

# Trumpet Sounds

He that has an ear, let him hear...

December 2024

## HUMANITY'S JOURNEY Teaching Series newsletter



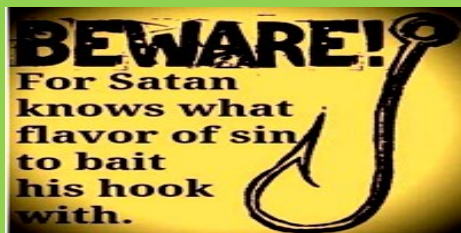
Karen Connell

### Humanity's Journey into Ultimate Victory

"For no one is cast off by the Lord forever" Lamentations 3:31

#### Inside This Issue:

PART 6: The Marriage and Marriage Supper of the Lamb.....	1
Don't be Deceived by Pagan Christianity.....	13
Enduring Faith: Do We Really Have it?.....	19
Resource Order form.....	24



### A NEW EXPANDED book edition!

To be released January 2025

## Humanity's Journey

### Into Ultimate Victory

#### Teaching Series PART 6

#### The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

For the first 500 years of Christianity, the doctrine of ultimate reconciliation, salvation and restoration known as APOKATASTASIS was a prevalent Biblical truth, which was taught by the founding twelve apostles. This book gives an overview of how and why this truth has all but disappeared from modern Christianity. The topic of the mistranslation into Latin, of Key words from the original Greek and Hebrew texts is also historically and scripturally proven. The book reveals how these errors led to false teachings especially regarding the subjects of hell and eternal punishment, which were propagated by early pagan gnostic scholars that began invading the Christian church, during the time of the Apostle Paul's ministry. The book also reveals many Biblical and historical proofs that are counter to much of what the current institutional and evangelical churches teach regarding the subjects of hell and the Lake of fire in light of eternal punishment. The Scriptural and historical truth regarding these things have been hidden and lost to the majority of Christians for centuries after the start of Christianity. However, there has always been a remnant of God's "truth seekers" who have found and shared many of these little-known Biblical truths, which are revealed in the **NEW expanded edition of this book.**



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## PART 6: The Marriage and Marriage Supper of the Lamb

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### **Revelation 19:7**

***Let us be glad and rejoice and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.***

*\*(All scripture is from the KJV/NKJV unless otherwise indicated, all parentheses found in Scripture texts in this chapter are added for more literal clarification.)*

**W**hen it comes to the subject of the Marriage and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb there is much more to this topic than what most Christians have been taught. The phrase "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb" ... is only used in one place in the New Testament, which is in (Revelation 19:5,7-9). It is, however, also alluded to by Jesus in the parables of the marriage feast, which are mentioned in the chapters of (Matthew 22 and 25 and also in Luke 12).

The Hebrew marriage customs in the Bible reveal the pattern for the marriage of God's son Jesus Christ and His bride (also referred to as the Bridehood of Saints of God as mentioned in previous chapters). This pattern involves three major events...

### **THE FIRST EVENT: BETROTHAL**

The first event is the betrothal, meaning the establishment of the marriage covenant that bind the man (i.e. Jesus Christ) and woman (i.e. the Bride of Christ/sanctified Bridehood saints) who are bound together by a legal contract/covenant as husband and wife and can only be legally broken by the husband through divorce if his wife was found to be unclean or unfaithful. This is illustrated in the circumstances of Mary's conception of Jesus through the Holy Spirit during her betrothal to Joseph, which at one point Joseph considered giving Mary a bill of divorcement, until an Angel of God appeared and explained the circumstances of Mary's pregnancy as being God's gift from the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 1:18-20).

Betrothed couples did not live together, for the man would depart to go and prepare a place for his bride in his father's house and would eventually return to take his bride from her dwelling place to her new home with him.

### **John 14:2-4**

**2 In my Father's house are many mansions/rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."** ESV

### **2 Corinthians 11:2**

**For I am jealous for you** *(Paul speaking to his Christian converts)* **with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste** *(made clean or sanctified)* **virgin** *(remaining unmarried or not following after any other but being true only)* **to Christ.**

Please note in the previous text the apostle Paul makes the point that his desire is to bring believers to Christ as betrothed virgins. A spiritual virgin represents a person who has come to believe that Jesus Christ is the only one true God and desires to make a vow of betrothal (a vow of total commitment to Him only).

Please note however, the apostle Paul's desire is not just for believers in Christ to become just betrothed virgins but to present them to the Lord as betrothed "chaste" virgins. When a believer gets born again and makes the decision to die to and leave behind his old life of sin through their act of water baptism, this represents their covenant vow of betrothal to Him.

This betrothal through water baptism is a binding covenant vow of marriage to remain faithful to and to honor and love the one they are espoused to. Sadly many professing Christians who have been baptized in water, do not remain faithful and committed to Jesus Christ while they are waiting for him to return. This is because they do not become or fail to remain "**chaste**" ... which is the Greek word:

NT:53 **hagnos** (hag-nos'); also translated as: clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, pure (sanctified), perfect (mature).

Professing Christians who are virgins (represent born again believers who promise to remain unmarried and stay set apart from all others and remain faithful to Jesus Christ). Unfortunately, not all virgins are chaste virgins which is due to the fact they are not filled with or do not stay filled with the anointing of the Holy Spirit, because they quench His presence by having an illicit love affair with this world...

#### 1 John 2:15-17

**15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the (agape) love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for (Soulish) emotional and physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father but are from this world (as temptations from Satan the god of this world). 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will abide into the age.<sup>1</sup> ALT (parenthesis added for literal clarity).**

#### James 4:4-5

**4 You [are like] unfaithful (espoused) wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love? AMP**

This first event of betrothal is also alluded to and expanded upon in the parable of the 10 virgins mentioned in (Matthew 25:1-13). A study of this text in its original language clearly reveals the following things ...

- This parable reveals that there were ten virgins. This is significant because the number 10 represents God's judgment, testing and completeness (*wholeness/maturity*). These (3) things are the necessary elements used by God to make believers who vow to follow Christ (*as virgins*) into chaste virgins. In (vs. 1) it states all 10 virgins "took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom."
- The phrase **took their lamps** in the original Greek text denotes: *exercising responsibility for their lamp (in [Proverbs 20:27] it states the spirit of man is the candle/lamp of/from the Lord [i.e. representing our human spirit as the receptacle for God's light/revelation truth for which regenerated Christians are responsible for maintaining to keep filled with Holy Spirit's anointing/oil (anointed words of truth). Also regenerated Christians are responsible for trimming (purging/sanctifying) their wicks (hearts) by cooperating with God to accomplish the work of holiness in their lives).*
  - Being filled with the anointing and staying purged of anything that hinders our ability to discern the truth is necessary, otherwise when we stand before God in judgment our works will be deemed unworthy of recognition and reward, and we will also be in need of further purging by fire (a veiled reference to the 2nd death to all defilement in God's lake of fire) in order to be saved/restored/healed...

**1 Corinthians 3:13,15**

**13 each one's work will become clear<sup>2</sup>; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved (also means restored), but so as through fire.**



This parable clearly reveals there will be two classes of virgins in the Kingdom (*that is established from*) heaven. The first class is that of the five wise virgins representing those who have their spirit (*lamps*) were filled with oil/God's anointing from the Holy Spirit, and the Wicks are trimmed and ready for receiving the light.

Out of the ten virgins there were five virgins who were foolish. The word foolish is literally defined as having a heart that *lacks understanding and discernment* thus producing character of *poor quality*. The word is also used in (Luke 14:34) as to salt that has lost its ability for enhancing flavor (i.e. discernment). This is the condition of those who are not **chaste (faithful) virgins** as described from the above text in (James 4:4-5).

When the truth was made known that the Bridegroom was coming all of the virgins knew their "lamps (wicks/souls) must be trimmed (purged) in order to manifest God's light which requires the anointing (oil) from the Holy Spirit. The wise chaste virgins had the anointing (oil) from the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lamp (spirit), however this was not the case of the foolish virgins...

**Matthew 25:8**

***And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil (in other words "impart your anointing to us), for our lamps are going out (i.e. the Holy Spirit is being quenched in us).'***

- The wise virgins said they could not "impart" their anointing to them, but advised them to obtain their own oil by paying the required price to possess it.

**Matthew 25:9**

**But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell (the supplier) and buy (pay the require a price to obtained it) for yourselves.'**

A false teaching that has been floating around for the past several decades in the false prophetic/apostolic movement is that of people getting an impartation of another person's anointing by having it imparted to them from the one who is anointed. This account is included in Benny Hinn's personal testimony telling of when he laid on Kathryn Kuhlman's grave in order to receive her healing anointing.

This was supposedly based upon (2 Kings 13:20-22) which states a corpse was thrown into the prophet Elisha's grave and when it came into contact with his bones, the person returned to life. What is not said about this, is that the ministries and miracles of the Old Testament prophets were sovereignly chosen and given to only a few who were chosen by God and after the death and resurrection of Christ all born again believers still function under the auspices of the Holy Spirit, whose gifts and callings are still according to the will of God and not through some spiritual osmosis (absorption of a spiritual gift or anointing) from someone God has anointed. This means the appointing and fulfillment of our callings and the impartation of gifts that we receive are from God's Holy Spirit and are according to His choosing and are dependent upon our spiritual state...

**Revelation 3:18-19**

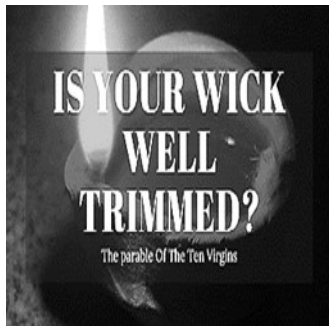
**I counsel you to buy from Me gold (*true purity*) refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and that you may be clothed with white garments, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as (*literally: all that*) I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.**

**1 Corinthians 12:5-7, 11**

**5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord... 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all... 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

**THE FIRST EVENT: A SEASON OF PREPARATION**

We are now in the season of preparation. All oil lamps (born again spirits) have wicks (hearts) that need trimming, (purging) or we will give off a lot of soot or defilement that will dull and distort our discernment from the light (God's truth). The wick is symbolic of our heart. Out of the heart flows the issues of life. When the heart is impure you give off black sooty smoke from untrimmed selfishness, ambition, bitterness etc. What Jesus is saying is that we need to deal with the besetting sins in our hearts and love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.



Trimming the wick speaks of sanctification and repentance. Cutting away things that are defiling our hearts. We need to be constantly saturated with the Holy Spirit's anointing oil that teaches us all things. This is something that both the wise and foolish virgins had to do. If we don't keep our Wicks trimmed over time our hearts can get weighed down with darkness from the soot of unresolved sin issues that have not been trimmed away and dull our discernment and damage our Christian character.

Our lamp (*representing our new born-again spiritual vessel*) is to give out light so we can be discerning and for others to see God's truth. We all need to guard our hearts for it is the wellspring of life.

When we carry around any "defiling soot" such as of unforgiveness, offence, bitterness, pride, envy, jealousy, disappointments, trauma, grief, betrayals, or anything that is dulling our discernment, we need to deal with cleansing our hearts. We need to humble ourselves (continually) and confess our wrong deeds that need to be trimmed/purged. Each of us needs to trim our wicks and sort those issues out. Yes, it is very often a hard painful process but is sorely needed in order to experience genuine repentance and the change of heart God has promised to all true followers of Jesus Christ.

The foolish virgins are not always intentionally evil people. They are, however, fearful, and lazy because they do not have as their number one priority intimacy with Jesus. They look to the others to give them their anointed revelation (oil). No one can give that to us. We must personally be willing to pay the price to obtain (buy) it. This means we must be willing to give up something we value in exchange for possessing it. We must invest time with God so we can have a personal history with Him. As mentioned previously, the anointing is not transferable. No one can lay hands on you and give it to you. No one can pray you into intimacy with God. We must *do something ourselves to cultivate personal intimacy with God* in order to be ready for Jesus' return. We must be members of the Bridehood Saints that have made themselves ready.

Are we really preparing for the glorious heavenly marriage of all time? Do not be deceived for there is a cleansing and a beautification process required in order to receive the beauty of holiness in preparation for that glorious and long-awaited day. Jesus told us to Watch and stay alert. Most importantly we must be daily watching for what is happening in our heart, regarding the influences that are affecting us. We must be looking for places of brokenness and any disconnection from the truth.

We must also worship daily at the altar of self-sacrifice and be willing to die daily by cutting off our worship—meaning our serving and loving anything that is a priority above that of Jesus Christ. This will determine whether we will be allowed to enter the place Jesus has prepared for His true Bride within the New Jerusalem. Without having genuine intimacy, that results in purity that brings honour and glory to the Bridegroom, we will not be allowed to enter in. When the door is shut it will be heartbreaking to be left out and to hear...

**“I never knew you”**— all because we failed to develop true intimacy with Jesus Christ. Many are happy with His benefits and what He can do for us but do not want to put in the time and work required for knowing Him. The wise virgins enjoy their intimacy and will ultimately celebrate with joy at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

The key thing is to be ready. We must allow God to trim our wick—cleanse our heart—and invest in intimacy with Jesus Christ (*the living Word of God*) so our light will shine clear and not be defiled with a mixture of black soot. Most of all we must thank God that we have his Holy Spirit who helps us in our required preparation.

## THE SECOND EVENT: THE TAKING AWAY OF THE BRIDE

The second event in the marriage ceremony was the taking away of the bride ...by the groom from her dwelling place to His father’s house. The parable in (Matthew 25) goes on to reveal that because the foolish virgins were not prepared and ready to meet him at His coming.

Therefore, they did not participate in the processional to the place of the wedding feast and were not allowed to enter into the place of the wedding after the bridegroom returned... they were left behind. The place where the Marriage of the lamb and His bride is consummated and where the Marriage Supper of the Lamb occurs is in the Heavenly New Jerusalem.

### Matthew 25:10-12

**10 And while they (*the foolish virgins*) went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those (*wise chaste/pure virgins*) who were ready went in with him to the wedding; (*in the New Jerusalem*) and the door (*entrance*) was shut. 11 "Afterward the other (*foolish*) virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' (*I have no intimate relationship with you*). (*Parenthesis for literal and contextual clarity.*)**

This is the “place” Jesus has prepared where He and his chaste virgin bride will become lawfully united and where they will spend eternity/aionion = continual ages among ages together...

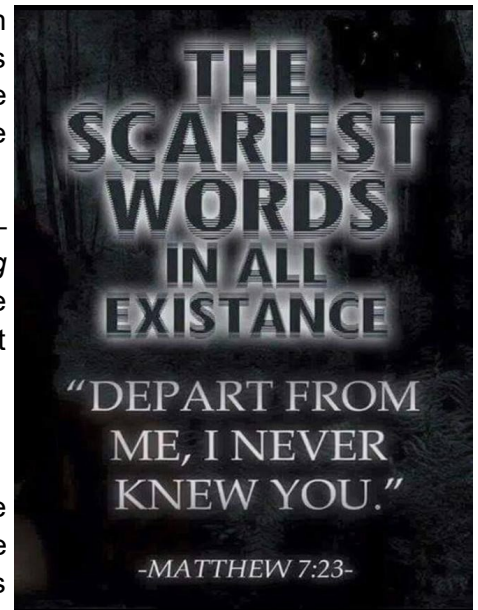
### Revelation 21:2-3

**Then I, John, saw the holy Jerusalem, coming down (to the New Earth) out of heaven from God, prepared for a bride adorned (with chasteness) for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men (humanity), and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**

### Revelation 21:23,27

**23 And the city has no need of the sun, nor of the moon, that they may shine in it; for the glory of God lightens it, and the lamp (i.e. anointed revelation truth) it [is from] the Lamb (Jesus Christ the WORD of God)...YLT 27 But nothing that (lit: is considered) defiled or profane or is unwashed (not cleansed) shall ever (lit: by no means) enter it, nor anyone who commits (practices) abominations (defiling, detestable, morally repugnant things) or practices falsehood (deception), but only those whose names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. AMP (parenthesis added for literal clarity).**

This *second event* of the bridegroom *taking the bride* is representative by the rapture of the Bridehood Saints by their groom (Jesus Christ) from her earthly dwelling place and is taken to His father’s heavenly home in the holy city of the New Jerusalem. This is the “essence of the marriage ceremony.”



It involves the completion or consummation of the marriage through the physical uniting of the Bridehood Saints with Jesus Christ, and ended with the joyous celebration called the **marriage supper** that was usually **a week-long celebration**. Since this second step was the essence of the Hebrew marriage ceremony and was regarded as the wedding or marriage (Mt. 22:2–13; 25:10-12). Thus, this second step corresponds to the expression “marriage of the Lamb” in (Revelation 19:7).

### THE THIRD EVENT: THE WEDDING FEAST

The third event was the marriage supper or feast to which guests had already been called and assembled. Here the marriage is consummated between Christ and his bridehood saints and the wedding guests would celebrate during a seven day feast (Genesis 29:21–23, 27–28; Judges 14:1–2, 10–12, 17), and corresponds to the expression “marriage supper of the Lamb” as in (Revelation 19:9). The text in (Revelation 19:5) reveals **two categories** of those who attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb— **the first category are his servants; the second category are those who fear him**. Within these two categories there are the **small** and the **great** servants and...the **small** and the **great** who fear him,

#### Revelation 19:5

**Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants AND those who fear Him (i.e. These are the Cornelius type believers), both small and great "**

\***The first category** are believers in God who minister to others by Godly practices. The second category are those who fear the true and living God and honor him such as Cornelius the gentile Roman centurion). Within both of these two categories there were people also identified as **small** and as **great**...

- **Small** is the Greek word (NT:3986 **peirasmos** (pi-ras-mos'); (Grammatically it is an adjective that can also be predicative acting as an implied verb of being): derived from NT:3985; cleansing our hearts. We need to humble ourselves (continually) and **confess** our wrong deeds that need to be trimmed/purged. Each of us needs to trim our wicks and sort those issues out. Yes, it is very often a hard painful process but is sorely needed in order to experience genuine repentance and the change of heart God has promised to all true followers of Jesus Christ.

The foolish virgins are not necessarily intentionally evil people. They are, however, fearful, and lazy because they do not have as their number one priority intimacy with Jesus. They look to the others to give them their anointed revelation (oil). No one can give that to us. We must personally be willing to pay the price to obtain (buy) it. This means we must be willing to give up something we value in exchange for possessing it. We must invest time with God so we can have a personal history with Him. As mentioned previously, the anointing is not transferable. No one can lay hands on you and give it to you. No one can pray you into intimacy with God. We must *do something ourselves to cultivate personal intimacy with God* in order to be ready for Jesus' return. We must be members of the Bridehood Saints that have made themselves ready.

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When the door is shut it will be heartbreaking to be left out and to hear... **"I never knew you"**- all because we failed to develop true intimacy with Jesus Christ. Many are happy with His benefits and what He can do for us but do not want to put in the time and work required for knowing Him. The wise virgins enjoy their intimacy and will ultimately celebrate with joy at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

- **Great** is the Greek word (NT:3173 megas (meg'-as); it means full-grown CWSD: states it means those who possess great power, dignity, authority, with the emphasis placed upon maturity. These are spiritually mature believers who have been spiritually birthed (i.e. born again and have made themselves ready and possess the dignity, power and authority as members of the bridehood Saints).

The text in (Revelation 19:7-9) goes on to further allude to these two categories as those attending the marriage supper of the lamb.

#### Revelation 19:7-9

**7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife (the betrothed bridehood Saints) has made herself ready (NT:2092 "adjusted and fit" ... to become a Saint). 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts (NT:1345 CWSD: the legal rights and claims) of the saints. 9 Also he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are CALLED to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."**

Thus, the above text from (Revelation 19) reveals the contractual WIFE (i.e. the faithful betrothed of Christ/ the mature Saints) who have made themselves ready (literally: made any needed adjustments so they would be counted worthy and fit) for the arrival of by the bridegroom to be (raptured) taken to their wedding convocation (meaning: gathering, i.e. representing meeting the Lord in the air) where the bride would be ceremonially united with the bridegroom, and together be among those who were invited as guests to be in attendance at the wedding feast, (i.e. Marriage Supper of the Lamb). The wedding feast would last for a designated period of time. The bride and her husband would then reside in their new residence (i.e. called the New Jerusalem) the place Jesus Christ had gone to prepare a place for his Bridehood Saints. Jesus told His followers:

#### John 14:2-3

**In my Father's house (NT:3614 dwelling place) are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I'm going to prepare a place for you... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you UNTO (can also be translated as "within") myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

#### Revelation 21:9-10

**I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife... And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.**

In Matthew's parable a wedding feast was prepared by a king, representing God the father who were invited many to come to this marriage supper for his son (Jesus Christ). Not only did these guests (representing national Israel) reject their invitation, but they also murdered the servants (the prophets and apostles) sent to give them their invitation.

#### Matthew 22:6-10

**6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then said he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were invited were not worthy.**

**9 Go therefore into the highways, and as many as you shall find, invite to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad (*gentiles of bad immoral character*) and good (*gentiles of quality character*): and the wedding was furnished with guests.**

The nation of Israel's rejection of God's son, Jesus Christ resulted in the judgment of destruction that they brought upon themselves.

#### **Matthew 22:11-14**

**And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment ...So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless... Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

Notice in the above text that Jesus Called the man without a wedding garment a "friend." When you read the Gospel narratives of Jesus' ministry, they reveal that Jesus had many people who followed Him. However, when it was made plain to those following Him, that it was going to require laying down their own lives and picking up their cross to follow Him. Only those who were His true friends stayed with him. When Jesus called the person without a wedding garment "friend"—this is the Greek word...

- **FRIEND NT:2083 *hetairos* (het-ah'-ee-ros); meaning" an associate, or comrade; CWSD states: it means one who had adopted another's philosophy of life.**

These are those who wanted to be a true friend by helping the one they associate with. The inference, therefore, is that it means they were more than just a mere acquaintance or one who just seeks his own interests above the interests of thier associates. An acquaintance may be keep company with those they associate with but primarily it is for their own advantage. For this person the good of others is acceptable only when promotes their own well-being. There are many who call themselves "followers" of Christ (i.e. Christians) because they adopt his philosophy of life, but it is for self-serving reasons. Their motive being... what Jesus can do for them, rather than for what they can do for Him. Those with ungodly self-centered motives will be shocked to find they were judged as unacceptable and not worthy of receiving a wedding garment (a symbol of possessing true intimacy being a close comrade and not just a mere associate or acquaintance and is thus found worthy of participating in the wedding feast).

#### **Luke 21:36**

**Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**

#### **Luke 20:35-36**

**But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world (*new heavens and new earth*), and also (obtain) the resurrection from the dead (lit: recovery from spiritual death), neither marry, nor are given in marriage... Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the (*literally: existing as*) children of the resurrection.**

## **CORNELIUS TYPE BELIEVERS: MARRIAGE SUPPER GUESTS**

There will be *unregenerated* (not yet born again) believers (in the one true God) at the wedding feast who will have on their "wedding garment proving they are a (justified) invited guest." In the following text is a capsulated version from the NLT Bible, a synopsis concerning a Roman officer named *CORNELIUS*...

In (John 6:54-58) it describes what Jesus serves the guests at the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**, which again happens after the rapture or the gathering of His bride to meet Him in the air. It is at this marriage supper that Jesus ministers the Bread of life (His words of life bringing complete healing, deliverance and restoration ) to all in attendance and He also ministers the cup representing complete forgiveness and cleansing from all sin.

This act of ministry also fulfills what Jesus said before he went to the cross at His Last Supper (which represents the intimate time of communion that takes place with each attendee at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.) Because the word "communion" (in my online English Dictionary) defines this as: **the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level**. This reveals Jesus' ministry to those at the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb** is going to be a time of examination, correction, repentance and salvation from all **wrong thoughts** in the form of *wrong teachings, opinions and ideas* as well as all wrong feelings (attitudes), and that need to be corrected and repented of by these righteous **Marriage Supper** attendees. All *wrong thoughts and feelings* that were not dealt with during their *sanctification process* on earth, will be exchanged for the truth allowing them access to their home prepared by Jesus for all His saints in the heavenly city NEW JERUSALEM.

### **Luke 22:16, 18**

***For I tell you now that I won't eat (partake) of this (the Passover) again until it (the Passover) is FULFILLED in the Kingdom of God... 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.*** (emphasis mine).

Jesus ate the Passover, which is often referred to as the Last Supper with his disciples before he was to become the means for salvation for all humanity and also at that time He instituted the Christian practice of taking communion called the Lord's Supper...

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

**23 Jesus took bread... 24 And when He had given thanks, He broke [it] and said, Take, eat. This is My body, which is broken for you. Do this to call Me [affectionately] to remembrance... 25 Similarly when supper was ended, He took the cup also saying, This cup is the new covenant [ratified and established] in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink [it], to call Me [affectionately] to remembrance... 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are representing and signifying and proclaiming the fact of the Lord's death until He comes [again]... 27 So then whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a way that is unworthy [of Him] will be guilty of [profaning and sinning against] the body and blood of the Lord... 28 Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup. AMP**

When He ate the Jewish Passover for the *last time* before his crucifixion, it was to be the last time Jesus would eat the Passover because the next **communion meal** He would share with His followers would find the Passovers' *final fulfillment* in the *Marriage Supper of the Lamb*. Until then his followers after his death were told to celebrate a time of "communion" called the Lord's Supper as described in the above text.

The former Passover commemorated the rescue of God's people from Egypt (representing Satan's world dominion) and their bondage to slavery under the Egyptians (representing Satan's antichrist type world rulers). The Hebrews freedom from these was the foreshadowing of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ that would release humanity from their slavery to Satan's world system founded upon sin. Therefore, when Jesus says, "I will not eat it (the Passover) until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God," he is talking about his approaching crucifixion but more especially the end fulfillment when his sacrifice would end the animal sacrificial system and result in the resurrection of all creation into continual aionian (age long) life. Therefore, at any point that any human becomes a believer in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the atonement for their sin, (whether before or after their physical death) they become eligible for their resurrection into continual **aionion life**.

The wedding supper in (Luke 12: 35-37), fulfilled the following text that offended many and caused them to quit following Jesus because they did not understand what he was telling them by eating his flesh and drinking his blood...

#### John 6:54-58

**Whoever eats My flesh (*Jesus is the bread (truth) of life*) and drinks My blood (*cleansing from sin*) has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread (*living word of God*) which came down from heaven — not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever" (*on into continual aiōnian (age long) life*).**

Again, keep in mind that not all *unregenerate people who profess to be believers in God, and who may even do good works*... will qualify for receiving a "wedding garment." Their works maybe good (*beneficial*) but they are not "right works" their *motives* for good works are not acceptable to the Lord, because they are self-serving, rather than God honoring, such as those of Cornelius. Many like him truly do believe in the Most High God (e.g., like the devil does), but their belief is not motivated by being *God fearing* or *God honoring*, so they do not qualify for receiving the wedding "garment of righteousness." These "wedding guests" at the marriage supper who are going to be ministered to personally and intimately by the Lord, are the "other sheep" that Jesus spoke about...

#### John 10:16

**And I have other sheep (*God honoring believers who need to be regenerated*) that are not of this fold (*who were not gathered to meet Him in the air*)...I must bring them also (*to the marriage supper of the Lamb*), and they will listen to my voice (*I personally teach and counsel and commune with them*). So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ESV**

Belief and reverential fear such as Cornelius had, in the true and living God caused him to want to honor God and do what is right.

#### Romans 12:3

**... but think soberly, for God has dealt to each one (*who believes*) a measure of faith.**

#### Romans 2:14-15

**For when (*Cornelius type*) Gentiles, who do not have the written law, but by their nature do things written in the law, these, although not having the written law, are a law to themselves... who show the work from (*their measure of faith*) that the law is written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts are either accusing or excusing them.**

I personally can testify that no matter how young or old one is, when there comes into existence a time, in which an awareness and a willingness to *believe in* the one true God occurs, this belief activates our measure of faith. This happens even though it may be as small as a grain of a mustard seed, allowing the *unregenerated believer* to experience the reality of the one true God. God has no favorites as the Apostle Peter stated, so ethnicity, gender or age is not a factor in becoming acceptable to God.

I vividly remember as a *four-year-old child*, sitting in my little chair in the basement of a church, with a group of Sunday school children, and for the first-time *hearing and singing*... "*Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so*" ...and I still remember to this day, that as I sang that song, I truly *believed* the words that came out of my mouth. At that moment on that day many years ago,

I came to believe there was a God, and his name was Jesus and that he genuinely loved me because it said so in the Bible. That little 4-year-old girl as she sang that song, experienced a first time revelation of God's love, which she so desperately needed, because of her parents being alcoholics and being raised in a very abusive, dysfunctional, unhappy family home environment.

Therefore, *hearing* brought faith for *believing* for the first time in my very young life that God loved me. This revelation of truth had an enormously powerful supernatural impact upon my heart, which God used throughout the years to ultimately *draw me* into being born again and to becoming a completely sold-out follower of Jesus Christ. Coming to that place with God of course, took many years filled with many tears and trials, but I continued believing Jesus loved me and that eventually brought me into a living relationship with my Savior.

God is now preparing the remnant of His Bridehood Saints (*chosen ones*) to be ready for His coming. A Bride without spot, wrinkle, or blemish. God uses all of our painful experiences to help us *mature* and become ready to meet Him in this final age in which we are now living. Thus, we must honestly ask ourselves...am I prepared to meet Jesus face to face?



# PAGAN CHRISTIANITY?

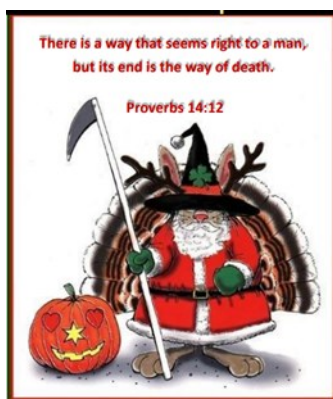
Compiled By  
Karen Connell

"I hate Christmas!" These are words I had uttered for many years, during a season that is considered by many Christians to be HOLY season bringing peace on earth. Yaw right! It was anything but that in my life! But now I must share with you why I said, "I hate Christmas!" — without really understanding at that time why I felt this way. I even felt condemned for feeling that way—until God opened my eyes and showed me—He felt the same way! I came to the realization that my carnal nature loved Christmas, (and other pagan practices) but my born-again godly spirit nature hated it, and now I know why! The information contained in this article, which is an excerpt from my **Christianized Pagan Practices Watchman Report** is undeniable proof from the Word of God and from historical research, as to why this is so. Please read on and let the truth set you free as it has me!

Regrettably, mankind continues to think he can navigate his own moral path, and even do so with God's blessing. Nothing more graphically demonstrates this truth than the antibiblical festivals he celebrates. Consider Christmas, for example. This day is hands down the most popular celebration in professing Christianity. Unfortunately, there isn't a hint in the scriptures that God approves of it. On the contrary, the Bible condemns every part of such festivals. Furthermore, almost all professing Christian ministers are aware of this fact. Some will even reluctantly acknowledge the pagan roots of this day.

However, hot on the heels of this acknowledgement is a steady stream of human arguments advanced in defense of this worldwide celebration. The fallacy of Christmas is easy to detect for those who have come out of this world's religions and its pagan festivals. Not only do the Scriptures expose these days as false, but the arguments presented by their adherents also reveal how worthless these days are. Because there is no Biblical justification for them, professing Christianity either twists God's word to defend these holidays or, they spin a tale of humanly contrived arguments designed to excuse the inexcusable. Either way the result is a lie.

## POPULAR ARGUMENTS DEFENDING PAGAN HOLIDAYS, FESTIVALS AND PRACTICES



What follows are a few of the most popular arguments employed by the defenders of Christmas. As you read each one ask yourself if these points reflect the wisdom of God's Word or the human rationalizing wisdom of men. The answer should be obvious. One argument is that of Manipulating the Truth. One of the most popular examples for manipulating the truth is given frequently by the proponents of Christmas, which is that **the Bible actually condones this holiday**. They offer as proof the synoptic Gospels' record of Jesus' birth. According to this reasoning, because the Bible spends several chapters describing the events surrounding the Messiah's birth and infancy, His followers can now celebrate a holiday they claim has been dedicated to this event.

What they fail to grasp is that nowhere that nowhere in the Bible is there even a hint that early Christians ever engaged in this celebration. **This is because the apostolic church did not keep such festivals.** They rightly saw such things as idolatrous. It is true the early Christian church (mainly composed of Jewish believers), during the apostolic period, continued to observe Jewish festivals like Passover. They saw the true meaning of their Jewish festivals as being fulfilled by the Biblical foreshadowing of Jesus' sacrifice, as well as other feast and holy days as Biblically fulfilled prophetic typological holy days. They incorporated their fulfilled prophetic meaning into their observance; as supported by the Scriptures. Passages in the New Testament, especially in the writings of Paul, mention the celebration of these Jewish feasts by early believers.

Again, the feasts and holy days (holidays) they celebrated were NOT originally pagan feasts that they were trying to Christianize but were Biblical feasts established by God Himself as revealed in Scripture.

### CHRISTIANIZED PAGAN PRACTICES



You see, son, we buy a Christmas tree to celebrate an ancient Pagan tradition stolen by Christians.

Furthermore, professing Christian leaders today disguise the fact that the timing, as well as the cloaking of Christmas or any other pagan holiday or practice, in some Biblical looking way, such as the story of Jesus' birth, or any other thing, is one of the greatest cons ever perpetrated by the (Catholic) church. *Using Scripture to try and Christianize a Pagan holiday is not driven by a desire to seek out God's wisdom, but rather by a desire to justify what is not Biblical.*

**(Jer. 3:6, 10:3-4)"Have you seen that which backsliding Israel has done? She is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot... For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax... They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple."**

The presence of pagan **tree worship** is woven throughout history. Even the ancient people of Palestine engaged in this practice. They would often tie the tops of trees together in groves and make a shrine to nature. On certain occasions, they would cut an image such as a phallic symbol in the tree and worship before it.

To those who are truly honest with themselves, Christmas and other pagan practices are nothing more than **a fable pretending to have meaning**. Actually, if one looks at it closely, it is hard to imagine why any Bible believer would ever want to have anything to do with pagan practices. Despite this truth, Christmas not only dominates the secular world but the professing Christian world as well. Why? Because it appeals to everything that is human. Those who advance the argument that because they use scriptures describing Jesus' birth, to disguise the pagan origins of a holiday in order to legitimize celebrate it ...is simply wrong. They may be well intended, but this stream of logic flies directly in the face of **(Proverbs 3:5) a wise person will listen and continue to learn, and this understanding person will gain direction—**

## PROCLAIMING THE BENEFITS OF SIN

One of the greatest arguments offered in defense of Christmas and Easter for instance, is that it brings families together. For many this is unquestionably a fact. During these holiday seasons virtually millions of celebrants come together with friends and relatives and enjoy great moments with those they love most. To many around the world it seems inconceivable that anyone, let alone God, would discourage such holidays. Although this reasoning may resonate with millions of “believers,” **it is not biblical.** On the contrary it is driven by the belief that *the way something makes you feel determines its standing with God.* In the words of a famous Debbie Boone, Grammy Award winning Christian song of the 70’s, Called **You Light Up My Life.** **Satan who is called the Angel of light in the Bible** is lighting up the hearts of American Christians as well as their streets and neighborhoods throughout the nations with his subtle Pagan lies—the song **You Light Up My Life** ended with the line... **“It can’t be wrong if it feels so right.”** As hard as this might be to believe this is simply a clever lie of Satan.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> How could a song like "You Light UP My Life" be considered to be a "Christian song" when it was written by Joseph Brooks, born Joseph Kaplan (a Jew) who was an ungodly man and said to have had narcissistic personality disorder, who was also accused of a series of casting-couch rapes (of which he was indicted in 2009), but committed suicide on May 22, 2011, before his trial. Because a professing Christian sang it and tried to Christianize it—many called it a “worship song.” However, the lyrics, “It can’t be wrong if it feels so right” clearly depicts Satan’s lie—causing Christians to be brainwashed by his deception concerning “feelings”... This song glorifies Lucifer (the evil angel disguised as a messenger of light) and does not glorify our eternal God who is the true light!

Beaware that “subjective spirituality” has invaded Christianity... which means, it must FEEL right to be right, but God warns His people:

**“...seek not after your own heart (feelings/desires) and your own eyes (your personal understanding/perspectives), which you use to go a whoring (to commit idolatry/adultery)... remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.” (Num 15:39-40) (parenthesis mine for literal clarity.)**

Throughout the Bible, God warns against judging things based on their appearance (how we see it rather than on how God sees it). Unfortunately, man has rejected this instruction since the beginning. The Bible even records that Eve was enticed to eat the forbidden fruit because it was *“pleasant to the eye”* (Gen 3:6). **The belief that good is beautiful and that evil is ugly goes contrary to God’s word.** But it is totally consistent with man’s thinking and Satan knows this. It is for this reason that he transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). In other words, he looks good and so do his religions, practices and his festivals. *The fact that so many pagan practices & holidays and seem so beautiful and heartwarming is something that this great*

*deceiver is well aware it is one of his a greatest tactics... And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world. (Rev 12:9).*

In a very real sense, its beauty disguises what it really is—paganism dressed up in bright colors and wonderful feelings, is not a legitimate way to honor the True God of Heaven. *God is not the slightest bit impressed with practices or festivals that come from the pagan world no matter how beautiful they seem.*

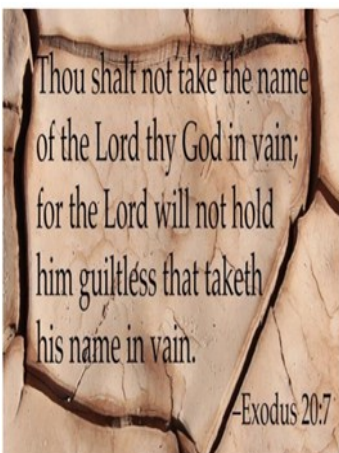
God says: **Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve (lit: worship) their gods? I also will do likewise.'** 31 You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done for their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it. (Deut 12:30-32)

Trying to rehabilitate evil is what the Prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said:

**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! (Isa 5:20-21)**

## CHRISTIANIZED PAGAN PRACTICES

As an example, Santa Claus is arguably the most recognizable figure in the entire world. His connection to Christmas is acknowledged by both professing Christians and nonbelievers alike. He has even taken on mythical attributes. In a very real sense, he is a godlike figure. A recent survey even indicated that more people pray to him than any other Biblical figure with the exception of Jesus Christ and Mary. Imagine that! What Christianity fails to do is to tell the real story behind this tradition and its symbols, each of which comes from the pagan world. **Some-how mankind believes that godless practices can be given a facelift, and everything is then acceptable with the God of heaven.** To illustrate this point, consider the following: A leading evangelical minister once acknowledged in a sermon about Christmas that although this day and its symbols *came from paganism* they were now "holy" *because they had been "confiscated for Christ."* This is not the first time such a claim has been made. *Like so many other Christian leaders, they are ignorant of the fact that Christmas was NEVER a Christian holiday.*



Fifteen centuries before the birth of the Messiah, the children of Israel were led out of Egypt with a high hand. No sooner were they free from bondage than they wanted to return to the pagan practices they had just left. As a result, they persuaded Aaron to fashion a golden calf just like they had in Egypt (Ex. 32:1). Aaron consented to their request and instructed the children of Israel to gather their jewelry so that he could fashion it into an idol (Ex. 32:2-3). He then made a molten calf and declared, **"These be your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt"** (Ex. 32:4). Aaron then made a proclamation that seems unimaginable in light of the great miracles Israel witnessed in their deliverance.

After making this idol, Aaron proclaimed make "a feast to the Eternal." God was so angry at this behavior that He actually suggested to Moses that the children of Israel be wiped out (Ex. 32:10). How many professing Christians think they can do the same? Many believe God doesn't care if we practice pagan ways and then try to call on God and worship Him as the only "Eternal God."

**The idea that man can decide for himself how he will worship the God of the Bible goes contrary to every word in the scriptures.** Despite this fact, professing Christians continue to engage in this practice. In essence they lean to their own understanding, and ignore the very Word of God, and chooses to believe that God will not hold them accountable for these things. This is using His Name in vain!

**You shall not take (use) the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (Ex 20:7)**

One of the more prominent arguments advanced by those who embrace pagan holidays and practices is that Jeremiah 10, which is often cited by opponents of Christmas, is not really referring to the Christmas tree at all. On the contrary, **this chapter does indeed stand as an indictment of this tree festival. In verse two God warns His people to “Learn not the way of the heathen.”** With this said, Christmas is unmistakably a heathen practice containing numerous symbols taken directly from pagan religions. Tragically, this fact is dismissed as irrelevant by millions of professing Christians in America and around the world. They have somehow concluded that as long as one knows where this celebration originated (the pagan world) it is acceptable with God to try and **Christianize** it and integrate it into His worship. However, as already stated the Bible says something quite different...

**Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, (pagans) after that they (and their practices) have been destroyed (removed) from before thee; and then you are not to inquire afterward (i.e. After they've been removed do no investigating, examining, studying of) their gods, saying, How did these nations SERVE <sup>2</sup> THEIR GODS? therefore I will (end up desiring) do likewise... Thou shalt not do this (i.e. Same way of service/worship) unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hates, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt (Served up as burnt offerings) in the fire to their gods... What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add to it, nor take away from it. KJV Dt. 12:30-32 (Parenthesis for contextual clarity).**

*This is Why multitudes of AMERICAN Christians are Cursed! Most AMERICAN Christians have strayed so far away from God and His ways of holiness that they do not realize what blessings they are forfeiting that would otherwise be theirs ...if they would have served only Him. And even worse they are blinded to what doom is soon to strike in and around them because they choose their sin of serving idolatry and reject God and His Word that require holiness, and whole hearted obedience without any compromise or mixture. When professing Christians do not serve the truth (Jesus) they are (knowingly or ignorantly) serving the liar (Satan).*

<sup>2</sup> **SERVE OT:5647 `abad (aw-bad');CWSD (complete word studies dictionary): in terms of pagan worship the serving of other gods is defined as service, labor (associated with) enslavement. This word when applied to (pagan) artisans and craftsmen (those whose creations are useful i.e. idol makers). CWSD: artisans whose labor denotes a joyful state of [euphoria or feelings of intense excitement and delight] and experience a feeling of liberation= (a release [of inspiration] or freedom from limitations on expressions of thought or behavior. i.e. freedom to think an act as influenced by the demonic gods inspiring them... thus to serve/worship Satan's pagan gods is the carnal counterfeit for God's true spiritual joy to freely serve/worship under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit's inspired service and works (i. e. Such as the 9 gifts of the spirit mentioned in the scriptures.)**

One of the most difficult times of the year, for those who choose to be obedient and refrain from celebrating the cultural traditional holidays, is Christmas. *Its influence is everywhere.*

You can't escape it. Even worse is how professing Christianity views those who reject this celebration. For the most part they are regarded as extremists and fanatics. Some leaders have even characterized such people as "enemies of the gospel" believe it or not! If you doubt this assessment, just try telling your "Christian" family that you won't be keeping Easter, Halloween or Christmas anymore and watch the sparks fly!

Abstaining from Easter, Halloween or Christmas is so far out of the religious mainstream that those who subscribe to this practice are often treated like heretics. Even worse are the labels assigned to those with children and refrain from taking part in these festive seasons. By not participating in Christmas, Easter or Halloween, is considered by many of the western world to actually be an act of abuse. To deprive children of Santa Claus (and all those presents), or the Easter Bunny and Halloween fun ...is considered by many as nothing short of being a Christian religious extremist.

However, those who refuse to participate in these customs are actually more like Jesus and His apostles than those who embrace these festivals. The founding fathers of the Christian faith **never** kept anything remotely close to Christmas, Easter or Halloween, and for good reason. They knew throughout the scriptures such celebrations are condemned as idolatrous. Despite this fact, those who do embrace these seasons are prone to attack by anyone who questions it.

The Majority of Christians in this nation today do not know that to serve God is to OBEY His Word and walk in His ways. **Those who fear God honor His Word, will and ways.** This is the ONLY way that leads to increasing perpetual uninterrupted righteousness, peace, and joy. Listen to what God calls *true prosperity*. **"...these are your servants/worshippers and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power, and by your strong hand... O Lord, I beseech you, let now your ear be attentive to the prayers of your servants, who desire to fear your name and prosper..." (Neh 1:10-11)**

The Majority of professing Christians do not know that *God's Laws are for OUR GOOD and for OUR PROTECTION. A majority of America's false shepherds teach the people that God's Laws are legalistic and that we are not under the law as New Testament believers.* It is true we have been redeemed from the LAW of sin and death, but nowhere in the Scriptures are we told we are to no longer serve or obey God's holy laws that command righteousness and holiness. The apostle Paul said this:

**I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin... For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Rom 7:25, 8:2)**

The law cannot give us life among the ages, but once we have spiritual life through faith in Jesus Christ, the law becomes our safeguard and establishes the boundaries to keep and protect our spiritual life. Therefore, these false preachers who preach lawlessness are continuing to lead God's people into unhappiness, discontent, suffering, chaos, death and ultimately DOOM!

**Remember!**

**Satan Is The god Of This World**

**"Satan, who is the god of this world,**

**has blinded the minds of those who don't believe."(God's truth)**  
2 Corinthians 4:4a NLT

**And...**

**We live in enemy territory**



# Enduring Faith: Do We Really Have it?

By  
Karen Connell

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Throughout the years of my counseling and deliverance ministry, I have encountered a very common problem among God's people who desire to be delivered from *harassing attacks of the enemy*. Being constantly harassed by the attacks of the enemy is a favorite tactic of Satan's that us used to **wear out the Saints** and undermine our faith in **God's goodness, love and authority**. For those of us who are serious students of the word of God it is clear that humanity is living in the last age of this present earth, often referred to as this being the "endtime" generation. Many things are prophesied concerning this *last generation and the plans and tactics of demonic enemies being used to destroy God's creation*.

More than all generations before us, Satan is out to destroy humanity's faith in the true and living God, by *misrepresenting, accusing and lying about* **God's goodness, love and authority**. Faithful believers and followers of Jesus Christ are going to be targeted more than any other people on earth by demonic forces led by the devil and his Antichrist's hordes. Therefore, if God's people do not understand his schemes and tactics, they are subject becoming deceived. *They will fail to endure and be overcome and worn out* by the CONTINUAL prevailing attacks and harassments of Satan. **(Daniel 7:25) He (Antichrist) shall speak (attack our thought life with) pompous words (prideful accusations trying to turn us) against the Most High, and Shall wear out the saints of the Most High...**

We must keep in mind that being a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, means nothing can **happen to us that God is not aware of**. The above tactics of the enemy will be successful because of all of the distressing and painful events that God's people will have to go through. Those not able to trust in the one and only true and living God ...will ultimately lose hope and come into agreement with the enemy's *vain and prideful words* that will be spoken against God and all who love and serve him. Satan will convince those who do not know God that He and His people are responsible for all of the world's problems such as wars, disunity and the hostile anger that plague the planet because we will not come into agreement with the Antichrist lying agenda but instead expose and warn others about them. Thus we will be labeled as divisive trouble makers causing anxiety and pain when demonic harassment is oppressing mankind.

The Lord has been warning me for months and months to be prepared to experience a ramping up of harassment from the demonic realm that will only increase and not diminish as time goes on. I recently came across a scripture that encouraged me greatly because it talked about how David was facing bitterness and rebellion in the people he was trying to lead. It got to the point where they wanted to stone him because they blamed him for their pain. While this was happening, David said and did the following... **(1 Samuel 30:6) And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved**

*(literally: bitter rebellious and disobedient)...* but David **encouraged himself in the Lord his God**. This phrase in the Hebrew is saying that David *bound himself to the Lord*, in other words David seized hold of the Lord's perspective regarding his distressing situation and was greatly strengthened by what the Lord revealed to him. In the coming days we had better do the same when we are under fire and being harassed. We had better grab hold of the Lord and hang on to him and bind ourself to him because only he has the words of life we need as we go through what we go through, or he doesn't ...and I choose to believe he does... so that settles it for me! I refuse to let my trust in what has been revealed to me from the word of God be undermined by my emotions (which are always going to be at play in every situation good or bad) but can easily be used causing and me to doubt God is working all things out for a good purpose especially during times of attacks and harassment! I choose to believe God no matter how I feel emotionally or physically, we all have that choice to make as professing believers. **(John 6:64-65,68-69) For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him. 65 Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me (as one of mine and wait)." ... Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You only have the words that give eternal life (lit: continual age enduring life)...** 69 because we believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

When a believer cannot get free of demonic harassment, **there are biblically two main reasons** why this is the case.

**Firstly**, if there is an *open door* to the enemy due to **sin issues** (*coming from wrong thinking, speaking or wrong practices because of embracing lies that have created doubts*) ...this must be exposed, renounced and repented of. If this is the case the believer must sincerely and honestly seek God and ask him to reveal if any sin issue that has opened the door and given the devil the right (*literally: the license*) to harass us.

#### **Ephesians 4:27**

**Do not give place (*literally: a license*) to the devil.**

#### **Psalms 139: 23-24**

**23 search me thoroughly, O God and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 and see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me and lead me in the way everlasting** (*lit: that is continually age enduring*).

**Secondly**, if there is no known open door to sin revealed to us, and demonic harassment continues after seeking God and asking him to remove it, we must always be assured that God knows what is happening to us, and trust him to deal with attacks and harassment in his way and in his good appointed time.

For instance, I have found that many whom I counsel, have embraced as I once had, the false teachings of the Word of Faith and current NAR movements regarding our authority over the devil. This has become a major stumbling block in the lives of many sincere Christians who love God, but our thoroughly deceived on the subject of spiritual warfare like I was. A large majority of God's people have been and continue to be brainwashed by these false teachings into believing that we have been given authority to stop or break off all the works of the devil.

Believing we have this authority also implies it is our responsibility to control and destroy the works of the devil. The truth is we have no authority to destroy the works of the devil. However we do have authority to ask the only person possessing the authority to destroy the works of the devil...

**Psalms 139: 23-24**

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**First John 3: 8**

**But the son of God (Jesus Christ) came to destroy the works of the devil.**

Only Jesus can't decide what, ohh, and when, the works of the devil will be destroyed. Embracing these false teachings concerning a believers authority causes Christians to presumptuously and arrogantly go beyond their delegated sphere of authority, thus opening a door to dangerous demonic deception. The truth is the only authority God has delegated to believers when it comes to demonic realm, is over what Satan used against Adam and Eve to bring deception into their lives, which were serpents (*demonic accusing lies*) and scorpions (*demonic doubts*). A complete Greek keyword study with a detailed breakdown with literal and grammatical meanings for the following text can be found in my book entitled spiritual warfare: a biblical perspective (*Which can be ordered free of charge upon request from this ministry*). Below is a more literal and contextual interpretation of this text derived from original Greek word studies...

Luke 10: 19-20

**19 behold I give unto you power (authority) to tread on** (NT3961 CWSD: to Keep advancing i.e. By putting under your feet/walking upon Satan's devices of **lies** and **doubts**), to make progress by successfully encountering the greatest perils from the **schemes**, **plans**, **wiles** and **persecutions** that so Satan uses and earnestly desires to confuse, deceive, stop, and frustrate the preaching of truth concerning the true gospel (Thayers lexicon). [Thus, the devices Satan uses are the **serpents** (lies) and **scorpions** (doubts) and the **supernatural power** of these demonic beings to supernaturally speak these lies and doubts into our minds, are what we have been given authority over] **from the enemy: and nothing shall by any means HURT you** (offend, damage, or harm you unjustly). **20 however, in this (delegated authority) rejoice not that these spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice because your name is written in heaven.**

When it comes to our being subjected to attack and harassment by Satan's demonic powers, the apostle Paul is one of our greatest examples of having to endure these but still remaining victorious and strong in his faith right up to the day of his beheading. Paul discerned that these harassing demonic attacks were from Satan and had this to say concerning his situation...

## 2nd Corinthians 12: 7-10

I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from **Becoming proud I was given** (as a blessing from God) a **thorn** (Something causing constant harassing irritation, pain or weakness) in my **flesh** (physical and emotional nature) **a messenger** (demon) **from Satan** to **torment** (mistreat) me to keep me from becoming prideful... 8 **three different times I begged the Lord to take it away...** 9 Each time he said, "**My grace is all you need. My** (supernatural dunamis) **power works best** (accomplishing my intended purpose) **through weakness** (denoting the physical body and soul i.e. intellect/emotions). Now I am glad to boast about my weakness so that the (supernatural dunamis) **power of Christ can work through me** (i.e. Can continually live in and upon me)... 10 that's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses (of body and soul), and in the **insults** (denoting injury, harm, damage done to a person or their property due to the insolence and violence of wrongdoers), **hardships** (enduring difficulties because of being deprived), **persecutions** (being pursued and followed for the intent of hostile prosecution), and **troubles** (great stress and pressure) **that I suffer for Christ** (being a true disciple of the anointed one) **for when I am weak** (physically, intellectually and emotionally) **then I experience his grace which is all I need and I am strong.** (All expanded definitions for literal clarity are in parentheses after the underlying words and are from the Complete Word Study Dictionary).

The apostle Paul states he sought God three times to be delivered of this "thorn" and was instead given the reason for the suffering he was enduring. Likewise, when we seek God for deliverance from our "thorns" we must be prepared to trust in the fact we may not be delivered according to the way we desire because by His grace He will do what is *best* for us in each and every situation... in His time and in His way. God tells us in his word ...

## Isaiah 55:8-9

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts therefore, it is by His grace we can confidently trust that His grace is our **daily bread** (sufficiency). During times of attack and harassment from demonic influences, it is important to pray which means to have ongoing intimate two-way communication with the Lord. As I continually emphasize, true faith is not founded upon what we desire, but it is founded upon what we hear God say about our desires. Because faith comes by hearing God speak to us from his word (Romans 10:17) and not by our desires. It is very important to not fall into pouting and allowing a victim mentality to begin forming within our mind. That is one thing I greatly struggled with when learning not to allow my emotions to control me, when things did not go my way and I had to suffer and wait on God to work it all out. Satan would like to keep our minds focused on **what** is happening rather than on **why** it is happening. If God sovereignly chooses not to tell us **why** when we ask ... We must never lose sight of the fact that God has a purpose in all he does and allows to happen in our life and we must truly believe that **Father knows best!**

As mentioned, prayer is essential when we are being harassed demonically. When Jesus was asked how we should pray, he answered that question by telling us to first address God as our Father (Matthew 6:9) (provider and protector and as Him)... to Give us this day our daily bread... (Matthew 6:11). The phrase Our daily bread ... has a double meaning. There is of course natural bread which is our natural food needed to keep our physical being healthy and alive. But then there is our spiritual Bread also needed on a *daily basis* to strengthen, sustain and promote our spiritual health and growth.

Jesus went on to say we should ask our Heavenly Father **to lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil (Matthew 6:13)**... (or... an alternate literal translation is) **When not being led into temptation (by God) instead deliver us from evil.**

*When God is the agent for the test we are led into enduring, it is for the purpose of proving/ demonstrating the existence of a truth).* When God is the agent for the test or painful trial it is for the purpose of proving/demonstrating (to us) the existence of the truth that needs to become a reality in our life. **In the Apostle Paul's case** God led him into a place of testing, which was for his good.

By studying the life of Paul before his conversion from Judaism to Christianity, it is evident that in his natural state Paul was a very self-confident (proudful) person who was not used to being dependent upon anyone to accomplish what HE needed or wanting to be accomplished. Therefore, God brought Paul into the place from the very beginning of his ministry where he had no power of his own to over the demonic attacks in his life but had to learn to trust God and become totally dependent upon God's grace and no longer trust and rely upon himself.

As believers who love the Lord Jesus Christ and want to be faithful followers and hear the words when we stand before him, **"well done good and faithful servant,"** we must also make the same decision that Job made when he was going through his horrible time of being put to the test by Satan. Job said what we all must genuinely believe and say, if we are sincere in our love for God. For only he truly is our blessed hope throughout all continually coming ages! I Have made-up my mind to stand by God's grace alone in that place alongside my brother Job who said...

*Job 13:15-16*

***Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: and I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my (ultimate) salvation!***

**AMEN!**

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