood of Jesus Christ. This works very conveniently for Hillary. Her support of passing out free condoms, thus encouraging fornication and thereby increasing the probability of A.I.D.S., must go unnoticed by God. The same holds true of her support for abortion and euthanasia. But the Bible says the very hairs of your head are all numbered, and a sparrow shall not fall to the ground without the Father knowing. Matthew 10:29-30. You had better repent of your sin.

It has come to my attention that the Council on Foreign Relations (C.F.R.) has changed their logo to a "rider on a white horse". Even C.F.R. has been influenced by Jerry Falwell's "Darbyism Theology". It is like *"leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."* Luke 13:21. This "pre-tribulation rapture" doctrine has influenced the world in C.F.R.'s choice of a logo.

In reality, C.F.R. represents our entire "mass news media" that has, through television, sent out its "arrows into the heart", for the rider is only equipped with a bow. Revelation 6:2.

The white horse rider is the false prophet that Jesus warned us about. *"Take heed that no one deceive you."*

We live in the hour of deception. *"For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ (or Lord's over God's heritage); and shall deceive many."* Matthew 24:4-5.

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged" by C.R.I. (1 Corinthians 11:31)