

RIVERBANK NEWS

A Publication of The Ol' Ship of Zion

May 1999

THE RUNNING OF THE PACK (LEADERSHIP MESSAGE)

ARE YOU A TYPE OF LOT'S WIFE? UNABLE TO TURN YOUR BACK ON SODOM (TYPE OF THE MARK)?

By Gordon F. Nelson

The word "gospel" means "good news." *"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them (the shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flocks), Fear not: for, behold, I bring you GOOD TIDINGS (news) of great joy, which shall be to all people....And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* Luke 2:9-10,13-14.

The great deliverer from the bondage of religion had been born into the world. Just as Moses' life was spared by the daughter of Pharaoh (Exodus 2:5-6), so Jesus Christ was delivered from the slaughter of all male children "two years old and under," fulfilling a prophecy given by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, *"A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel (Gr. ewe, or female sheep) weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not."* Jer. 31:15. Herod, the king over Judea, had killed them.

Once again we hear the voice of the yet unborn being slaughtered (abortion) by the state, a type of the coming Antichrist. Is this the red carpet of blood being thrown out for the soon coming king? We have learned from the murder of innocent Abel, that God hears the voice of innocent blood crying from the ground. *"And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother?...the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."* Gen. 4:9-10.

Hitler murdered six million Jews during his entire rule over Germany. We murder six million babies every year through abortion. Does this blood of innocent babies cry unto a living God from the ground? Apparently, our conscience is seared, for we are now ready to kill the elderly through euthanasia. Is it any wonder that man is quickly approaching *"the great and dreadful day of the LORD"* (the last 3½ years of Daniel's 70th week). Mal. 4:5.

Apparently, the slaughter of innocent children (helpless to defend themselves) will bring on the Antichrist. In this final instance, however, it will bring judgment, because man will not repent. *"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues (locusts as scorpions) yet repented not of the works of their hands (made graven images), that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and*

silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: neither repented they of their murders (abortion and euthanasia), nor their sorceries (witchcraft), nor of their fornication (temple and Wicca prostitutes), nor of their thefts (refusal to work; government handouts).” Rev. 9:20-21.

Man simply is not going to repent! The Lord is left with no other choice but judgment. God is not going to “wink” at man’s sins! Sin is like a giant python that begins to wrap around you. The more you indulge, the more the coiling and tightening around your body until you are hopelessly lost. God has not appointed the church to wrath. He has made a way of escape, but we must repent of our Sodom and Gomorrha lifestyle and never look back!

“Remember Lot’s wife.” Luke 17:32. Lot’s wife had at least two daughters left in Sodom. She had been attending church in Sodom where the preacher preached *“thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”* Acts 16:31. Seeing the blood applied to the doorposts of the children of Israel’s homes in Egypt, is why the death angel passed by. All in the house were saved. Likewise, your children are sanctified by Christian parents, *“else your children are unclean.”* 1 Cor. 7:14.

Lot’s wife became disillusioned with Christianity’s “fire and brimstone doctrine” while her own house was being destroyed by fire. Sodom had touched the flesh family of Mrs. Lot. Like Judas Iscariot, she felt the God of Abraham had betrayed her.

Judas, the Zealot, believed Christ would declare Himself “King of the Jews” after his triumphal ride into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. He believed for another King David to arise that would throw off the Roman yoke of Caesar. Instead, Jesus began overturning the moneychanger’s tables, taking a cat-of-nine-tails to them, screaming like a fanatic, *“My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves!”* Matt. 21:13. It took Judas a long time to get the message, *“My kingdom is not of this world.”* Jn. 18:36.

In a similar fashion, Mrs. Lot’s kingdom was being dismantled. Mrs. Lot came with her husband as Lot preached to his sons-in-law. *“Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city”,* cried Lot into the ears of his own daughters and sons-in-law. *“But he seemed as one that mocked (Heb., laugh outright, make sport of, scorn) unto his sons in law.”* Gen. 19:14.

Mrs. Lot’s kingdom was of this earth. Judas’ kingdom was of this earth. Judas believed Jesus had deceived him, and thus deserved to die. Mrs. Lot was much like a resident of Carmel, California, with little preparation for “leaving this all behind.” Her self-righteous husband was vexed daily with the filthy conversation of the wicked. *“For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed (Gr., tormented, in pain, tossed) his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.”* 2 Peter 2:8. Much like a Pat Buchanan or Alan Keyes, crying and screaming at our “unlawful deeds,” while the

preachers have long since been silenced in favor of Schullerism's "positive faith." Negativism is never entertained for a minute in Sodom churches; only love and "gain is godliness" is taught. 1 Tim. 6:5.

Why doesn't the scripture tell us to "Remember Lot"? He is the real hero. *"The LORD knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, (and Lot was delivered!) and to reserve the unjust (Mrs. Lot) unto the day of judgment to be punished."* 2 Peter 2:9.

We are warned by the Apostle John, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* 1 John 2:15. Why did Lot's wife look back? She had daughters and grandchildren in Sodom. Lot's wife was a grandma. Her roots had been comfortably planted in Sodom. *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting (excess), and drunkenness, and cares of this life (i.e., the stock market), and so that day come upon you unawares."* Lk. 21:34.

Lot's wife failed to deal with Sodom until it was too late. She probably believed in "unconditional salvation." *"For as a snare (Gr., a trap [as fastened by a noose], a trick or temptation) shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth."* Lk. 21:35. This is a prophecy of the coming, "hour of temptation" which shall try all them that dwell upon the earth.

God warns *"Remember Lot's wife."* She never made it because of ties to her flesh family. She wasn't interested in a God that could not save her entire household. The rapture doctrine, as preached today, is an escapism doctrine. Lot's wife never escaped, and is in hell today. You, too, will not escape the *"hour of temptation...to try them that dwell upon the earth."* Rev. 3:10. It will come as a snare unto Laodicea.

The world may call it a period of prosperity; a peace and safety era. God calls it, as far as believers, the *"hour of temptation."* It will be directed by the international bankers for the first 3½ years to bring about a false prosperity. *"He shall cause craft to prosper."* Dan. 8:25. They can do this because they control the stock market.

Lot never looked back! We have to start turning our back on Sodom, now! It will be more difficult tomorrow! Lot's righteous soul was "vexed daily." Is yours? Or are you comfortable in the "church where love is"? The church where no negativism is ever heard! To preach sermons against abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, adultery, is called "negative preaching" in Sodom, and will not be tolerated by its membership. Laodicea (Gk.-rule of the people) is the same type of government we tolerate in Washington D.C.--democracy.

Christians have been watching the same brainwashing talk shows as the world: Phil Donahue, Oprah Winfrey, Geraldo Rivera, Sally Jesse Raphael, and Montel Williams, should have been busy reading

their Bibles. These talk shows condition you to accept Sodom as a normal lifestyle. *“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha... giving themselves over to fornication (six million abortions annually is the ultimate condom), and going after strange (Gr. different, altered) flesh (transvestites, or effeminate males), are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”* Jude 7. The latest warning: Don't use a condom without a Planned Parenthood "seal of approval" for your protection. They have reopened the bathhouses of San Francisco, and freely supply condoms for "safe sex."

Since 1962, America has become like Sodom and Gomorrha through the Supreme Court decision making prayer and Bible reading in public schools illegal, and by establishing humanism as the state religion.

Have you managed to successfully live in Sodom? No big deal! Lot's wife did it! This is no time to let go of your moorings! Are you ready to join yourself to Sodom for the sake of your grandchildren? *"Remember Lot's wife."*

If it were not for one verse of scripture, 2 Peter 2:8, no one would accept Lot as being a Christian. *“For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.”* It would be easy to get a "more ancient manuscript" that would omit 2 Peter 2:8, and send Lot to hell. After all, Jesus said, *"Ye shall know them by their fruit."* Lot had no fruit.

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrha, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt.” Gen. 13:10.

Lot didn't plan to move into Sodom, just *"pitched his tent toward Sodom."* Christians, we are told, are moving to Las Vegas because Nevada has no state income tax. *"But the men of Sodom were wicked sinners before the LORD exceedingly"* (Gen. 14:13), just like Las Vegas.

Lot choose according to his eyesight. He was evidently a “carnal Christian.” He certainly was no Noah or Abraham! Lot never made the Hebrews 11 "Hall of Fame" as some outstanding man of faith. Lot obviously could no longer attend the “thy and thy house shall be saved” church. He was unqualified to run with this pack. His wife backslid along with two daughters.

In 1993, the Oscar was given to a film titled, “Dances With Wolves.” Christians are the only people to devour their own kind. The Mormons, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Freemasons, the Jews, the Catholics, all defend their own. This truth was thrust upon me as I watched my only Christian daughter run. She suddenly got out of step with “the running of the pack”! She had not one single friend, except me. To survive, she had to "repent", and start again the running. They become a pack because they do not include the Lot's; those *"saved as by fire."* 1 Cor. 3:15. All of us are not "Hall of Famers."

The pack in scripture is the broad gate. Matt. 7:13. Once you are converted, you are given two ways you can sojourn through life: the revamped Calvinism or the straight and narrow. Unconditional eternal security almost sent the church into the Dark Ages for a second time under the leadership of John Calvin. History has recorded Calvinism as a lie! Another John, John Darby, demanded a repeat performance of this "*broad gate.*" The "*strait gate*" (Gk.-narrow) represents Jesus.

How can Darbyism produce a revival? It is neither "*hot nor cold,*" but lukewarm due to its utter rejection of the 20th Century "rock of offense," the baptism of "*the Holy Ghost, and with fire.*" Matt. 3:11.

John Darby gave birth to Laodicea. John Darby impregnated Laodicea's surrogate mother, Dr. C.I. Scofield, who carried the baby for nine months in her womb, the "Dallas Theological Seminary." The birth certificate is all a matter of record, recorded in the "Scofield Reference Bible." The child, Laodicea, was born at the turn of the century, 1900. The baby was a weakling and could never cry out, "*Abba, Father,*" (Gal. 4:6) because of a confused incubated mind set in Dallas between the "dead letter" and the "Spirit that gives life."

In Luke 17:26-27, God tells us how these vessels of honor, the "Hall of Famers", will be saved. "*As it was in the days of Noah.*" Noah was a real captain of his ship; a ship called, "Thy and thy house shall be saved." Praise God he made it! But God is different from Laodicea in that He doesn't forget "*just Lot*"! 2 Pet. 2:7. Noah and Lot depict the two resurrections, something the church refuses to recognize.

I believe 1 Cor. 3:11-15 is referring to these two resurrections; the one being a life built on a gold, silver, and precious stone foundation. "*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection...but they shall be priests of God and of Christ.*" Rev. 20:6.

The second resurrection is of wood, hay, and stubble; all combustible. "*If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*" 1 Cor. 3:15. At the Great White Throne Judgment, all the books will be opened, including the Book of Life. Rev. 20:12. Lot's name will not be blotted out, but he will appear at this second resurrection, and his name found in the Book of Life.

Many Christians who reject the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of having received it (speaking in tongues), will be "*saved; yet so as by fire.*" They will miss the millennial reign on earth for 1,000 years with our Lord, due to their failure to believe for the Baptism of fire. These educated preachers that supposedly understand all about hermeneutics, exegesis and Christology, must agree Christ is still the beginning and the end. Nothing ends until THE LAST DAY when all the books are opened, including the Book of Life. Rev. 20:12. Will your name be blotted out? as was Lot's wife?

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God...lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.” Heb. 12:14-16. Esau’s birthright (type of the new birth) was his to sell. Judas sold his birthright (fellowship with the twelve) for thirty pieces of silver.

You are a free moral agent as a Christian, and are free to sell your birthright for a price - “love of this world,” as Demas did. *“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.”* 2 Tim. 4:10. *“God is a Spirit.”* Jn. 4:24. One cannot see a Spirit! Jesus *“became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.”* Jn. 1:14. The twelve Apostles were not only the proof and witnesses to the resurrection, but were eyewitnesses of His glory in the flesh.

Mankind will once again, during the millennial reign of Christ on earth, have the privilege of beholding His glory in the flesh. *“Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? THIS SAME JESUS, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come IN LIKE MANNER as ye have seen him go into heaven.”* Acts 1:11.

Jesus will return to earth, and His feet will touch Mount Olivet. He will rule the earth as a “flesh man,” in “like manner” as He went away.

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” Rev. 5:10. *“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.”* 2 Tim. 2:12.

In order to behold Christ in the flesh again, we must be made worthy of the first resurrection. Lk. 21:36. All martyrs will be a part of this resurrection. The Apostle Paul longed to be counted worthy of this first resurrection. *“If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”* Phil. 3:11,14.

To attain unto this first resurrection, one must *“put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.”* Rom. 13:14. It is a command, and something you do! How can you put on the Lord Jesus Christ? By receiving the baptism of *“the Holy Ghost, and with fire”* (Matt. 3:11) that John the Baptist spoke of. Rejection of this *“rock of offense”* (1 Pet. 2:8), will send you to the second resurrection.

The first resurrection is a holy resurrection and a blessed one. *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection...they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him for a thousand years.”* Rev. 20:6.

To attain unto this “*gold, silver and precious stone*” resurrection is how you’ll see God in your flesh. “*Without holiness no man shall see God (in the flesh)*” (Heb. 12:14), and have a part in this first resurrection.

“*But the rest of the dead (including the wood, hay, and stubble Christians) lived not again until the thousand years were finished.*” Rev. 20:5. These are saved “*as by fire.*” Lot is a type of the person who is saved by fire, but all his works destroyed. “*If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*” 1 Cor. 3:15. The unconditional eternal securitists have entered the “wide gate.” The wide gate represents another Jesus. “*Strait is the gate and narrow is the way*” (Matt. 7:14), to obtain the Bible Jesus.

Dr. Dobson of Colorado Springs, Colorado, a Christian psychologist, named his organization, “Focus on the Family.” His Band-Aid, fix-it inspiration radio program has provided some help in attempting to make the natural family a kind of heaven on earth.

Jesus' focus, however, was on His spiritual family recorded in the 17th chapter of John. “*I have manifested thy name unto the men (disciples) which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word...I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*” John 17:6,9.

Jesus never reminded God of His flesh family in His final prayer. The focus was on His spiritual family. “*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword...And a man's foes shall be they of his own household...He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*” Matthew 10:34,36,39. Lot lost his life, but found it; his wife sought to save her life, but lost it and went to hell. “*Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it.*” Lk. 17:33. Lot, saved as by fire, will be reserved unto the second resurrection. “*And another book was opened, which is the book of life.*” Rev. 20:12. Lot's name was written down.

“*And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at THE LAST DAY.*” John 6:40. The last day is the Great White Throne Judgment. Because the church fails to recognize two separate resurrections, they are like “the running of the pack.” Lot could never keep pace with Abraham (a Hall of Famer), which is why they separated. “*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour and some to dishonour (works burned up).*” 2 Tim. 2:20. Simply put, Noah was a vessel of gold, while Lot was a vessel of earth. Aren't you glad Lot made it?

Both the Noah's and the Lot's arrive safely on heaven's shores. Paul doesn't damn one group simply because they can't keep pace. Stop this "running of the pack" merely because "thy and thy house are saved." Condescend to men of low estate; to the Lot's in God's spiritual family.

It is the "running of the pack", or Laodicea, the seeking to save our own lives that has caused Christendom to ignore the pleas of the widows and orphans. I am persuaded the Lot's can relate more to "widows and orphans" because of their disenchantment with the flesh family. God's only promise to you as a believer was, *"I will raise him up at THE LAST DAY."* Jn. 6: 40, 44 & 54. The "last day" is the Great White Throne Judgment. Rev. 20:12.

This promise, however, was not good enough for Paul! Martyrdom seems to be the only absolutism for *"the first resurrection,"* and to be blessed, which Apostle Paul regarded as *"the mark of the price of the high calling in Christ Jesus."* Phil. 3:14. *"Blessed and holy is he (Lot wasn't all that holy) that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."* Rev. 20:6.

"Verily, verily (truth, truth), I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whosoever eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at THE LAST DAY." John 6:53-54. All you have been promised by Jesus is the second resurrection. Our only hope of being in the first resurrection is to be a martyr, or receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Rom. 8:11. Martyrdom is the seed of the church; just the opposite of the "save your own life" philosophy of today. *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; AND THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO THE DEATH."* Rev. 12:11.

The "Good News" of the gospel, is that you do not have to be a "Hall of Famer" to go to heaven. Most of us can relate to Lot rather than Noah, a perfect man. *"Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD."* Ezk. 14:14. It is impossible for us to follow perfect men as our examples. Most of us find it easier to identify with Lot; he tried and failed as a contender for the honor roll of "thy and thy house shall be saved."

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested." Rom. 3:21. Jesus Christ died not only to deliver us from our sins, but from religion as well!

This particular thesis is upon leadership, "the running of the pack"! They run in packs! They follow the leader. Jesus said, *"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."* Matt. 15:14. *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets,*

that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts." Ezk. 13:3-4.

The Bible warns about giving birth to children "in perilous times". *"And woe unto them that give suck in those days."* Matt. 24:19. The dumbest animal on the face of the earth is a sheep. It seemingly never engages its brain. Sheep follow the example of the sheep directly in front of them. If you put up a stick for the lead sheep to jump over, every sheep following will jump in that same spot, though the stick is no longer there.

How do you get to the leader of the pack? Supposedly, the shepherds tell them to *"Occupy until I come."* Luke 19:13. This does not mean to be taking the "fertility pill" to see how many babies you can pump out in these godless times. 80% of all minority babies and 22% of all white babies are born out of wedlock. The state encourages this lifestyle by giving so generously to these single parent families.

The warning *"Remember Lot's wife,"* is to tell women, "For God's sake, knock it off!" Lot's wife went to hell because of her daughters in Sodom.

"The time is short...they that have wives be as though they had none." 1 Cor. 7:29. This infers to prevent pregnancy even at the cost of using the pill. It is better to take the pill than the mark!

Women, for some reason, want babies! Marriage is secondary! They can go to a "sperm bank" and have their own baby! It is believed Antichrist will prohibit marriage, to prevent more children coming into the world, *"Neither shall he regard the desire of women."* Dan. 11:37. That desire is to create babies! Even Antichrist won't be able to cope with this new crop; an even more depraved generation of druggers, rock and rollers, drive by shooters, transvestites, lesbians, bestiality sex, pornography and pedophiles. These are just babies now! God says it will be even more like Sodom and Gomorrha.

If you believe that your influence in the home is going to save your children from Sodom, you are in for a rude awakening! I raised my family thirty minutes from Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, and thirty minutes from Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco, during the 1960's. This was a mind boggling experience for a parent. No parent was sure what he or she should do.

Do you have a child in your arms? *"... and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."* Rev. 13:17. You cannot buy milk for your child without this mark (666) in your right hand, or in your forehead. Rev. 13:16. Do you believe this?

"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands and go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." Mark 9:43. In a more practical sense, if making babies is going to send you to hell, it is better to go through life maimed: as a eunuch. *"And*

there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs (Gr. castrated -live unmarried) for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it." Matt. 19:12.

"As it was in the days of Noah," and *"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot,"* (Luke 17:26,28) so-called Christians keep pumping out babies! *"They married wives"* to have a family, and then gave their daughters and sons in marriage to create more children. They never allowed "the last days" to affect their production of children. They believe their "boob tube" god, instead of the Bible.

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts (believing in Calvinism), and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:3-4. These scoffers never allowed "the signs of the times" to interfere with their sex life.

By our Christian leaders example, we are being told the same thing: "You see me, as your pastor, I am busy populating the world." Nothing to worry about as long as the leader is pumping out babies. The Bible says, *"While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept."* Matt. 25:5. It is time for the virgins to wake up!

The Apostle Paul stated, *"For I would that all men were even as I myself."* 1 Cor. 7:7. Paul was single and never produced a child. This was true leadership! The church prides itself in believing "Pauline truth". The church ignores the leadership qualities of Paul and Barnabus as celibates. Hence, Paul and Barnabus carried about a Titus, Timothy or a John Mark for companionship. The Metropolitan Church stumbles over all these single, celibate males, accusing them of practicing the "gay lifestyle."

While in jail, Paul writes to Timothy, *"Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."* 2 Tim. 4:11. Of the early church, only Cephas (Peter) carried about a wife. Apparently, the rest of the brethren *"led about a sister"* (1 Cor. 9:5), retaining her in the ministry like Paul did a Titus. When she was past "the flower of her age" (no longer capable of having children), then they would marry.

Apparently, they were betrothed to these virgins. *"Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin (a virgin), doeth well. So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better."* 1 Cor. 7:37-38. They needed a woman for companionship, not sex. *"It is not good that man should be alone."* Gen. 2:18. *"But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age...let them marry."* 1 Cor. 7:36.

The early church was led by leaders, Paul and Barnabus, who did not have a wife or children, knowing full well this would detract in their love for Jesus and His ministry. *"He that is unmarried*

careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: but he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife." 1 Cor. 7:32-33. With leaders like Paul and Barnabus, marriage, procreation and family were put in proper focus, particularly those called to be apostles and brethren of the early church.

1 John 2:18, records the reason why the early church practiced celibacy. *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."*

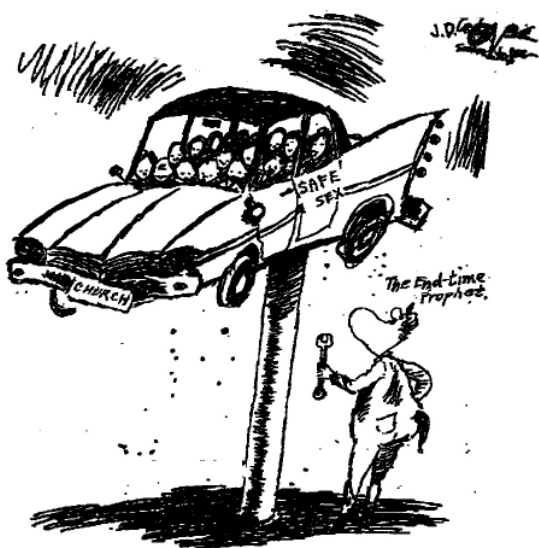
The following three beliefs affected their sex life and why they became celibate:

1. Caesar was antichrist;
2. They would be martyrs (therefore ridiculous to have children);
3. It is the "last time."

Those who did not believe these tenants *"went out from us, but they were not of us...they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."* 1 John 2:19.

The apostles believed Caesar could cause *"the abomination of desolation"* by entering into the Jewish temple and proclaiming himself God, as Daniel prophesied. Once the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D., the church abandoned these tenants.

As we approach the rebuilding of the temple, once again these same tenants come into vogue. All Antichrist is, is another Caesar over the revived Roman Empire (the Common Market of Europe).



The evangelicals, led by Chuck Colson and Pat Robertson, have signed a pledge of agreement with Rome, supposedly to strengthen family values, "Catholics and Evangelicals Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millenium". Birds of a feather eventually come together! Each relating a false security to the people of God.

Unconditional eternal security is as big a lie as Purgatory! God desires a leadership that will focus on the spiritual family of God; the remnant! Mark 10:28-31.

Remember Lot's wife who practiced safe sex? "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" 1 Pet. 4:18.

"Could you stop having babies long enough for me to fix this thing!"