

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDING EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

Grace Says "No" Too!

by Pastor Tod Brainard

We live in remarkable times. There is a striking attitude that permeates this generation, one that is culturally rooted in our educational, political, and sadly our religious systems. It is an unwillingness to say **"NO"** to questionable things for fear of offending. We say **YES** to those who ask us favors that we may not be able to fulfill. We affirm proponents of questionable methods and practices for fear of being perceived as "not relevant." **YES**, is the word of the hour.

Years ago, Dr. David Utter, missionary to the Marshall Islands, indicated this adherence to this affirmative mindset. He wrote, *"There is a tendency to want to please the speaker [in the Marshall Islands]. Through some language notes we acquired early in our time here, we discovered that the people were **hesitant to say 'no' to direct questions.** Kindness and pleasing the speaker were greater virtues than truthfulness in that culture."* Their perceived **gracious** behavior of saying "yes" was in reality a "no" to the speaker and it was nothing more than deception.

Saying **YES** when we ought to say **NO** is not a new problem. The Scriptures are full of illustrations of those who responded wrongly. Christ gave us the admonition in Matthew

5:37, *"But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."* In other words, anything beyond truthful communication of a "YES" or a "NO" at the proper moment in time may lead to an evil outcome.

Aaron, the YES Man Exodus 32:1-28

To set the stage, the book of Exodus records an event, which is significant for the whole future history of God's chosen people and for us as Christians. It illustrates our proneness to please and be gracious even to evil doers when we are outnumbered or the leader is away. This incident took place in the wilderness of Sinai at Rephidim. At Sinai, Israel had entered into a solemn covenant with Jehovah to be His peculiar people and had heard His voice declare the Ten Commandments. Apparently, they had nothing to complain about except for the fact that Moses had been away for nearly six weeks. Aaron the high priest, was in the place of leadership in the absence of Moses. In this brief interval of time, the nation sinned grievously against Jehovah whom they had just promised to obey and honor.

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Pleasing and Approachable

Aaron was confronted with a question that had far-reaching consequences. **"Up, make us gods, which shall go before us..."** Aaron was a good man with a colossal weakness. He responded affirmatively to an evil request when he should have said a resounding **"NO!"** Was his answer motivated by grace by saying yes to the evildoers? Was it actually gracious to respond the way he did when God's law would be violated? Just think about what could have been avoided if Aaron had not responded positively to their request. Learning the value of saying **"no"** can often avoid serious troubles.

Consider the following:

Ministry is maintained when the "No" is used- Compromise avoided.
Purity is maintained when the word "No" is used - Defilement avoided.
Purpose is maintained when the word "No" is used - Detours avoided.
Health is maintained when the word "No" is used - Gluttony avoided.

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Editor's Desk

The Culture of Assassination

by Pastor Tod Brainard

Like many of you, I watched in horror as Charlie Kirk was assassinated in cold blood on social media. A radicalized 22-year-old Tyler Robinson came to the conclusion that Charlie Kirk did not deserve to live. His radicalization involved social media, gaming, and a romantic relationship with a gender transitioning young man. Yet another in a chain of deranged people and corrupt plans devised in hearts in their quest away from God and reality. As Jesus Christ Himself warned of the last days in Matthew 24:12, *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."*

Assassinations are nothing new to us. Filmed assassinations and assassination attempts have also been splashed upon across our minds repeatedly. In Charlie Kirk's videoed death, no doubt part of the assassin's plan, it would be witnessed by billions. The hope of the assassin was that Charlie Kirk's message would be silenced. The exact opposite has happened. The impact will have to be measured over time as many profess coming to Christ in faith and others yet only to religious experiences.

This event seen by the world repeatedly strikes a corresponding note to another worldwide event yet future with a similar (all will see), yet strikingly different outcome (Antichrist is brought back to life).

The book of Revelation 13:1-7 records the prophecy concerning Antichrist's rise to prominence accompanied by a deadly head wound (caused by a sword [vs. 14] perhaps by an assassin) which when he is resurrected, causes the entire world to wonder. We read, *"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having*

seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

Antichrist's rise to prominence and the great deception that follows is clearly presented. The healing of this deadly head wound can be seen as a counter-miracle to the resurrection of Christ, presenting a perceived parallel to the Gospel message. The Antichrist's appearance as a miraculous figure could lead even the elect to believe (those believers who come to faith in the Tribulation) if they are not grounded in their faith.

The symbolism of a head wound and subsequent healing is significant for several reasons. First, it mirrors a common theme in apocalyptic literature: the seemingly

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The Projector is a fundamentalist publication that seeks to "project the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day." It desires to honor Christ by articulating a clear testimony for Biblical separation from error in these last days as God's answer to the deepening apostasy of the visible Church.



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Security is maintained when the word "No" is used - Carelessness avoided.

Marriage is maintained when the word "No" is used - Adultery avoided.

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the child of God is to raise the standard of the Word of God. Sadly, Aaron lifted up a "For Sale" sign.

Recently a television documentary highlighted the **Tsunamis of the Pacific Rim**. Tsunamis result from the earth under the sea shifting upward causing a low but broad wave that may span 40 miles, as opposed to wind waves that may span 20 to 40 feet. That tsunami is basically unnoticeable until it approaches land. As the depths grow shallower, the waves grow to heights of 40 to 100 feet in the air cause great destruction. Aaron, the high priest of Israel, was responsible for a sin tsunami formed that day in Rephidim that had wide-ranging repercussions, all because he said "YES" when he should have said "NO."

Dr. Bob Jones III shared an article some years ago about his grandfather's educational philosophy. One of the things he emphasized about Dr. Bob, Sr., was that the college he founded was **to be loyal to principles rather than to people**. That may sound harsh, but in reality, it is a Biblical principle that will keep you out of trouble. (Galatians 5:6, 13; Ephesians 4:25, Proverbs 14:25; 20:7; 28:6; 11:3)

Aaron sent out unmistakable vibrations. Aaron was open-minded, or in the lingo of today, "grace-oriented", and approachable to wrongdoers and would give a "YES" to their demands. Distinct signals are sent out

by those who display loyalty to people over loyalty to God's principles. Aaron, who was the first one responsible to take care of the idolaters, sanctioned their wicked request and sexual deviancy by granting approval. All of us in varying degrees have an innate ability to detect the quality of another person's character. These Israelite people knew Aaron to be weak in this area.

Moses, in stark contrast to Aaron, had a strong, uplifting, authoritative, sin-restraining air about him. I do not think that the people of Israel would have ever approached Moses with such a request. Are you approachable to those who desire questionable things? Then you should pay attention to this scriptural passage. What kind of signals are you sending out? **Allegiance to Scripture is absolutely necessary, allegiance to people less so.**

To be absolutely forthright, it is my considered opinion that Aaron resented strong authority. Remember the incident with Miriam and Aaron against Moses in Numbers 12:2 **"Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it."** The outcome would not be power sharing with Moses, but judgment from God. Miriam got leprosy, and Aaron died before entrance into the Promised Land. Aaron resisted and resented Moses's God-sanctioned authority that came down hard on sin and rebellion. He chose the "find common ground" approach as his first line of defense against wickedness. That approach can and often will lead to compromise of truth and purity.

Aaron's Positive Response

Aaron was good with words. Howev-

er, he did not say NO, but he did not give an emphatic YES either. Ecclesiastes 7:29, **"Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."** Perhaps Aaron reasoned that the people would not be willing to give up their gold, their earrings, or their rich jewels to make new idols. He perhaps assumed that this whole thing would come to naught. He would simply entertain their request and graciously offer a worship service to Jehovah.

Aaron, however, misread the whole situation, in my opinion. He misread the depth of the apostasy of the people and how quickly it came about. It is possible to *misread the times and situations because we are more concerned about the culture of self-preservation and people concerns rather than Biblical principles and God's concerns*. Can you imagine the people lapsing into idolatry so quickly? It can happen and has happened.

To Aaron, this **"new god,"** named after Yahweh by the way, this demand was a passing whim of a minority of people that would fade out. He believed that few people were involved, and he would be able to control the outcome and keep his leadership unquestioned and all would be well. He was dead wrong. In reality, Aaron's whitewashing of this abomination turned the tide to the wrongdoers.

People person's passion for people can sometimes overshadow Biblical principles. **Aaron evaded dealing with this lawless request head on.** Instead, he issued a religious proclamation (vs. 5, **"And when Aaron saw it [the golden calf], he built an altar before it: and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a**

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Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 4:20-22, **My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**

As in many of the Proverbs, this father emphasizes his word relative to the hearing ear and now he adds the eyes to the picture. The words are not to "depart from his eyes." This father knows that his son's eyes need to have a guardian. He knows that this world caters to the eyes and that the world system of corruption is built around what is seen.

What is to guard the eyes? The "words" of the father are to guard the eyes. The picture that the father presents to the son is of his words as an ever-present sentry on duty at all times guarding his eyes. He is saying in effect, *"Son, the world will present your eyes with great temptations designed to turn your ear to its seducing calls."* This father knows that just telling his son to not give in to the world's alluring sights will not accomplish what he desires for him. He must be armed with the father's "words" in order to resist the call of the world.

So, first things first in the son's life is "incline thine ear unto my sayings." This word **incline** means to *stretch or spread out or to cause to yield*. We all know people who at times incline their ear elsewhere listening to an adjoining conversation instead of our sparkling words. This is what the father instructs the son not to do. The world wants you to listen to it while pretending to listen to the word of God. Jesus said it this

way in Matthew 15:8, **This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.**

So, this father is warning his son of this very thing. It is easy to make a show, but that is not what this father is interested in. God is not honored with a show but is honored by that which is from the heart. The measure of hearing is in how the words of the father stick to the heart of the son. Where must the words of the father rest in the son? It must rest in his heart.

In Psalm 119:11, David by pen of inspiration put it this way, **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.** As a treasure to be guarded, David kept the word of God in the repository of his heart.

The pharisees worked at the outer coating, the sepulchers which they dutifully painted white for a show, but their heart was unaffected. This father is not interested in an outwardly beautiful sepulcher full of dead men's bones. He was not interested in having his son appear righteous unto men, but righteous before God.

I am afraid that many parents are happy to simply get an appearance of cleanness and conformity but make little effort to affect the heart. What do Christian school teachers seek? Are they only interested in having a controlled class with

well-behaved children or are they more deeply interested in affecting the heart?

So, it is only natural to look at the outward appearance. However, God looks on the heart. Looking at the heart is made possible through understanding the Holy Word and the working of the Holy Spirit. The more you magnify the Lord the larger He is and the larger His Word is, the easier it is to view the heart with some clarity. Therefore, the admonition of the father is for the son to incline his ears unto his sayings.

What will happen if the son does this? The father's words will take root and be kept in the heart of the son. These words will help build solid walls that will defend against the onslaughts of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh (vs. 22) Jesus told us that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus Christ is the Word. The Word is Life. In order for that life to be operative it must be in the heart. Even the word of God can be used as a whitewash. This father is intent on a heart change in his son, not simply an outward conforming to rules and traditions. Conformity is insufficient. Morality without Christ is incomplete. This father desires a heart-change in his son, one brought through the eternal Word of God, Jesus Christ. Ω



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feast to the LORD.⁷) to divert attention away from the abomination about to take place. This did two things: 1) **It created the possibility of a credible excuse, and 2) It may have even created the possibility of the credit of virtue.** (If this had turned out like Aaron desired, he could have reported to Moses that he had declared a worship service for Jehovah and the people highjacked it.)

Aaron, who should have taken a stand, proved to be an excuse man. As Scripture tells us, he blamed the people (vs. 22), Moses (vs. 23), and even went as far as to blame the fire (vs. 24) for the golden calf. Aaron's weakness created a climate of sexual and religious perversion (vs. 5).

The people performed the following all in the name of **Yahweh**:

Wicked fornication – "Rose up to play" (vs. 6)
Corrupt singing (vs. 18)
Perverved dancing (vs. 19)
Shameful nudity (vs. 25)

Jehovah saw the abomination that was taking place and sent Moses down from the Mount. It is interesting that God did not tell Moses that Aaron was directly involved in the corruption. Moses knew in his heart that his brother was weak in resolve; however, God could trust Moses to deal with the situation even when it involved kinfolks. Experience shows that crossing kinfolk and close allies in situations involving Biblical principles can be problematic for some. Biblically principled people, however, can overcome those blood ties and do God's work without hesitation.

Moses managed this affair with grit and determination that would shock and astound the average "Christian"

today. In today's climate, Moses would be accused of being ungracious and legalistic. However, Moses was from the old school of "do right" and let the chips fall where they may. Moses rolled up his sleeves and grabbed his sword, and demanded, **"Who is on the LORD's side?"** With the Levites, he killed three thousand men who engaged in the abomination.

But we are more advanced today!

Yes, we are supposedly more advanced in Christianity today with our positive, "Grace-filled" methodologies. Nothing wrong with positive methodologies as long as they do not turn into tolerance of sin and wickedness in the name of "Grace." Truth should never be proclaimed at the expense of grace, or grace at the expense of truth. Titus 2:11-12 says, ***"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world."*** There it is, grace and truth interdependent. You see, the fowls of the air need two wings to fly. With only one wing, they're earth bound. Christ embodies **grace and truth. Not one, but both. Let us be cautious.**

Alcorn wrote, *"Truth-oriented Christians love studying Scripture and theology. However, sometimes they are quick to judge and slow to forgive. They're strong on truth, but weak on grace. On the other side of the coin, grace-oriented Christians love forgiveness and liberty. But sometimes they neglect biblical truth and see moral standards as 'legalism.' They're strong on grace, weak on truth."*

He further states, ***"Truth without grace breeds a self-righteousness le-***

galism that poisons the church and pushes the world from Christ. Grace without truth breeds moral indifference and keeps people from seeing their need for Christ."¹

What this amounts to is excusing wrong choices and decisions for fear of offending and calling it "grace." Grace isn't about God lowering His standards. It's about God fulfilling those standards through the substitutionary suffering of the Standard-setter Himself. Christ went to the cross because He would not ignore the truths of His holiness and our wickedness. Grace never ignores or violates truth. Grace gave what truth demanded: the ultimate sacrifice for our sins through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Aaron muddied the waters with the nation of Israel that day. He made no difference between the holy and the profane while in his position as leader while Moses was away. He sidestepped holiness in favor of appeasement and let evil in like a flood. Three thousand lost their lives that day who had been allowed to make their idol without protest.

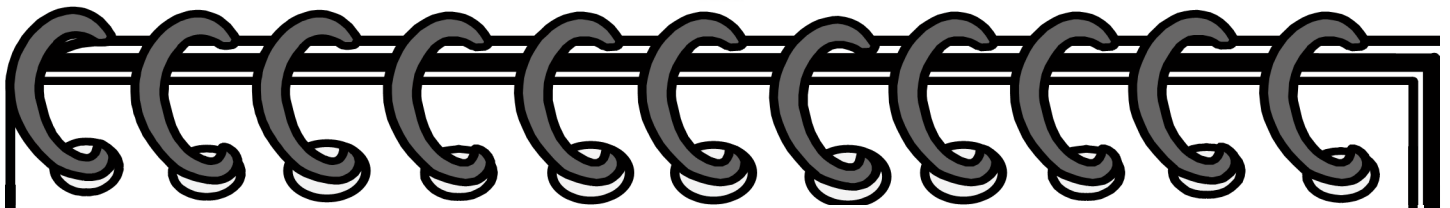
May God give us all courage to say **"NO"** when it is the only right answer to give. Ω

¹ Dr. David Utter, *"Understanding the Religious Mindset"*, Sowing and Reaping, Volume 160., published by Gospel Fellowship Association, Greenville, SC, Nov./Dec. 2001.

² Dr. Bob Jones, III, *"Bob Jones, Sr.'s Educational Philosophy,"* Balance, Volume 21, Number 1, September 2001.

³ Randy Alcorn, *The Grace and Truth Paradox*, Multnomah Press, Sisters, OR., 2003, pp. 17.

⁴ Alcorn, p. 18.

*Teaching Tips**by Doris Peppard*

Playground Rules and Regulations

BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE

Students will demonstrate self-control and responsibility in academic and social situations.

Students will demonstrate respect for other people's person, property, ideas, feelings, learning, and teaching.

Students will exhibit cooperative behavior and demonstrate an understanding of their rights and responsibilities within a group.

Students will be kind, considerate, and caring toward one another remembering the following rules:

- Everyone plays. Every game is open to whoever wants to play – sharing equipment and space.
- Play safe. No student should be physically or emotionally hurt. Avoid rough play, unsafe play, and name-calling. No play-fighting, No slap tag, no wrestling, no tackle type of games. No jumping or climbing on top of playground equipment. No throwing balls at another person's head.
- Follow directions. Stay within sight of adults and change your behavior when requested to do so. Line up when your teacher calls for you.
- Obey the adults on duty at all times. (Not only your own teacher!)

Students should be encouraged to:

- Monitor their own behaviors
- Work out problems by remembering to ask others to stop, walking away, or find another child to play with. You never work out problems by hurting others.
- Seek help from adult on duty
- Remember to take your coat/jacket back into your classroom

Teachers – you are the eyes-on person to observe rough play, unsafe behaviors. Please immediately intervene and remind students of rules and discuss acceptable behaviors. Constantly keep your eyes roving across the playground. Walk around and be alert for trouble – it will find you, I promise!!! If there is more than one teacher at the playground, please spread out to cover more territory. Do not congregate or be on your cell phone for any reason other than calling for emergency help.

GENERAL SAFETY:

- Students should keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students should not walk through the middle of games others are playing.
- Always watch out for younger students sharing the playground.
- NO Climbing fences at any time – go around to get balls that fly over the fence.
- Tag and other chase games are allowed in the open areas – never near playground equipment.
- Only one person on the slide at a time.
- No sitting on or climbing over the tops of playground equipment.
- Balls should be thrown only if others are expecting to catch them.
- Interfering with a game by kicking or throwing the ball away is poor sportsmanship and cannot be allowed.

We must do our best to provide policies and procedures that will guide our students to playing safely outside. We realize that safety is of the Lord and He expects us to be prepared and do everything to make this an enjoyable activity for our students. Have fun!



Children's Bible Club Corner

by

Moments With the Book

Bedford, PA

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

eternity (Revelation 20:15).

Let earth receive her King!

What keeps us from experiencing deep, meaningful joy? The short answer is that we have removed God from His rightful place, and we sit on the throne of our own lives. We occupy ourselves with pleasure and possessions—things which soon will pass away. But God designed us for much more; He created us to live in relationship with Him for eternity. When we live in harmony with God, joy is the natural result.

How can we be restored to a relationship with God? The answer is Jesus Christ. Even before He was born in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ was destined to die on the cross as our substitute. There, He took the punishment for our sins. He then rose bodily from the grave, proving that He is truly the Son of God—and that the way to everlasting life has been opened. **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”** (John 3:16). Now that’s a wonderful reason for joy!

Joy to the world the LORD is come.

Let every heart prepare Him room.

Christmas is a time for us to rejoice as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. On the night Jesus was born, an angel announced the joyful news: **“I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day...a Savior which is Christ the Lord”** (Luke 2:10-11). We can rejoice that Jesus left His glorious throne in heaven and came to earth to become our Savior.

It’s time to make room in your heart for the King. Recognize that your way falls short of God’s way. Turn to Him and put your trust in the Savior, Jesus. **“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the LORD Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”** (Romans 10:9).

Why do we need a savior? The Bible tells us that **“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23). Sin means “missing the mark.” We have all missed the mark of perfect obedience to God. Whether we have missed the mark by a little or by a lot, our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). Unless the record of our sin is wiped clean, we will remain separated from Him for

When your heart is made new through God’s saving grace, you not only receive forgiveness of sins: you also enter into a new life characterized by the peace and joy that come from walking with God. Even during life’s troubles, you will understand that **“in [God’s] presence is fullness of joy”** (Psalm 16:11). There is not joy without Jesus. Do you know Him? Ω

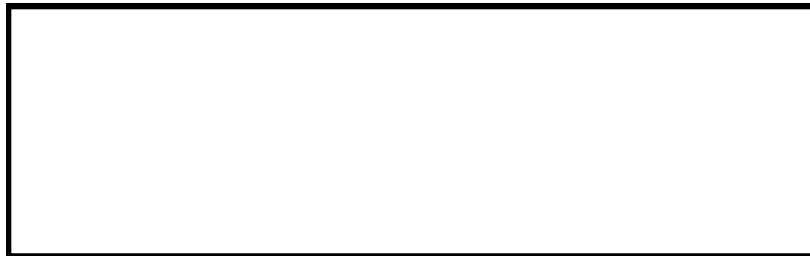


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insurmountable force of evil being temporarily thwarted yet eventually returning. Second, in the assassination culture of our world, which recorded events have been seen by billions, almost no one survives a deadly head wound. Third, the healing of the deadly wound, perhaps through resurrection, can be seen as a miraculous event, designed to solidify the Antichrist's credibility and that of the False Prophet to draw people away from true faith.

The idea that the Antichrist survives a head wound and experiences a form of resurrection carries profound implications. It raises questions about the deceptive nature of evil and the role of signs and wonders in leading people astray in the days of the Tribulation period. The miraculous healing of the Antichrist could be interpreted as a counter-miracle to the

resurrection of Christ, presenting a deceptive counterpoint to the false gospel proclaimed by the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-17

Passages such as Matthew 24:24, where Jesus warns that *"... there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* emphasize the need for discernment of those living in that day in the face of such deception.

The idea of a global figure who can manipulate information and public perception feeds into fears about misinformation and the erosion of truth that we witness today. This perception draws parallels to the deceptive nature attributed to the Antichrist.

The implications of the Antichrist and the miraculous healing of a head wound serve as a reminder for believers today, teaching them to remain steadfast in faith and discerning in the age of deception, and looking upward for the rapture of the Church. Ultimately, the concept of the Antichrist deadly head wound and miraculous healing challenges individuals to reflect on the nature of evil at work today and the coming of our Blessed Lord. Ω

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our website:
theprojector.org.**

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