



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDING EDITOR

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

Jude's Warning about "Fake News"

by Pastor Tod Brainard

A Message Preached Recently at Grace Bible Church

Down through the centuries, false teaching (fake news) and wrong concepts have slowly developed within the evangelical community. Because of the slowness of this development, few have noticed the shift taking place. There is a great deal of "fake news" in the evangelical world that has taken root in our churches. "Fake news" about new concepts of doing church, the necessity of the casual rather than formal worship of God is flooding our churches. The elimination of Bible preaching and the promotion of group discussion as a substitute is rampant. Contemporary book studies rather than the singular study of the Bible is the rage. **"Wouldn't the Apostles be impressed with how we do church**

these days?" some think within themselves. However, the truth be told, that which is "contemporary" begins with entirely wrong concepts built upon "fake news." Modern millennial-oriented pastors do not discern the error they bring in, and therefore, create a false "worship" atmosphere devoid of Biblical truth.

When we have revealed to us the genuine facts about things, both physical and spiritual, we are morally required to acknowledge those facts and make our preaching and teaching conform to them. Correct doctrine is of vital importance, because it is simply the teaching of things **as they are** in the Scriptures, not what we would like them to be.

God runs this world with mathematical and moral precision. This physical world is run with mathematical exactness. Any variance is deadly. God runs His moral world with moral exactness. There is no room for error. False teaching

(Continued on page 3)

Child Rearing...

by Dr. Milton Jones

Rearing children has always been a challenging enterprise. We often decry the difficulty of the corrupting influences of modern life. The truth is that each child is born with a fallen nature that automatically responds to wrong influences in any time frame. The Bible is replete with examples of good people who lost their children to the world. Satan is determined to reach every child. Parents must be equally determined that he will not win the battle for the heart and soul of their child. There are Biblical parenting models that demonstrate proper principles. One such model is found in the parents of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:5-7, *"There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because*

(Continued on page 9)

Inside this issue:

Jude's Warning	Front Cover
Child Rearing	Front Cover
Editor's Desk	2
Founder's Forum	4
Proverb Practicals	5
Teaching Tips	7
Stars of the Morning	11



EDITOR'S DESK

Pastor Tod Brainard

The Esteemed Quality of Spiritual Discernment

When our founding editor, Dr. Dayton Hobbs, began this periodical, his desire was to warn Christians of the deviations from truth in his day. As I reminisce of articles past, not everyone was appreciative of those written decades ago. However, almost without exception, Dr. Hobbs' keen perceptions proved to be accurate.

I am reminded of the men of Issachar in I Chronicles 12:32 who were gifted men with the understanding of their times. *"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..."* One of the dismal characteristics of modern millennials in general is their short-sighted naivete when it comes to the times. They are for the most part "all-in" on anything new or modern and "all-out" of anything perceived to be old. To them, it does not matter whether the new or modern is right or wrong, only that it is "new."

The fact that something is "new" does not necessarily mean that it is wrong; however, discernment carefully examines the "new" to see if it is worthy of acceptance according to the principles of Scripture. Sometimes the "new" is in error or may lead to error. The children of Issachar not only had the ability to understand their times, but also had the **knowledge of what the nation of Israel ought to do**. "Ought" is a powerful word. It means that which should be done. Their understanding and knowledge was not limited to just their private concerns. Their understanding and knowledge was beneficial for the whole nation.

We are living in times of serious challenges. In this unrest and upheaval, perceptions are often manipulated through "fake news." How does one discern what is fake and what is real? How does one under-

stand the times they are living in and know what the nation ought to do? Here is where Christians who know their Bibles and know their God can be a blessing and help to the nation. Just as the children of Issachar, the Biblical Christian can assess the times, know the mood and attitude of the times, understand the characteristics and motivating factors of the times, and then, with the knowledge of the Scriptures, determine the direction in which the nation ought to move.

It is indeed frustrating to witness "spiritual leaders" capitulating to the times and adapting their ministries to the times without serious Biblical consideration. In my opinion, those leaders are of no spiritual benefit to their congregations or to the nation in general. They do not understand the times, they simply interact and adapt to the times. The children of Issachar lived a different way. They understood and then countered the times with Biblical discernment and gave direction to the nation.

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. often said that what America needed in his day was the preaching of 50 John the Baptist's let loose in the land. I wonder though if anyone today would even welcome a John the Baptist into their church? Some would say, "He is not polished, seminary educated, and 'emotionally sensitive' enough to minister to this generation." "He would be too crude and intense to truly impact the millennial 'snowflake' culture." I wonder....

I thank God for the influence of Dr. Dayton Hobbs in my life. His influence continues to this hour, though He has been in glory for 11 years. He, like the children of Issachar and John the Baptist, understood the times. I make no claim of possessing his unique gifts of discernment and understanding, but I am thankful that I had many years to sit under his preaching and his personal instruction. He was indeed a son of Issachar. Ω



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, (1924-2006) Founding Editor
 Pastor Tod Brainard — Publisher and Editor
 Mrs. Carolyn Hobbs, Mr. Ludwig Opager,
 Mrs. Doris Peppard, Pastor Adam Watt
 Contributing Editors
 Layout-Mrs. Brenda Whitney
 Published Quarterly by Grace Bible Church

6331 Chestnut Street, Milton, FL 32570
 E-mail us at Issues@theprojector.org
 Visit us on the Web at www.theprojector.org
 Phone: (850)623-4671

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.



(Continued from page 1 - Jude's Warning)

is "fake news" about vital truth. Telling the truth about things is simply finding out what they are in the Scriptures and conforming our thoughts and words to those facts. When truth has been revealed in the Bible, our business is to find out what that truth is, and in all our teaching and preaching conform to that truth. **We are not to edit it, diminish it, add to it, or change it, or spin it. We let it stand as it is!** Duet.4:2, *"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."* Rev. 22:18-19, *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

Let a civil engineer be wrong about a concept, and if he builds according to that wrong concept, his structure will fail. Let a pilot be wrong about a heading, and the plane is in serious jeopardy. **Non-conformity to the truth brings disaster.** The

enormity of the disaster will depend upon the depth of one's error. The book of Jude was written to counter false teaching and wrong concepts and to direct the reader to right concepts.

A Wrong Concept of God (Jude 4; Romans 1:18-25, 28, 30)

False teaching is "fake news" on vital points about God, about sin, about ourselves, and about Christ. First, any false teaching must begin with a wrong concept of God. In our text, men are not willing to let God be what He says He is. They attempt to change, correct, alter, and apologize for God, to make Him be other than what He is.

God is the most important foundation because God is what He is, God. He made the heavens and the earth and all things therein. Charles Darwin dared in his two-major works, the **Origin of Species (1859)** and the **Descent of Man (1871)**, to make man a product of chance rather than the work of a Divine Creator. Darwin studied the works of another man, Charles Lyell, who is regarded as the Father of Modern Geology. Lyell developed the false **Principle of Uniformity**, the idea that the present is the key to the past, that we can explain everything that happened in the past based on observations that can be made in the present.

Yet the Bible teaches that the past is the key to the present.

The past includes the record of the Biblical account of God's creative acts. Darwin taught his natural selection method of "survival of the fittest" as the process of evolution, one specie slowly evolving into a new species. No record has ever been found to substantiate this claim. NOTHING! It is "fake news"! Yet scientists continue to assume that evolution is true. **Evolution then is an attempt to separate science from its Christian heritage. Why? Because they have a wrong concept of God.** Evolution denies the role of God as Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. Evolution has become a cult in which scientists are expected to believe "fake news" despite all the evidence against it.

By the way, this same kind of thinking will be used against Christians in other areas as well. The culture requires that you must believe whatever they tell you. Independent thinking is not allowed! If they tell you that evolution is settled science, you must believe it. If they tell you that man causes climate change, you must believe it or else. If a man thinks he is a woman, you must accept whatever they say they are at the time. **FAKE NEWS!**

But wait a minute, it is also true that some "Christians" have done the same thing. Some have

(Continued on page 6)



FOUNDER'S FORUM

Biblical Culture vs. Satan's Culture

By the Late Founding Editor, Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Romans 8:8 "*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*"

The Natural Man

Every child enters this world with three strikes against him or her. The child itself has a depraved nature, corrupt and without any righteousness; the parents who have the God given responsibility to rear this child are also born with this same fallen nature; and the world into which this child enters lies in the arms of the wicked one, who goes about "*as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.*" Our Scripture above reminds us that it is impossible to please God if we continue in the flesh.

What then can be done to improve the natural condition of man without God? Can this fallen and depraved man be made more respectable in order that he might be acceptable to a civilized society? The answer is, YES!

Improved Flesh

Below are qualities that may be trained into lost humanity by human effort alone. These are very desirable qualities yet leave man without divine grace. Children may be brought up to be:

1. Very likeable and pleasant to be with; friendly and even charming.
2. Gracious and hospitable.
3. Generous in sharing their wealth or other goods.
4. Very accomplished in fine arts, music, sports, etc.
5. Dependable and trustworthy.
6. Sincere of heart, as far as they know themselves.
7. Refined, often more so than the redeemed.
8. Fearless, loyal, and obedient.
9. Brave and courageous, often demonstrating these qualities in a most honorable way.

This does not exhaust all the favorable traits that may be developed into

the natural man; however, we must conclude that none of these are themselves spiritual traits. They are certainly desirable in the saints when they are accompanied by the presence of the Holy Spirit, who indwells all believers.

Natural Children

The point I desire to make is this: In the early years of our child's life, before they come of age to receive Christ (I'll not argue with you about what that age is, although I suspect it's older than we may imagine) the training we are to give them will vary very little from the training those unsaved parents give their children who desire to see their children grow up to be proper ladies and gentlemen. Of course, Christian parents have the purpose of service to Christ for their children, making their goal to establish a very distinct Biblical home. The natural man trains for the glory of man, whereas the Christian man trains for the glory of God. The Scripture is very clear, however, that "*the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*" (I Cor. 2:14).

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. used to say, "***You can be saved in a moment, but it takes a lifetime to build Christian character.***"

Biblical Culture

We desire that our offspring be affected as little as possible by the anti-god, humanistic culture of our day. The more our children are engaged with the culture, the more they will be adversely effected by it, obviously. Our responsibility as Christian parents is to create as much as is possible a different culture, a distinctly Biblical culture, in our homes; a lifestyle wherein the precepts and princi-

ples of Scripture are the everyday guidelines of our practice, not just our knowledge. Living in a home where the parents are professing Christians, where the family attends a Bible believing church and where the children of that home attend a Christian school, or are home schooled, does not necessarily mean that the parents of those children walk daily in these Biblical principles that are taught at church and school. It is the **walk** of parents that is important not what they teach.

When we in fact bring the culture of this age into the home by means of TV, magazines, music and other media, we undo anything we may say about a desire to rear children for God. Biblical culture must replace the world's culture **in fact**. The Bible must be our rule for faith and **PRACTICE** in order to produce servants for Christ.

Herein lies the problem. To paraphrase another's reasoning: Christian education has not been tried and found wanting; it simply has not been tried. If, indeed, we could filter out all the inconsistencies and contradictions that corrupt the education we call Christian, have a full set of teachers and administrators on board who are committed to Biblical Christian Education, have children to teach who come from real Christian homes not just professing Christian homes, then we could expect to see a large contingent of young folks indoctrinated with Scripture rather than the world, with an honest to goodness interest in Scriptural matters, and excited about a life of love and service to Christ.

Ω



Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 15:22, *"Without counsel purposes are disappointed:
but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."*

Why do I need counsel? What in me requires the help of others? Isn't the Word of God sufficient to rely on for help and advice? Can't I by prayer and study come to a conclusion in a matter without consulting others? Why do I have to seek the advice of men?

The answer lies in the basic nature of my heart. Being a sinner, my heart is not to be trusted for it will lie to me. The Word of God tells us that we were born with a lying heart. I did not come to that conclusion through discovery. Rather, I had to be told by God.

The heart will tell you what you want to hear to satisfy your real motive for desiring to do a certain thing or carry out a certain purpose. Wisdom says, "No doubt the trouble is with me."

Selfish pride limits our ability to seek the help of others. The proud and selfish man thinks himself above advice and counsel. Therefore, his purposes will meet with disappointment. So a poor understanding of our nature blinds us to our tendency toward error. "I can do it myself!" we quip. Or, we may retort, "It will be just me and the Lord!" However, this Scripture tells us that is not the just Lord's job alone, for the Creator has designed us to exchange wisdom to enrich one another.

God has help for you through His people, the wise as they are

referred to several times in Proverbs 15. We are to try to make our knowledge and wisdom useful to others and we are to benefit from other's wisdom as well. We are to use the helps that God has provided and we are to judge the validity of those helps by His Word.

Do you shy away from the helps that God provides and instead pray and seemingly get no answer? The answer may be sitting next to you. God tells us in this proverb that purposes are established by counsel. God does not expect you to be a loner in this world. He designed you to ask for help and guidance. You, as a Christian, are a part of a body. Just as the hand helps the foot you are to seek help from others. He has given counselors and He expects that they be used. Do you have a problem that does not appear to have an answer? Have you consulted with many counselors? Proverbs 20:18 declares, ***"Every purpose is established by counsel."***

In my former line of work, I depended upon many counselors to accomplish a purpose. If my purpose was to build a building for a particular use, how was I to go about it? Did I just sit and pray about it? Did I search the Scriptures to gain insight as to what the appearance of the building should be and how it should be put together? Depending upon the purpose

perhaps, but not indefinitely. Should I have sat at a drafting table and started drawing till the plans for the building arose on the paper? Could I complete the task by myself or would my purpose be disappointed? I could have been proud and self-centered and not have consulted others who could have helped. My attitude made all the difference.

Because of my fallibility, I needed help in my venture and in this case I needed a multitude of counselors. Could these counselors be just anyone? Well, in the building business there are codes and building standards by which to judge. They provide counsel by providing certain industry standards. They are restricted to industry and government standards and designs within acceptable boundaries. So, I tested their counsel against the accepted industry standards. If their counsel passed the test, the building would be built in the right manner with established purposes.

In matters of life, our standard is the great Counselor. Isaiah calls Him **"Counselor, the Mighty God."** The New Testament calls Him, **Jesus Christ...the Word of God.** Ultimately, all counsel is to be judged by the Word of God. Some important questions are in order: Is the counsel in conformance with the principles of the Bible? Does the counselor

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 3 - Jude's Warning)

taken all the justice, judgment, and hatred of sin out of the nature of God and have nothing left but a soft, mushy god. Others have taken love and grace out and have nothing left but a god of judgment. Some have taken away the personality of God and have nothing left but a cold, analytical god. Our God is not an emotionless being who only loves with His mind. He is a God who loves with His whole being! He is the AGAPE GOD and the PHILEO GOD! To present a God lacking one or the other is promoting "fake news."

A Wrong Concept of Sin - Jude 7,8, *"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities."*

Sin cannot be understood unless our concept of God is understood according to the Scriptures. Sin is so evil, so insidious, that it is found in all mankind and manifested in hate, lies, dishonesty, murder, crime, and injustice. This necessitates law enforcement, handcuffs, prisons and finally the death penalty. **There are those who would deny sin, or**

rename it, and, of course, that is "fake news." The popular view is to treat it as a disease, but they are falsifying the data!

God said that sin is rebellion against Him. God says that this nature of sin is inherited from an earthly father. God says that it is an act against the faith, love, and mercy of God. God says that it is rebellion against properly constituted authority. God says it is lawlessness, and it is personally chargeable to everyone who commits it. ***"The soul that sinneth, it shall die"*** (Ezekiel 18:20.)

The truth about sin always requires that we believe the truth concerning God - that He is sovereign, holy, and just. The truth concerning ourselves is that we are His creation, a fallen image of what God intended. Sin, therefore, is moral rebellion; it is responsible for all evil choices. We had better believe about sin what God says or we will be believing as true "fake news."

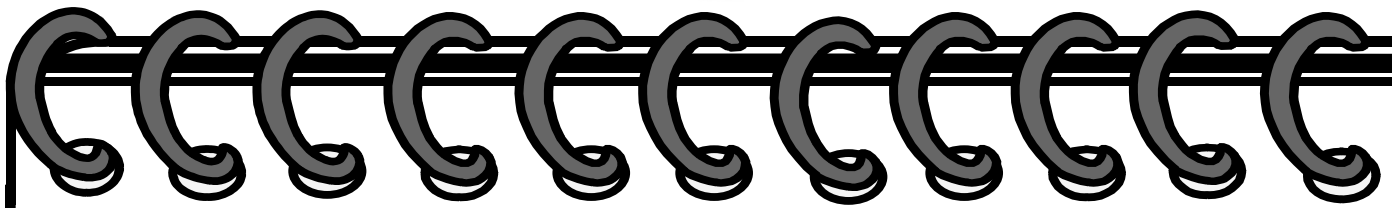
A Wrong Concept of Ourselves: Jude 15-16, 18, *"To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after*

their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage...How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."

Pre-suppositional truth, that is, truth that is accepted as our foundational authority, is fundamental to any philosophy or way of thinking. The atheist accepts himself as the authority for all understanding. The Christian accepts God and His Word as the authority for all understanding. The atheist denies that there is a God and so therefore the atheist has only one pathway to "truth," through the human mind. The Christian accepts the existence of God and that God has communicated His will through Divine Revelation. To accept God means that we accept His eternal existence, one with no beginning or end.

Sinful man accepts sinfulness as normal. He does not see the sinfulness of sin within his heart. Only a revelation of God that every human is "ungodly" can bring the knowledge of his sin and guilt home to him. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell at Jesus' feet, saying, ***"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord"*** (Luke 5:8). Upon seeing the power of Christ displayed in the miracu-

(Continued on page 8)

*Teaching Tips**by Doris Peppard*

Grandparents As Parents

There are many families who rely upon grandparents to step up to rear their grandchildren. Of course, there are many reasons – death of mom or dad, drug or alcohol abuse of parents, children having children too young to understand how to bring children up properly, courts removing custody away from parents, etc. And yes, all those reasons are very sad. God tells us in His Word that He reserves the right to be the “Father of the fatherless” in Psalm 68:5. With God showing so much love and tender mercy to fatherless children, we should follow His example by showing those students love and tender mercies, too. If God brings such a child into your classroom, consider it a blessing as you teach them. The grandparents will appreciate your helping them as they bring up this new generation.

Factors to consider about grandparents when they are rearing their grandchildren include:

1. They are older. Even though they might be willing, their energy level is not the same as it was 20 (or more) years ago.
2. They want time to relax and enjoy life. Homework and class projects are huge issues for grandparents to see about. Any way you can find to be of assistance will be appreciated: staying after school to help with projects, special tutoring before or after school, and teaming the child up with another student in the class to mentor them with a difficult subject, etc.
3. They get tired and “wrung out” easier. It will be exhausting for them to try to keep up with all the activities children require. Feel free to make suggestions or a checklist to help them schedule school related activities – preparing uniforms or school clothes the night before, filling backpacks and placing them right by the door for easy pick-up, teaching the children to clean out and fill their own lunch boxes, as well as helping them set up a schedule with a proper bedtime and a list of morning rituals included.
4. They must discipline when they would rather spoil their grandchildren. Some of the “joy” of being a grandparent is taken away when they must seriously train and enforce boundaries. Acknowledge their role in the rearing of these children and be supportive by offering discipline suggestions when they request your help.
5. The last thing they want to see is a “bad boy/girl note” after school. Try to “skin your own skunks” so to speak and do not burden the grandparent unless absolutely necessary. Teachers can provide instructions, corrections, and even some consequences when warranted. Be sure to contact the grandparents if the child is in need of corrective measures beyond your responsibility.
6. They want you to love their grandchildren enough to bear some of that burden. Do feel free to praise the student when it is warranted – Proverbs 25: 11 states, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Showing positive reinforcement regarding the upbringing they are providing will encourage them to keep on with their difficult tasks.

I believe it is the burden of Christian educators to help these grandparents. Voice these concerns with them and assure them that you will do everything in your power to make their job a bit more bearable. They just want to know that you do understand their concerns and will help. And most of all, they want to know that you choose to love their grandchildren and will do everything you can to make this burden lighter for them.



(Continued from page 6 - Jude's Warning)

lous draught of fishes and realizing that he was in the presence of Almighty God, Peter instantly became aware of his own sinfulness.

The experience of Isaiah is telling as well. ***"Then said I, Woe is me, for I am undone. I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts"*** (Isaiah 6:5). Paul the Apostle put it this way in Romans 3:10, ***"There is none righteous, no not one."*** You see, any wrong idea of God is bound to give us a wrong idea about ourselves. If you believe you are any different from what God says you are, you are in error. You have believed "fake news" about yourself.

This takes us to the last wrong concept.

A Wrong Concept of Jesus Christ: Jude 1:19-21, *"These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."*

If you do not have a right concept of God, of sin, of yourself, you will have a twisted concept of Jesus Christ. It is my humble opinion that the "Jesus" of the average person is not the Christ

of the Bible. It is a distorted image – a manufactured, 3-D image drawn from a cheap theology. You must put on your special glasses to make out who this Jesus is. This humanly-manufactured Jesus has nothing of the perfect balance of righteousness, holiness, and anger, as well as grace, love and mercy.

If you have a low concept of God, you will have a low concept of Jesus Christ. If you have a dangerous concept of sin and yourself, you will have a distorted concept of Christ.

I recommend you read the book of Jude through several times. Take to heart its message. Dare to stand for Christ. Don't believe the "fake news" of the culture.

We are not called upon to always show a Cheshire-cat smile in this world. Sometimes, we must rebuke with all long-suffering and doctrine. We must contend for the faith. We must preserve truth but injure no one. We must destroy error without collateral damage.

Here is a simple outline of the last verses of Jude that provides a positive message for contenders for the faith:

- 1. Build Up (vs. 20)**
- 2. Pray Up (vs. 20)**
- 3. Keep Up (vs. 21)**
- 4. Look Up (vs. 21)**

God help us to minister with the true Word of God and not believe the popular "fake news." Ω

(Continued from page 5 - Proverb Practicals)

operate within the framework of the Scriptures? Can you rely upon the counsel that you receive?

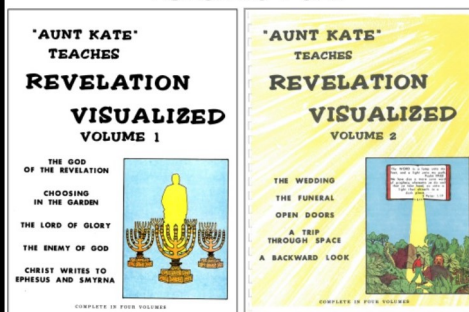
Just receiving counsel does not guarantee that your purpose will be established. You must be watchful that the counsel is within God's order of things. Be careful of the pride of relying on yourself alone lest the course that you take leads to disappointment and possible disgrace. The humble soul acknowledges God in all his ways, and engages the wisdom of others alongside the Scriptures. This is the prudent and safe course.

Ω

Good News! Good News!

A CLASSIC! Now Available at the CBC!

Aunt Kate's Revelation Visualized
VOLUMES 1 & 2



At first, some might think Revelation too difficult for young minds, but upon consideration, who would want to withhold such vital and thrilling truths from children?

- Spiral-bound 8.5 x 11"
- Sturdy cardstock
- 20 Full Color Illustrations

Five lessons ideally divided for weekly classes, DVBS, camps, and other teaching opportunities.

Place your order today!

(850)623-4015
childrensbibleclub.com
auntcarolyn@childrensbibleclub.com



(Continued from page 1 - Child Rearing)

that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years."

Preparation for Parenting

It really ought not to be thought unique that God used this particular couple to birth so important an instrument as John the Baptist. Look at the characteristics defined in verse 6.

United in Perspective – *"they were both"* – Far too frequently parents are not on the same page. The reason is self-evident. In the process of courtship, they were too infatuated with their mutual attraction to bother themselves with questions about their mutual convictions. Many of the issues which mutual conception must govern do not really surface until children come into the picture. It is a rude awakening to many parents when they discover that they don't have the same goals for their children, that they do not agree on issues of discipline, and that their motives for having children differ. The time to resolve those questions is long before children are born. Those issues ought to be forthrightly discussed and agreed upon prior marriage. It is significant that long before the birth of John, Zacharias and Elisabeth had the same life view, and therefore the same lifestyle.

Genuine in Position –

"righteous before God" – Righteousness has to do with right conduct as the result of right character. While some parents appear to be righteous before men, flaws in their character before God surface in the rebellion of their children. When parents recognize that the burden of their responsibility is primarily to be satisfied before God, they will become much more concerned about the reality of their own spiritual character.

Growth in Progress – *"walking"* – It is interesting to note how often the Bible compares the believer's life as a process of walking. As surely as babies learn to take their first ungainly steps and progress eventually to sufficient equilibrium to move about unaided, so do genuine believers. Christian growth is a process that takes time and attention. There is always hope for the home where parents are growing in grace. There is little hope for the home where Christian growth is stunted and atrophied. The best possible preparation for parenting involves serious efforts to obey the clear commands of Scripture to grow.

I Peter 2:2, *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*

II Peter 3:18, *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our*

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."

Grounded in Principle – *"in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord"* – The proper manual for child training is not Dr. Spock. It is the Bible! Thorough knowledge of God's Word is imperative for effective Christian living, much less effective parenting. No parents who are ignorant of God's truth can expect to lead their children to right character and conduct. Proper parenting requires serious Bible study.

Consistent in Practice – *"Blameless"* – Children generally emulate the godly example of their parents or stumble over their hypocrisy. There is more prospect for a child growing up in an unsaved home than there is for the children growing up in an inconsistent Christian home! Years before John was born, his parents practiced their faith personally, persistently, and practically. It should also be noted that the birth of John was the direct result of burdened prayer.

Luke 1:11-13, *"And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife*

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9 - Child Rearing)

Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

God's purpose for this new life was clearly given by prophecy.

Luke 1:14-17, *"And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

Luke 1:76-80, *"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel."*

Prospects of Parenting

The faithfulness of Zacharias and Elisabeth resulted in the development of a significant servant of God. Verse 80 calls attention to three important areas of development for every child.

Physical Development- *"the child grew"* – While growth in children is as natural as life itself, parents are responsible for the physical wellbeing of their children. In the age of "junk food," "couch potatoes," and "grunge," it is important that parents take the physical development of their children seriously. After all, the body is the vehicle of service for God. Surely that vehicle ought to be as healthy and prepared as possible.

Moral Development – *"waxed strong in spirit"* – Surely godly parents are concerned about the intellectual development of their children. Education is important. Yet it is tragic to educate the mind without thought for the development of the spirit. Character development must be primary in the growing years of childhood. This responsibility cannot be delegated to the school or the church. While a good Christian school and Christ honoring church enhance the character development of children, the burden for developing a strong spirit lies with the parents.

Spiritual Development – *"Was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel."* – It is interesting that John was carefully isolated from the evil of his day. It is pure foolishness to think that exposure to wickedness is the proper way to prepare children to face wickedness. Too many voices dismiss godly insulation in the home as creating "hot house" children. Tender plants need to be protected. Parents must be consumed with a burden for the spirituality of their offspring. Genuine burden will result in good choices.

Efforts will be made to make the spiritual education of the children equal in value to the intellectual education.

Dr. Milton Jones has pastored for more than 40 years. He attended Bob Jones University, graduating in 1974. He has served in several churches, most recently in Oak Forest, Illinois for 25 years. He has served on various boards including the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship, and Camp Joy in White-water, WI. He has also authored 34 books.

-Reprinted from Hephzibah Happenings, April 2017

Ω

*Please Pray
for the ministry of
The Projector.*



Stars of the Morning

SMOKEY *Blue*

by Aunt Carolyn



Some people *love* cats; some people *hate* cats; some people *tolerate* cats, but there's one thing for sure, there's one cat no one could *ignore*! On any given day, she might look like a *Royal Russian Blue* on exhibit at the National Capital Cat Show, or she might look like a plain gray alley cat. She was neither. She was an independent, proud, fine, respectable kitty! She could at once go from a self-important beastie ignoring everyone to softly curling up in her keeper's lap, purring in sweet contentment.

"Smokey" was well-named, because she was, indeed, the color of thick, gray smoke, except at times when the sunlight gave her a silvery blue hue. Then they called her "*Smokey Blue*" and declared how beautiful she was and that she surely was of royal descent! All this rolled right over Smokey, for she was not easily impressed.

She came to live with Grandma one winter day when her first dear family had to move to an apartment where pets were not allowed. ☹ It was a sad day for her family but a glad one for Grandma, ☺ for now she had a companion day or night, summer or winter, busy or not! They got along famously after they got acquainted. Grandma learned just where to rub and scratch Smokey to please her fancy and where *not* to rub to keep from getting bit or clawed. Smokey was quick to let one know what she didn't like! Her teeth or claws could bring blood in an instant! Smokey was *not* defenseless! Warning: Avoid her teeth and claws at all cost!

Her tail was a delight. Most cats go lolling their tails softly behind them – not Smokey. She proudly carried her tail straight up -- straight up with just a faint crook at the very end! If she walked in tall grass, you could spot her by her high-rise tail! If you smoothed it down, it popped right back up, straight as a stick! What a funny kitty! ☺

Smokey was a talker, too! You may know that dogs have about ten different vocal sounds, but cats have over one hundred,* and Smokey used every one! Not only did her "meows" and purrs have personality, she had many "under her breath" sounds

from little high pica squeaks to deep, rolling, guttural sounds. Grandma didn't understand them all, but she loved to hear the "talk", and, of course, Smokey knew exactly what they meant!

Smokey dined mostly on dry cat food, as she was not often allowed to roam outside to catch her own supper. There was one time, though, when she earned her keep and more! It happened one afternoon when little Ellie was playing in the yard and Smokey tagged along for the fun. She could always find bugs, moles, or something fun to catch. Ellie skipped through the grass, picking a dandelion bouquet for Grandma and chasing a butterfly fluttering overhead. Suddenly, Smokey ran right in front of the child and stopped! Ellie fussed, "Smokey, look what you made me do! I can't catch a butterfly if you're going to get in front and trip me! Now, *scat*!"

But Smokey didn't *scat*! She lunged forward with a powerful clutch of her sprawling paw. Her claws snagged the *big snake*, and instantly the two were twisting and rolling on the ground. Ellie screamed in terror!

Grandma came running and right before her eyes watched as Smokey and the snake wrestled and fought! Grandma got a hoe, but the battling enemies were so entangled that a blow with the hoe might have struck the wrong challenger. The fight went back and forth – Smokey on top with claws and teeth in full action, then the snake would get himself loose enough to wrap around the flailing kitty. The battle raged for an hour or so. How would it ever end? If the snake tried at all to slither away, Smokey was on it again! She would not give up! She would not quit! At last, the snake was still, blood, claw and teeth marks plainly showing the fierceness of the battle and marks of the noble victor! The snake was silent and dead! It could never terrify or harm anyone again! Smokey had won the battle!

But what of the Champion? What about Smokey? She lay flat on the ground next to her foe, her sides

(Continued on page 12)

**Pray for the ministry
of The PROJECTOR!**

***The* PROJECTOR**
6331 Chestnut Street
Milton, Florida 32570

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 38
Milton, Florida

--


heaving in exhaustion. Now and then she rose to check her prey, but the snake was dead! Smokey's victory was complete! Her courage to put her own life between the child and the evil snake made her the talk of the neighborhood! There were plenty of rewards for Smokey that night, but her best reward was to curl up in Grandma's lap and sleep,..and sleeeeep,..and sleeeeep! Zzzzz.

There can really be no comparison, but what Smokey did for Ellie that day is a small picture of what the Lord Jesus Christ did for you and me. Jesus put His life between the devil and us! As that snake would have harmed Ellie, Satan, (God calls him, "that old serpent, called the devil" (Rev. 12:9), hates God and wants to keep every child from Him. Peter said, "Your *adversary* the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). When Jesus gave His life on the cross of Calvary, He not only paid for our sin, He also defeated the devil! The devil knows his final place is in hell, and he wants boys and girls to go there with him. He has many deceitful ways to hold children in sin and keep them from trusting Christ. He makes sin look inviting. He makes kids believe

that it won't hurt to disobey or that they won't get caught doing wrong, or that it's no big deal. But those are Satan's lies! The Bible says, "Be sure your sins will find you out" (Num. 32:23). Sooner or later you *will* get caught. God sees everything, and you can't get by! "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23a) - eternal death in hell with no hope of escape. But Jesus *died* to save you from sin and hell, and He *lives* to give you eternal life. He *is* the way of escape! He said, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36), and, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall *never* die" (John 11:26). Admit that you are a sinner and need the Savior. Receive Christ, and give your life to obey and serve Him with all your heart!

Ω

* "But Did You Know This?" The Church Bus News, March-April 2005. (Author Unknown).


**Pray for the ministry
of The PROJECTOR!**

that it won't hurt to disobey or that they won't get caught doing wrong, or that it's no big deal. But those are Satan's lies! The Bible says, "Be sure your sins will find you out" (Num. 32:23). Sooner or later you *will* get caught. God sees everything, and you can't get by! "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23a) - eternal death in hell with no hope of escape. But Jesus *died* to save you from sin and hell, and He *lives* to give you eternal life. He *is* the way of escape! He said, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36), and, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall *never* die" (John 11:26). Admit that you are a sinner and need the Savior. Receive Christ, and give your life to obey and serve Him with all your heart!

 Ω

* “But Did You Know This?” The Church Bus
News, March-April 2005. (Author Unknown).