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SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES!

By Gordon F. Nelson

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." Matt. 23:13.

Under the big top, Oral Roberts preached one of his great sermons back in the late 1960's or 1970's, entitled, "Spirits never die!" That one sermon preached under one of the largest tents ever constructed by man, Oral opened up an entire new thought process in my brain. "Spirits never die!" Can you imagine what that can imply? I'm glad Oral Roberts introduced the subject. (If I had made the statement, "Spirits never die," it would be scoffed at into the next century!) *"Then shall the dust (the body) return to the earth as it was: and the spirit return unto God who gave it."* Ecc. 12:7. To return to earth, embodied in another person at birth.

Do you realize how difficult it is to divide the soul of man from this spirit? The Jehovah's Witnesses don't even try, declaring man *is* a soul! It is proof that they've never been born again. No one knows whether or not he has a soul, let alone a spirit, until he is first born again.

The Bible says, *"The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD."* Prov. 20:27. In John 1:9, Jesus is the *"true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world."* This is the reason Jesus said, *"Ye must be born again."* Your candle was lit at birth, but the light has gone out. *"For thou wilt light my candle* (the Psalmist David said): *the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness."* Ps. 18:28. Does your candle need to be lit? When your candle goes out, you've lost your "unconditional eternal security." *"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God."* Eph. 4:30. The Holy Ghost is likened unto a dove; easily frightened away.

The Jehovah's Witnesses, like the Seventh Day Adventists, direct most of their energy to proving the Catholic doctrine is in error. Your curiosity about the teachings of Catholicism are stirred! One listens to their arguments that prove Catholicism is wrong, hence assume they are right. Sorry, but two wrongs do not make a right!

I had been courting a girl for three years, whom I fully intended to marry. Neither of us (at the time) had any religion. One day, she informed me that she was a Jehovah's Witness (JW). Unbeknown to me, her mother was a JW, and her daughter had "seen the light." This was back in the 1940's when JW's were not known like they are today. In reading the Watchtower magazine, my sister first discovered where Judge Rutherford (their leader) declared, "No man has a soul!", you "are one!"

This curiosity of the soul set me on a search. I could see no point to any religion if one died like a dog, and had no eternal soul. The JW's have handpicked scriptures, usually from Solomon's writing as a "man under the sun." There are 31 scriptures in the small book of twelve chapters of Ecclesiastes that Solomon addresses to a "man under the sun," with his conclusions based on that viewpoint. *"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more reward; for the memory of them is forgotten...neither have they any more portion for ever in anything that is done UNDER THE SUN."* Ecc. 9:5. Solomon, who is called the Preacher in the book of Ecclesiastes, concludes his sermon on life by declaring, *"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity (Heb.-emptiness, transitory and unsatisfactory) of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh UNDER THE SUN?"* Ecc. 1:1-3.

Why was Solomon called "the Preacher"? It was because of his authority of having "tried it all"? He was the wealthiest and wisest man that ever lived UNDER THE SUN! You have a question about women? Go to the Preacher. He'll tell you all you'll ever want to know about a woman UNDER THE SUN. *"But King Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites."* 1 Kings 11:1.

Solomon's father, David, must have had about 300 wives and concubines, which is why he really didn't need "another man's wife." It has always been sin to marry a divorcee, except for fornication and abandonment (desertion). The difference between the Preacher and David was this, all of David's wives and concubines were Jews and Israelites. *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."* 2 Cor. 6:14. It has always been a sin to be "yoked" to an unbeliever, whether in sex or business. But, Solomon! Take a lesson from the Preacher!

Solomon had no restraint whatsoever on his sex life. He lost his "unconditional eternal security" over women. *"Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: (Solomon went into strange women, women that served other gods.) for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave (Heb.-adhere, cleave) unto these in love"* unto death and never repented! (1 Ki. 11:2)

It is the Preacher who also gave us the book of Proverbs. We are such a brainwashed people that call ourselves Christians. If we want to know about life, we get a book written by Charles Swindoll or Dr. James Dobson. Are they an authority above the Preacher? The Preacher is the one with the credentials. *"And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines."* 1 Ki. 11:3. Charles Swindoll and Dr. James Dobson know about one woman, the woman they married. How could they possibly be the foremost authority on the subject of women?

The Preacher warns young men, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence (do not give it to a woman); for out of it (the heart) are the issues of life...Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil...For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: but her end is bitter as wormwood (Heb.-to curse, regarded a poisonous), sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable (Heb.-waver, vagabond), that thou canst not know them. Hear me (the Preacher) now therefore, O ye children...Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel (Heb.-act harshly, violent). Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth (California is a no fault divorce state)...and thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed (with AIDS and venereal disease).”* Prov. 4:23 - 5:11. Listen young men to the Preacher. He knows!

The Apostle Paul states, *“The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.”* 2 Tim. 2:6. You don’t get all your answers out of reading books! You can tell a child not to touch a stove because it is hot. Soon the child is screaming because now she is a “partaker of the fruits.” The preacher had a harem of 1,000 women, and was the wisest man that ever lived. His conclusion to the entire matter is in Ecclesiastes 7:23-29. *“All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me. That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out? I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things (Heb.-matter, or cause of any such thing because of books, business, chronicles, commandments, decree, etc.), and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness: and I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands (Heb.-a bond, manacles of a prisoner): WHOSO PLEASETH GOD SHALL ESCAPE FROM HER; but the sinner shall be taken by her.”* Ecc. 7:23-26.

Some women pride themselves in their sexual exploits of youth. “I tried it all!” But, listen to the Preacher’s conclusion after he “tried it all.” No sheik in Kuwait could support one thousand women. But, Solomon did.

“Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one (one woman at a time), to find out the account (Heb.-final intelligence): which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions (Heb.-contrivance or mental machination [as a Bill Gates]).” Ecc. 7:27-29.

If either Dr. James Dobson or Dr. Charles Swindoll, the president of Dallas Theological Seminary, came to the same conclusion as the Preacher regarding women, they would both certainly be preaching on a street corner, not as a “hireling” in a church. No one would hire them!

A lady friend of mine was so excited to read Charles Swindoll’s latest book on grace. Then, she thought, “But it costs \$19.” I suggested she read Apostle Paul’s six chapters of Galatians and save her \$19. The book of Galatians delivered me from the legalism of the law! I don’t have to read Swindoll’s book on grace to know what it is all about. He’ll agree 100% with Dr. C.I. Scofield, or he’ll be looking for another job.

This “school of religion,” based on John Darby and Dr. C.I. Scofield, denies the existence of what they term “the second blessing.” They believe signs and wonders ceased with the death of the last Apostle. The Apostle John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos by Rome. Rome feared an uprising among the people if they murdered John as they did the rest of the Apostles. God no longer speaks to His people through visions, dreams or voices. In other words, it’s the “God is dead” philosophy: having a “*thorn in the flesh*” (2 Cor. 12:7) to show forth the all sufficiency of grace. To them, Jesus Christ is not the “*same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*” Heb. 13:8. Yesterday, He did heal, but today we glory in our “thorns.”

These are the doctrines of the Sadducees. They want Mark 16:9-20 removed from scripture. They accomplish the feat through various versions of their own making, chief among them being the “Revised Standard Version” of the Bible. Since the printing of the Bible is available to all, we no longer are dependent upon a God of revelation. The final revelation has been given. Of course, even they are confused as to which is the final revelation. Certainly not the King James Version that still refers to believers as “tongue talkers.” “*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.*” Mk. 16:17. A Sadducee does not believe in the miraculous, hence becomes insecure in his own security and is the reason they are so sad-u-see!

“Spirits never die!” “*And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias (Gk.- Helias, i.e. Elijah) must first come?...But I say unto you, That Elias (or Elijah) is come already, and they (the scribes) knew him not...Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.*” Matt. 17:10-13.

The only thing these two men had in common was that a woman sought to cut off their heads! If Elijah, the greatest miracle worker in the Bible, had stood his ground, he would have met the same fate as the Baptist. Jesus said of John, “*Among them born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist.*” Matt. 11:11. John didn’t run from Herodias, who had divorced her husband to marry the

king. He wouldn't have had to if King Herod had married a widow, even a woman deserted by her husband. But, Herodias had taken divorce into her own hands for reasons of greed. Who else would renounce her publicly as an adulteress worthy to be stoned until dead? Is it any wonder her spirit could not rest until she saw John's head on a charger?

We saw the greatest miracle worker in the Bible cringe and run for his very life because a woman opened up her big mouth. *"Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods (of Baal) do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them (the slain 450 prophets) by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that (read the message), he arose, and went for his life."* 1 Ki. 19:2-3. Our hero! runs a day's journey before sitting under a juniper (Heb.-yoke, bind) tree! *"And he requested for himself that he might die."* 1 Ki. 19:4.

To die in battle fighting the enemy, Elijah had no fear. For God to take him home in a chariot of fire, "Here I am, Lord!" I am a sinner and no better than my fathers who evidently were seduced by wicked women. To die at the hands of a woman was a curse. Even Solomon declared, *"The sinner shall be taken by her (a woman)."* Ecc. 7:26. He shall not escape!

Man's refusal to heed God's call, *"Where art thou Adam?"* are usually trapped by a Jessica Hahn waiting in the wings to strike her prey. You are no match for the adulteress woman! God knows that, so simply warns you, *"Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house."* Prov. 5:8. *"Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death."* Prov. 7:25-27.

"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course (Gk.-a wheel [as a runner]) of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." Jas. 3:6. Jezebel spoke with such authority. Her tongue was "set on fire of hell" when she promised to behead Elijah. Evidently her prophets were *"the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table."* 1 Ki. 18:19. Jezebel had 950 dead prophets as a result of Mt. Carmel. She was the high priestess to 950 male prophets. Being a temple high priestess, she must have hand-picked these prophets in order to "sit at her table and feed them." In their indoctrinating services, probably she had sex before the god Baal with all 950. Herodias and Jezebel--these spirits never die! You think this present day feminist movement is going to return to the kitchen? Think again!

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." 1 Cor. 14:33. The Sadducees use this verse to rule out tongues, dancing in the spirit, and shouts of victory. The

very next verse tells you how to keep confusion out of the church. *“Let your women keep silence...as also saith the law.”* 1 Cor. 14:34. *“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder...Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind...”* 1 Pet. 5:1-2. It was never intended that the church be a personal, one man’s kingdom. Hopefully, that day will come to an end. Jesus was praying to this end in John 17 *“that they may be one,”* a loving brotherhood in each church that would be one.

A “one man’s kingdom” is created by virtue of the state allowing three people to form a sole non-profit religious incorporation for legal tax exemption. Money given to the corporation is tax exempt and contributes greatly to the New Age “Human Potential” doctrine. Now, in the church, you have created a “little god” by your gifts. As a congregation, we certainly worshipped our leaders, Dr. Bebe H. Patten and her flamboyant, ex-football player husband, C. (for Cash) Thomas Patten. We believe we were in the kingdom of God, simply by obeying and following the drummer, Dr. Bebe H. Patten and her pitchman, Carl Thomas Patten.

From the pulpit, Carl Thomas denied the church was ever sold to the Moose Lodge. This was after the Oakland Tribune reported the sale. The scales began to drop off my eyes to reality. We had some high powered extortioners at the head of our church. A congregation is totally enslaved. You have only one option--leave! “The doors swing both ways in this church, in and out! If you don’t like it, swing on out of here,” said Carl Thomas Patten.

I’d hear the exact same phrase from Dr. Cecil J. Lowry of the Oakland Revival Center. He, too, an anti-Semitic, owned his own private religious incorporation that permitted him to play a “little god,” as well. Dr. Cecil J. Lowry is now deceased. The Revival Center has since been sold by his young wife, Rose. She was a student in an Assemblies of God Bible College where Dr. Cecil J. Lowry was the president. Some of the proceeds from the sale of the property helped purchase Trinity Church in the hills of San Leandro near the MacArthur Blvd. freeway. Knowing Rose, she probably formed still another non-profit religious incorporation that would list her as the president of the new Trinity Church.

This type of government evolved from the Assemblies of God adopting the hireling system that even the preachers despise. Dr. Cecil J. Lowry, an ordained Assemblies of God minister, told me to my face, “I’d never pastor a church the way the Assemblies of God has them set up. Come Sunday morning, I could not be sure I’d have a pulpit to preach in. They could fire me before Sunday.” It is two extremes, the “hireling” and the “lord.” As “Lord of the Dance,” Dr. Lowry is free to do anything he wants. “My deacons are nothing but ushers in my church.” Sister Lowry counted the offerings with a different usher every Sunday morning. The wives would go insane while their husbands were alone with that “kitty cat” behind closed doors.

The Assemblies of God, representing “Heinz 57 Varieties” of Pentecostalism in doctrine all believe in miracles, visions, dreams and “God is well and alive.” The Baptism of the Holy Ghost experience causes participants to believe in the miraculous. “Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever” to every Pentecostal. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection, they believed in angels, they believed in the supernatural. Thus, these tenants of faith could include the Nazarenes, the Wesleyan Methodists, along with “Heinz 57 Varieties” of Pentecostalism. (The Assemblies of God and the Pentecostal Church of God in Christ being the largest.) To me, they come off as “all knowing” simply because they speak in tongues. This group is the revived Pharisees of former years.

“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not.” Matt. 23:2-3. The scribes of today sit with the Sadducees. They too, are of the Dallas Theological persuasion. The modern day Sadducee movement is founded upon one man’s interpretation of the Bible, John Darby. Dr. C.I. Scofield became the most famous convert to Darbyism. They produced a man-made gospel too good to be true: “Once saved, always saved!”

The Sadducees reject the miraculous, healing, tongues, visions, voices. These all died with the death of the last Apostle, John, exiled by Rome to the Isle of Patmos. From Patmos came his greatest work, The Revelation. John Bunyan gave the world The Pilgrim’s Progress, locked in a New Bedford jail over the gospel. What do you do to silence a true Christian? Like cockroaches, they’ll still be coming at you, for they *“loved not their lives unto the death.”* Rev. 12:11. Rome killed all the Apostles, and only saved John alive for they feared an insurrection of the people. Apostle John the Beloved, who kept his head continually a heartbeat away from Jesus’ own heart said, *“But IF we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth* (Gk.- continues washing off) *us from all sin.”* 1 Jn. 1:7. The Sadducees are all “Pauline recruits,” so don’t quite appreciate the sobering message of John the Beloved versus the “all things are lawful” philosophy of the great Apostle Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 6:12 and 10:23.

The scribes, the Greek and Hebrew Scholars, siding in with the Sadducees, strengthens their theological stance before the people. I have no qualms with these scribes such as Hank Hanegraaff of CRI (Christian Research Institute) having an ability to read Greek and Hebrew fluently. My question to these scribes, “Can they read plain English?” *“But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?”* Heb. 3:17. But a Dallas Theological Seminary graduate can turn black into white by wresting the scriptures unto their own destruction. 2 Pet. 3:16.

Mr. Average American Christian, do you read Greek and Hebrew? If not, stay out of the Bible, and listen blindly to Hank Hanegraaff!--a real scribe that sits in Moses' seat with the Sadducees. Did Jesus say, "Come unto me all ye that are heady and high-minded and have a thorough understanding of Greek and Hebrew?" No, my friend, these scribes, like Christianity Today, place a higher priority on a Biblical hierarchy in Dallas, Texas, (DTS) like a high tower that only the intellectual few can climb.

Does the Book say, "If a man will do God's will, he'll first go to Jerry Falwell's or DTS to become grounded in Darbyism? Then he'll be my disciple!" No, Jesus said, "*If any man will do his will, he shall KNOW of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*" Jn. 7:17. "*Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.*" Matt. 4:19. All of them together. Jesus never separated them, except the son of perdition, Judas. Jesus formed a "Brotherhood of Fishers of Men."

In 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 regarding the calling of God, all of us feel an inadequacy to speak in behalf of God. Due to this lack of seminary training at DTS, are we acceptable agents in His behalf? You must first remember, God choose twelve. All ignorant fisherman, except Matthew, probably the most intellectual of the group. At least he could keep Rome off his back (while being hated by the populace) for collecting taxes. Luke, the physician, offered his services to the brotherhood, or we'd hardly have a written record. Luke wrote the book bearing his name and the Book of Acts. Matthew, the intellectual of the group, could give his own record of the ministry of Jesus.

These fishermen grew in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I feel like one of these fishermen. Little did I dream I would be publishing a *RIVERBANK NEWS* until He comes!

"The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple." Jer. 50:28
