

BANNER OF TRUTH

Volume 10, # 9
September 2001

Terrorism Versus Spiritual Corruption

An evil act of Terrorism has awakened us to the reality of the physical and emotional dangers which are now faced by our society. Yet, this danger pales in comparison when contrasted with the evils of Spiritual Corruption which are now engulfing us. The former involves this life while the latter involves our eternal state of existence.

Since words often have more than one meaning it is important that it be made clear as to the sense in which words are used. This is especially true with words which are often subject to misunderstanding. Therefore, we are giving definitions of the four words in the topic of our discussion. The following definitions from *Webster* set forth the sense in which we will be using these words. Note the following:

TERRORISM. This word conveys **fear**, even to the point of intense fear. *Webster* says: “**1.** *the use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, esp. for political purposes.* **2.** *the state of fear and submission so produced.*” There is no better example of **Terrorism** than the suicide missions of September 11, and the anthrax scare which has followed. We shall give considerable attention to these evil acts in our following discussion.

SPIRITUAL CORRUPTION. *Webster* defines **Spiritual** as: “**1.** *pertaining to the spirit or soul, as distinguished from the physical nature.* **2.** *of or pertaining to the spirit as the seat of moral or religious nature.*” **Corruption** denotes: “**2.** *moral perversion; depravity.* **3.** *perversion of integrity.*” Two words stand out in this definition of **corruption**, **depravity** and **integrity**. *Webster* defines “depraved” as “*morally corrupt, wicked, or perverted.*” “**Integrity**” is, “**1.** *uncompromising adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.*” Corruption is the opposite of integrity, and that is the sense in which we are using it, and especially as it pertains to the area of spiritual and/or religious matters.

VERSUS. *Webster* says, “**2.** *as compared to; in contrast with.*” This is a key word in our discussion, since we will be discussing **Terrorism** at some length, and then making a comparison to the **Spiritual Corruption** which has engulfed virtually the whole world. Our own nation, which has been referred to as a “Christian Nation” is in no sense of the term to be excluded. Over the past fifty years I’ve seen great changes take place in our country. I’ve never seen a more vivid contrast between terrorism and spiritual corruption than what we are seeing now. Let us note:

**TERRORISM
AT ITS WORST IN OUR COUNTRY**

I can well remember that Sunday morning of December 7th in 1941, when the Japanese made their sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. More than two thousand lives were lost and many of our naval

vessels destroyed or damaged. Ears were glued to radios all across our country. Americans were awakened from their state of slumber to face the reality of evil as demonstrated against our nation by the Japanese. The attack was called “cowardly,” and many other descriptions of the Japanese as evil were set forth. The slogan, “Remember Pearl Harbor” was heard and seen often and in many places.

Though the Pearl Harbor attack was an act of terror of no small dimension, it was somewhat different to that with which we are now faced. Whereas the Japanese attack was an act of war by a country, the terrorist attacks on American citizens in recent years have been made by a world-wide organization of evil terrorists. These terrorists are acting in the name of a false religion – Islam.

While all people of the Islam religion cannot be classed with the terrorists, it is a matter of fact that a number of terrorist attacks have been carried out and supported by people of the Islamic religion. Hundreds of our citizens have been killed in other countries by Islamic terrorist attacks. A few were killed at the World Trade Center just a few years ago. Who was responsible? People of Islam.

These terrorist attacks of recent years pale in comparison with that which shocked and took our nation by fearful surprise on September 11, when four planes were hijacked. Two of them were flown into the World Trade Center in New York, taking the lives of more than five thousand people. One plane crashed into the Pentagon, killing almost two hundred. The fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania, killing all on board. Altogether about six thousand lives were lost, and many hundreds injured. Property loss is in the Billions of Dollars. This is to say nothing of all the other problems resulting from the Islamic terrorist attacks.

A large catalogue of terms, including “bastards” has been used to describe the evil people of Islam who perpetrated this attack on innocent people. Many have expressed “disbelief” that such a thing could happen in our country. But evil in the world is not new, and it has been unleashed in gigantic proportions in the past, as in World War II.

That millions of people are upset, frightened and in a state of shock is understandable. Our heart goes out to the multitudes who have been directly affected by these evil deeds, done in the name of religion. As God’s word teaches, we should pray for the leaders of our land, for those who have suffered loss, and that they would turn to God in truth.

To add to the fears brought on by the terrorist attack on September 11, is the **Anthrax** scare which has followed. That scare seems to increase day by day. That we are faced by one of the greatest problems ever in our country cannot be denied. And, it is in order that we take a look at:

THE EVIL FORCES RESPONSIBLE

It is not something new that great evil is done in the name of religion. A prime example is that of the Crusades carried on by the Catholics in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries, in an effort to get the possession of Jerusalem out of the Muslim hands. That the terrorist attack of September 11th was perpetrated by people of the Islamic religion is a matter of fact. The same can be said of other terrorist attacks in other countries in recent years where Americans were killed. While I have a copy of the Koran, I’ve done little study on the religion of Islam. From what I hear from various sources the Koran does not directly teach people to be the evil people that terrorists are, but when the teaching is twisted or perverted a little it can be made to uphold the kind of evil which has been unleashed upon us, and others who aren’t Muslims. We do know, however, that Islam is a religion of error and evil which does not even uphold Christ and His role as the Savior. The Ko-

ran is not an inspired book and it is certainly not from God.

If Islam was what some claim it to be, it would go all out to rid itself of those who are a part of the terrorist organization and those who support such. Instead of upholding “peace,” many of the Muslims in a number of countries uphold and support acts of terrorism. By way of television we have seen the crowds parading and glorying in support of the evil acts of terrorism carried out by the Muslims against us on September 11. Who doubts their intentions?

Only the Lord knows what the future will bring with regard to that sizable number of Islamic adherents who continue in their intended conquest of the world. To the Muslim, those who are aren’t Muslims are “infidels.” The clear objective of many Muslims is to rid the world of “infidels,” and that includes you and me. We are deceiving ourselves if we fail to see the danger of the Islamic religion. Are all of them terrorists? No. But it is a matter of fact that many participate in or uphold terrorism. Of such we need to be aware! Whereas true Christianity makes for peace, Islam is now engaged in a war of terrorism against us, and others who aren’t of their religion. Even if the Muslims were not against us, it is true that they do not have God’s approval, and never will unless they become Christians. Only a small minority of the people who have built our country were true Christians, but the principles of Christianity, not Islam, have played a major part in the strength and greatness of our country.

OUR REACTION TO TERRORISM

On the plus side, our nation has come together in opposition to terrorism in a way that has not been seen in a very long time. More people have been awakened to reality. It is understandable that many people are angry and want to see the perpetrators of evil punished. Our government is acting in a way to protect its citizens against the evil of terrorism as much as possible. Even the political parties, almost without exception, are showing a spirit of solidarity in their opposition to terrorism. A very few people are demonstrating against the punishment of those responsible for the great tragedy of September 11th, and the continuing scare of Anthrax. It makes one wonder as to whose side they are on. The ACLU has shown its true colors by demanding the removal of a sign from a school in California, which says: “God Bless America.” Most Americans oppose terrorism.

Our Religious Reaction to the Terrorist Attack. For a few decades now, some rather powerful forces have been hammering away at that which has any semblance of Godly influence. It is simply amazing, and also frightening, at that which is being opposed in the area of belief in God. On the other side, just about anything is allowed, regardless of what evil it may bring to bear upon our society.

It is indeed refreshing that so many of our citizens have called upon the name of God. How great it would be if this is a true indication that people are actually turning to God. Nothing greater could happen to our country, and nothing would rid our country of more problems than turning to God. God has been mentioned by more people on a national level than I can ever remember. Various religious gatherings have taken place and countless prayers have been offered for our country and those who have suffered. Many people have gone all-out to help those in need in every way possible. Indeed, many acts which should characterize a Christian, have been performed. As to how real this attention being given to God is, remains to be seen. How great it will be if it is for real!

While more attention has been given to God in the past few weeks than ever in my life, there are some things which raise serious questions as to the sincerity of this attention. For example,

there was the sign, “God Bless America,” in a liquor store. Some place for people to be asking God to bless America, when the use of alcohol takes far more lives every year than the six thousand lost in the terrorist attacks. Not only are thousands of lives lost every year due to the use of alcohol, think of all the injuries. Think of the health problems brought on by this evil. Also included should be the broken homes, the mistreated children and others. This says nothing of the increased cost in health insurance and other insurance which is due to the use of alcohol. It is highly inconsistent to call upon God when engaging in evil which God opposes.

Another thing which caught my attention, is the offer of **Free** family planning services for those affected by the terrorist attacks in New York. Think of all the people in our country who think there is no harm in murdering little unborn boys and girls just because they are not wanted! Many of those same people would be concerned about people being killed in a terrorist attack. Why? I’ve never heard a halfway sensible answer. Various sources say that up to a million and a half abortions are performed every year in our country alone. I don’t see denials of that number. How can anyone truly believe in God and wantonly murder innocent unborn children? Can anyone answer that question?

How can one’s belief in God be for real when the debasing sin of homosexuality and other forms of sexual perversions are upheld and promoted? Our society has never be so immoral as it is now, that is, unless people have truly turned to God, which time will tell. Much of today’s religion is so superficial that it amounts to virtually nothing. All manner of sin is being upheld in the name of religion. As in the days of Isaiah, many “call evil good, and good evil” and “put darkness for light, and light for darkness” (Isa. 5:20).

THE HORROR OF SPIRITUAL CORRUPTION

Whereas Terrorism influences people primarily by fear, Spiritual Corruption influences people in the opposite way. That is, people are deceived and misled by false hopes and promises. Error is made to appear desirable rather than something to be feared. That which is wrong is often presented as something good when that which is truly good is opposed. Spiritual evil is sometimes advocated and popularized. It is made appealing and multitudes go for it. Spiritual Corruption has been for ages man’s greatest danger. Yet, few are aware of this! Both Terrorism and Spiritual Corruption are evil, they just operate in different ways. The minds of so many Americans are now focused on Terrorism, while **The Horrors of Spiritual Corruption** are given virtually no attention.

Spiritual Corruption, the teaching and practice of spiritual or religious error, is destructive in this life, not to mention its eternal consequence. An example of just how far people will go when influenced by Spiritual Corruption can be seen in the following incidents: The Jim Jones evil where some nine hundred people committed suicide or were murdered. The event in Waco, Texas where almost a hundred people, including several innocent children died when the facility in which they were housed burned. In California, more than thirty followers of the Heaven’s Gate Cult, committed suicide. Added to the above are the nineteen terrorists who were in the suicide mission on September 11. In World War II, many Japanese pilots committed suicide. In addition to their own deaths, many Americans were killed because of the false religion of the Japanese.

The above are just a few of the examples of evil which have come about as a result of religious error. History records many other instances. Those above are much more fresh on our minds.

The physical evil which has been brought upon people by false religions is so vast that it would be impossible to give an account of all of it. This evil is considerable, even when compared with

other evil, but it does not take into consideration the consequences of the evil in the world that is to come.

With many, if not most, false religions in our country a great emphasis is placed upon the here and now. The hereafter is given little attention. This was not the case with the Muslims involved in the suicide attacks upon our people. From what I read in the instruction given the terrorists before their evil and horrific deed, they were promised a sure place in heaven, including plenty of women. But our major false religions in this country have changed greatly over the years. Their “gospel” is now mostly a social one. The horrors of eternity in hell for those who do not live according to God’s will is given little attention. In fact, more and more of these people have chosen to believe there is no hell. The major cult, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, tries to, and does, lure people with their false teaching that there is no hell. This may sound good, but it is a lie. Spiritual Corruption which promises heaven on earth will deliver people into the hell prepared for the devil and his angels.

That most of the people in our country are thinking primarily about this life and the dangers faced therein is evidenced by so much of what has been said since September 11. There has been a continuous coverage of the terrorist attack, with many warnings sounded about possible future attacks. Many, many things are being done in an effort to protect us from those possible attacks.

What we have not heard much about, with the exception of people who are calling on the name of God in this time of fear and distress, is the **corrupt spiritual state** of our nation. In fact, some of the recent display of religious concern has accepted virtually all false religions as if they were of God. This, in itself, is an evil since it is in opposition to the true God of heaven, of which there is only one. This does not result in building up our nation in the sight of God, but to the contrary.

In the past few decades we have seen our country brought to its lowest moral state ever. One of the most disturbing things to me has been the attitude of so many people with respect to the scandalizing of our presidency by Bill Clinton and his supporters. That our President would engage in a number of open sins, sexual perversion in the White House and lying under oath, was something that made **absolutely no difference** with a great portion of our society. What better evidence could there be that much of our society is spiritually corrupt? Those of us who were adults forty or fifty years ago can see the stark reality of our nation’s Spiritual Corruption. Young adults have never seen the moral state under which some of us grew up. Though it was by no means perfect, it was so much better than that which exists today. Today, there is a spirit of indifference with regard to morality in its widest sense.

I do not profess to know, but some are wondering if the evil which is coming upon is due, at least in part, to the “sowing” that we have been doing. In the history of the Israelites we see their departure from God in a wholesale way, and the calamities which came upon them as a result. Of one thing we can be sure, and that is, “Righteousness” has not “exalted” our “nation” (Prov. 14:34). We have been engaging in “sin.” The Psalmist said, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God” (19:7). Who would disagree that we, to a large extent have **forgotten God**? Don’t misunderstand me. We should be concerned about terrorism, but we should be even more concerned about the Spiritual Corruption which has come upon us. We should be concerned in the greatest way about living as God would have us to live, and thereby avoid the horrors which will result from spiritual corruption.

OUR REACTION TO SPIRITUAL CORRUPTION WITHIN OUR OWN BROTHERHOOD

If we could have even half the concern about **Spiritual Corruption** that we have about **Terrorism**, what a great blessing that would be! The recent evil tragedy has brought out some things relative to our concerns. The concerns of the people of our nation in general are of great importance, since the future of our society will be affected, but our concerns as Christians should be based upon a different set of principles than those of the world in general. As Christians we can say, “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (I John 5:19). Our concerns must never be based too much on things of the world. Our highest priority? — Spiritual concern.

Since that tragic day of September 11, I’ve read quite a number of articles by brethren who in some way expressed concern about terrorism and that which has happened to us, and now continues to happen. This great act of evil has been mentioned by brethren in lessons or comments. Many prayers have been offered relative to the terrorist attack, and have asked God’s blessings upon our leaders and those who have suffered the loss or injury of loved ones. This is as it should be. We are to pray for our rulers. We should pray for those who suffer, and weep with those that weep. We should even pray for our enemies. Indeed, we should be concerned about our fellowmen, and that would include things of this life, both materially and spiritually, and most especially their spiritual condition.

That our brethren have shown great concern about this great physical and emotional tragedy is to be applauded. This is as it should be, and I’m thankful for it. Though I’m deeply thankful for this outpouring of concern, it has raised a question in my mind. That question is, “Are we as concerned as we should be about the terrible state of **Spiritual Corruption** which has our nation in its grips? In the things I’ve read or heard, some mention has been made of the hope that this terrorist act would turn people to God. But the majority of what I’ve read or heard has had to do with things in this life, not the hereafter. I maintain that the greatest danger facing us now is not Terrorism (as great as that is) but Spiritual Corruption. We need God’s protection from this evil even more than we need protection from the terrorists.

Our reaction to **Spiritual Corruption** within the church has turned from a staunch and determined opposition of a few decades ago to a rather cordial and positive one now. This is not to say that this is true of the brotherhood as a whole, but it is true of a considerable and growing part of it. Whereas most of our brethren used to set forth the distinctiveness of the Lord’s church, as the one and only blood-bought body of Christ, with many brethren that is no longer heard. Rather than the Lord’s church being set forth as the “one true church,” it is on many occasions now being set forth as denominational bodies are often set forth. Various forms of church-provided entertainment are used as a drawing card. This entertainment covers a wide range of activities. A variety of singing groups, trips and travels to recreation parks, skits and drama presentations, Andy Griffith Bible classes, and others.

It seems that the larger the congregation the more error can be expected, but some very small ones will no longer be outdone. The appeal to the public (and other church members) is a far cry from what it used to be. The time was that congregations would advertise such sermon topics as: The One True Church; Scriptural Baptism; God’s Word, The Only Religious Authority; The Possibility Of Apostasy; Spiritual Gifts Have Ceased; God-Approved Worship; and such like. A great

many congregations now avoid such topics. There are two primary reasons why: 1) This doesn't appeal to the denominational folks, and there is the desire to please them. 2) An increasing number of brethren no longer believe in these things.

The incidents of fellowship with denominations are occurring much more frequently now. While some are cozying up to denominations, others are engaging in outright fellowship with them. Much has been said about Max Lucado and Rubel Shelly, but we hear more about them because they are more widely known. A considerable number of lesser known brethren would fit into the same category. A great many brethren thought the support of the Billy Graham Campaign by Rubel Shelly and the Woodmont Hills congregation was the most outrageous thing they had heard of. But at least five other congregations in the Nashville area also supported Billy Graham. Right here in Murray, Kentucky the Glendale Road congregation, including the elders and John Dale, the preacher, participated in the "*Jubilee 2000 Revival*" of the "St. Leo Catholic Church." Milton Sewell, President at Freed-Hardeman University wrote that the elders of the East Wood congregation in Paris, TN, along with the Glendale elders were present when John Dale spoke and they had not expressed concern about this matter. This shows the extent to which our brethren are being influenced toward the acceptance of the denominations. To add further evidence in this particular example, John Dale was added to the Board of Directors at Freed-Hardeman after the fellowshipping of the Catholic Church.

This is a reminder that "our schools" are no longer standing where they once stood. Their stand now is not for the distinctiveness of the New Testament church. There has been a spirit of softness or compromise for the past several years. The fact that the loyalty to these schools by so many brethren has not been affected, shows the drift toward spiritual unconcern on the part of those who support the schools. Just how brethren who claim on one hand to love the truth, can on the other hand support outright error in the schools, is a serious question. Those who now support our schools financially are in many cases bidding "God speed" to error. Yet, with many this unconcern about truth is not a matter of concern with them.

With our brethren who have already gone deeply into liberalism, scriptural authority means very little. How to please the people by giving them what they want carries great weight. But with more than a few brethren who would be considered sound the gap between them and the liberal brethren seems to be narrowing. This can be noticed when sound brethren strongly oppose the unscriptural practices of liberal brethren, and yet go ahead in fellowship with those brethren as if nothing is amiss. This is likely to result in the weakening of a brother's stand, and encourage more liberal things. As far as I can understand, God's law on fellowship is designed to give strength to the cause of truth and show God's disapproval of error. Again, as far as I can understand, God's law on fellowship is to be respected just as are His law on other things.

The many things which are now happening within the church, which are contrary to God's will, constitute evidence of the influence of Spiritual Corruption. Too much attention has obviously been given to worldly things rather than to the realm of spiritual things. The love for God's uncompromised truth has waned when compared with several years ago. A price will have to be paid sooner or later.

That those of our country, including a growing number of members of the church, are being influenced greatly by the current Spiritual Corruption is a matter of fact. Concerned about Terrorism but mostly unconcerned about the greater danger of Spiritual Corruption. A statement by Cal Thomas, a conservative columnist, makes a good point:

"The secular West [that means us] does not understand the Bible, much less radical Islam,

which is increasingly embraced with America's detriment in mind. While secular and moderate Muslims do not appear threatening, the growing number of extremists who take the Koran as a declaration of war against all non-Muslims has become a present danger, not only overseas, but increasingly in our own country."

IN CONCLUSION

We're hearing continual talk about a global war on Terrorism.. This should serve as a reminder to our brethren that there is a most urgent need to **Declare A War** on Spiritual Corruption, a much greater danger than Terrorism. The Divine call for such a war is plain and powerful. Paul said, "...stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (I Cor. 16:13). To Timothy: "Fight the good fight of faith..." (I Tim. 6:12). Jude said, "...contend [as a combatant] for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Every member of the church has a part to play in this battle. It can't be left up to preachers and elders. Some preachers, and also elders, are leaders in the practice of error. This doesn't relieve the individual of his responsibility. This idea that members of the church are to be as silent as a tomb when error is being encouraged is not from the Lord!

If Spiritual Corruption makes the same inroads into the Lord's church in the next 50 years as it has in the past 50 years, what will be the state of the church? That's a frightening question to those who love and respect God's word. Let's pray for the Lord to deliver us from this evil of all evils, and let us do everything within our power to uphold God's truth and the church for which our Savior died.

- - Walter W. Pigg

Types And Antitypes

The Negative Before The Picture Was Taken
Alan Adams, Assistant Editor

DIVINE REVELATION: PROPOSITIONAL IN NATURE

We begin by affirming that God has communicated His will to man. To deny this would be to make Christianity meaningless. The substance or content of that communication came by way of "revelation." What was once "hidden," or a "mystery," is now completely "known," in the sense of being available for our learning (Eph. 3:3,4,9,10).

This "revelation" is, by its very nature, *descriptive* and *propositional*. It says or affirms certain things. It is consequently *objective*. Thus, to be "right," one must ascertain the meaning of that which was revealed and abide thereby. Certainly, what I'm emphasizing here ought to be obvious to all; unfortunately it isn't. Not so long ago, I listened to a Baptist preacher on the radio. His lesson title was "Seven Myths About the Will of God." The first thing he averred to be a "myth" is the idea that "The Bible is like a roadmap or a guide." He said, "The Bible is not a roadmap, but a relationship."

Don't you just hate it when someone creates a disjunction when there's none there? This

preacher, thinking himself profound, would have us believe that the concepts of “roadmap and guide” exclude the concept of “relationship,” and vice versa. I don’t, for a moment, flinch from affirming that the Bible is a “roadmap.” It tells us *where* to go, *what* to do, and *how* to both go and do. By it alone do we know *when* we have arrived where we ought, and whether we have done what we ought. The concept of a *relationship* is totally subordinate: It is only *when* we are going *where* and doing *what* God tells us that we enjoy what the Bible calls “our fellowship...with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (I Jno. 1:3). *Brethren, it’s not an overstatement to say that many of our preachers have not only been listening to drivel such as this Baptist preacher propounded; they have accepted it and are preaching it from our pulpits. Beware.*

DIVINE REVELATION: “DIVERS MANNERS”

This “revelation” from God to man, came over a period of time; there were many and varied *methods* of that “revelation” (Heb. 1:1). One of those *methods* is that of **Types and Antitypes**. Paul emphasizes that the Exodus and the Wandering of the Israelites are not simply recorded as matters of history. He says that they happened by Divine Arrangement: “These things were our *tupoi* [types]” (I Cor. 10:6).

What we know as the Bible is that *written down, available* revelation (Eph. 3:3). It is a revelation of “the eternal purpose of God, which he purposed in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 3:11). The manifestation of realization of God’s purpose was and continues to be: The church of Christ (Eph. 3:10). This purpose, the church, was once “hid in God”; but through the preaching of Paul and others “all men [now] see what is the dispensation of the mystery” (v. 9). Whereas the “angels [once] desire[d] to “look into these things” (I Pet. 1:12); Paul said that it is only “now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places...[that they have been] made known through the church” (Eph. 3:10). It’s only when we *see* the church that we finally understand just what God had in mind through all of His activities during the centuries from Adam to Christ. – “Relationship” not a “roadmap,” indeed! Verily, “hath...God made foolish the wisdom of this world” (I Cor. 1:20)?

TYPES, ANTITYPES & DIVINE PURPOSE

Man is like his Father Creator; we are his “offspring,” thus, in His “image” (Ac. 17:29; Gen. 1:21); yet, God is so different from Man. Men, like God, have the capacity to conceive, intend and purpose; yet, given our finite nature, and moral imperfections, we sometimes ultimately fail to dispose or finish. Or, the *finished product* may be quite different from what we initially intended to do. God, on the other hand, is the “I Am” (Ex. 32:14; Cf. Jno. 8:58). Concepts such as: Past, Present and Future; Purpose, intend and Want To; all become somewhat “blurred” when viewed from the Divine perspective.

You see, the *product* of God’s purpose is no more a surety than the purpose itself. Because time and space have no meaning or application where God is concerned; for Him to simply purpose and declare that a thing shall be, it shall be. With God, it *is*; the *shall be* only has meaning for man.

That is why the Bible says that “faith is the assurance of things hoped for” (Heb. 11:1). Trusting in future things can be a tricky business. Sometimes, in spite of how careful we may be, that in which we have trusted, may pan out as a catastrophe. But, when our trust or faith is based on what God says; there can be no surprises or risks. With God there is no tomorrow or next year; He does not learn. What he *says*, as far as man is concerned, “shall be so.” In other words, we

literally have it in writing. Faith is the “assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” “Assurance” is from the Greek *hupostasis* which means “A title or a deed, as in property.” In other words, God’s say-so, in which we trust, is the present and real title or deed which guarantees our ultimate possession of that which He has promised.

Understanding this is essential to grasping the meaning and import of Types and Antitypes. One of the “divers manners” by which God has communicated His purpose to man is by Types and Antitypes.

LITERAL MEANING OF *TYPE* & *ANTITYPE*

“Type” is from the Greek verbs *tupto* and *tuptein*, which mean “to beat or strike.” The noun derivative is *tupos* which means “a blow, an impress, a print or mark.” In other words, when one object is used to deliver a blow or a strike on some substance – for example, slamming your fist into a ball of clay – the print of your fist in the clay is a “type.” Your fist, which corresponds to the print in the clay, is the “antitype.”

Actually, this is the source of our English word “type,” as in “typewriter.” The *Oxford English Dictionary* points out that “type” comes to us by way of the Latin word *typus*, and the Greek word *tupos* (Vol. 2, p. 555). Thus, when explaining the meaning of Type and Antitype in the Bible, it’s perfect to use such analogies as a Typewriter Key and the Impression it leaves; or, a Rubber Stamp and its Impression. The Imprint or Impression are the Types, and the Key or Stamp are the Antitypes. The prefix *anti* means, of course, “against”; as in, that which stands opposite to; that which corresponds to.

The beauty and wonder of this from the Biblical perspective is that God literally took what would *come to be* in the human future, and *stamped* or *typed* it onto the human past! Using the analogy of a photo and its negative, we may say He gave us the *negative* long before the *picture* had been taken and developed.

When we speak of Types and Antitypes in the Bible, we are not referring to mere coincidences or similarities. Biblical Types and Antitypes are cases of obvious *design* and *intent*. In Terry’s *Biblical Hermeneutics*, he says that a “type is a figure or adumbration of that which is to come. It is a person, institution, office, action, or event, by means of which some truth of the Gospel was divinely foreshadowed under the Old Testament dispensations” (p. 336). “It is a preordained representative relation which certain persons, events, and institutions of the Old Testament bear to corresponding [ones] in the New” (ibid.) A careful Bible student will notice the *types* of the Old and be able to accurately match them together with their counterpart in the New.

We determine if/when there is an actual Type/Antitype relationship when, First, the Bible says so. For example, Paul says that the Crossing of the Red Sea was a “baptism,” the “rock” from which the Israelites drank was “Christ,” and the carcasses of those who died during the period of wandering are a *type* of apostasy. He outright calls these “things” “examples [figures, or types]” (Cf. I Cor. 10:1-13).

Secondly, we can then use principles derived from such cases to help us discover and interpret others. When the corresponding or matching points between two people, institutions, or events are so evident as to be beyond possibility or mere (p. 10) coincidence (such as matching a key to a mold, or a fingerprint to a finger), we have discovered what God arranged. We’re not talking about letting one’s imagination run wild, rather than seeing what God designed. Thomas wanted to put his fingers into the “print” {Gr. *tupon*, type} (Jno. 20:25). We must match the Old Testament types with the New Testament Antitypes.

Lay the New Testament over the Old. Preach the Old and use the New as a commentary. Think of the power of our God, who out of the mass of humanity, with all its diverse personalities, languages, choices, yet, He brought out of this design and purpose. At any time, was any man or woman, compelled to go this way as opposed to that? to, say this as opposed to that? to, Do this as opposed to that?

No. Yet, it cannot be denied that in the midst of it all was the hand of God, and out of it all, God prearranged a negative or impression of what was to come to pass many centuries later.

There are so many benefits to be had by studying Types & Antitypes. Among them is that of helping us in the area of CONTEMPLATION. The Bible is **The Book**, and it must be read, but mere reading is not enough. People (even preachers) don't think, ponder and wonder enough. So many today are like the "Pharisees" who most assuredly "read in the law," but Jesus said "if ye had known what this meaneth, ye would not have condemned the guiltless" (Matt. 12:1-8). What of those who "search[ed] the scriptures" believing them to "have eternal life," yet they failed to see that those scriptures "test[ified] of the Christ" (Jno. 5:39).

In the Bible are "the deep things of God" (I Cor. 2:10). One must delve into such with ready (Ac. 17:11), girded (I Pet. 1:13), and contemplative minds (Cf. I Pet. 1:10-12; Ac. 8:34). Perceiving the Old Testament Types, and putting them together with their New Testament Antitypes helps us to see the intended connections and continuity in all of God's doings. It helps us see how and why the "scripture cannot be broken" (Jno. 10:35). There are **no** lost pieces, nor after-the-fact new pieces, to this puzzle (mystery). Through such a study we get to pull back the "veil" from the face of Moses and see what the "children of Israel" could not see: "the end of that [which was being] abolished" (2 Cor. 3:13). By seeing the "end," we see clearly what purpose God was moving toward all along.

1653 Pine Ln. Dr., Cantonment, FL 32533

Show Us The Sheep!

Ron Wilson

There is an abundance of self-seeking individuals who bowed at an altar of secular education and then crept into our brotherhood with fistfuls of sheepskins, degrees, and diplomas brandishing them to a naive brotherhood and led many of God's sheep back into a wilderness. Some of these *Masters* and *Doctors* made their way into *brotherhood* schools and slowly but surely turned them from sheep-folds into wolves' dens. Look at the positions of **ALL** of our schools as they were thirty years ago and as they are today. Some not yet thirty years of age are more sound than the older ones. Compare **each** one of them and see who still proclaims the truth as stoutly as they once did. See who is still a sheep-fold (you can count them on your fingers) or who has turned into a wolves' den. Only the deliberately blind and unlearned do not see the contributions of *our* schools to the apostasies rampant in the church. This includes so-called brotherhood colleges, universities and some preaching schools. Once upon a time some schools were more interested in

turning out godly men and women and gospel preachers than academicians and spiritual-salesmen. There were men just twenty years ago who were firmly entrenched in an unwavering *Thus saith the Lord* and would not tolerate anyone with even a hint of leaning to the right or left, but are now criminally silent in regard to covered wolves in our brotherhood. Some jubilantly cling to the ancient bandwagons against older (not age) well known black sheep but are strangely silent in regard to the younger (not age) spotted sheep among us. And they are not really sheep at all, but their wolves' colors are bleeding through.

Certainly there are sound preachers, elders, and leaders still standing for the truth, but there are many who say they are sound yet will not tell us about what is unsound. Once upon a time not only could one not find a black sheep on what was considered to be sound lectures and educational forums, but there could not be found even a spotted one. Once upon a time pure sheep could not be found fraternizing with spotted sheep. Once upon a time pure sheep refused to be seen on the same program with spotted sheep, OR, if they were, there was no uncertain sound as to what the spotted sheep were, who they were, what they taught and what the pure sheep's position was in regard to that spotted sheep and his error.

How times have changed! How can one claim to be a pure sheep and be on a lectureship or program with one known to be a spotted sheep and passively let error go by? It does not matter whether that spotted sheep espouses his particular error on that program or not; he is still a spotted sheep! There are some in the brotherhood wearing *sheep-shades* and evidently cannot tell the difference between pure sheep and spotted sheep. It is an obligation of pure sheep to remove the *sheep-shades* and show brethren the sheep as they are.

232 Chestnut Lane, Nesmith, SC 29580

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of Banner of Truth to maintain the option of printing responses from its readers when the Editor desires, unless there is a statement to the effect that the response is not to be published.

It is our policy not to carry advertisements of brotherhood activities, except in rare instances. This has been our policy from the beginning and will continue.

We do not intentionally carry articles from known false teachers, unless it is for the purpose of a review or a response to error which is set forth.

- - Editor

*Second Annual
Banner of Truth Lectures
June 24-27, 2002*

Theme:

Church Growth — As God Would Have It

A different facility for the lectures will be available. We have reserved the Theater at the Curris Center on the campus of Murray State University. There will be ample and comfortable seating.

Our schedule will likely be about the same as this past June. That will mean six lectures for each of the four days.

We encourage brethren to make plans now to attend the lectures. Perhaps some activities could be scheduled to leave the date open. We realize that the schedule will conflict with some, but there is no way to avoid this. We will keep brethren updated.

We will be contacting speakers in the near future. - - *Editor*

Spiritual Pacifism to Avert Spiritual War

Editor's Note: *This article was written about sixteen years ago, but is as timely now as then*

Webster defines **Pacifism** as *opposition to the use of force under any circumstance*. There are those who take the Pacifist position that if the United States would unilaterally disarm by destroying all its nuclear weapons, the arms race could be stopped and possible war averted. Others believe that being prepared, being strong militarily, is the best way to avoid war. The latter belief is based on the fact that weakness some times invites war, since the enemy is led to believe he can win. An example of this is seen in the early stages of World War II, when Neville Chamberlin, Prime Minister of Great Britain, thought he had found "Peace in our time" by capitulating to dictator Adolph Hitler, through the manifestation of a Pacifist attitude. This, it is believed, even encouraged Hitler in his attempt to conquer the continent of Europe, leading to war with Great Britain, not peace. If strength had been maintained against Hitler in the early days of his attempted conquest, rather than weakness, World War II would likely have been averted. Weakness only encouraged it.

In view of what is said in the New Testament relative to the Christian as "a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3-4) there is every reason to believe that **Spiritual Pacifism** will not avert **Spiritual War**, waged by our enemy but rather encourage it. It is interesting to note the emphasis given to the use of military terms in connection with the Christian's actions. Peter says, "Arm

yourselves likewise with the same mind” (I Pet. 4:1) as that of Christ. Paul charged Timothy to “War a good warfare” (I Tim. 1:18). Of course we know it is not physical warfare that is commanded, and that is made clear in 2 Corinthians 10:4. “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)” In his discussion of “tongues” Paul said, “For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare for battle” (I Cor. 14:8). Paul speaks of “Approving ourselves as the ministers of God . . . By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left...” (2 Cor. 6:4, 7). The Romans are exhorted to “cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light” (Rom. 13:12).

One of the most pronounced use of military figures to describe the soldiers of Christ is found in Ephesians 6:10-17. The Ephesians “saints,” “the faithful in Christ Jesus, “ are commanded:

“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Under the figure of a contest Paul tells Timothy to “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life” (I Tim. 6:12). Near the end Paul writes: “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7). The Christian life is one of action against our spiritual enemies.

When Jude wrote that “Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” (Jude 3) he used a word (contend) which in the Greek, “Signifies to contend about a thing, as a combatant.” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*). “Combatant” means a fighter.

The greatest lesson in the book of Revelation is in the fact that God’s people are pictured as waging a war against the forces of evil, and that to be victorious one must not quit the battle, but be an “overcomer.”

In view of the above is it not crystal clear that the Lord’s army of “good soldiers” is be a **Militant Force**? That is, “Ready and willing to fight: esp., vigorous or aggressive in support or promotion of a cause” (*Webster*). How, then, can some believe that the Lord’s CAUSE is not one for which we should fight? Or, that by taking a Pacifist attitude spiritual conflict will be averted? We are now being attacked by enemies of the Truth, war is upon us! Will we fight as “good soldiers” should? I cannot understand the thinking of brethren who think we should be Pacifists, and that that will deter the enemy, but such is obviously not the case.

The enemy of God’s people is very strong. The enemy is both within and without the Lord’s church. The idea that if we do not put up a fight or that we just play dead, the enemy will go away, is of the devil. It cannot be of the Lord. If it were it would mean that the Lord is against himself. But more than a few are those who are not willing to do battle for the greatest cause upon earth, the Lord’s church. It seems not to matter that the Lord died for it, or that the apostles laid their lives on the line to defend it. History tells us that multitudes among the early Christians gave even their lives for the CAUSE. They were not willing to deny the truth to have “peace at any price.” If we were to face what they faced, what would be the outcome? How many would be willing to fight for the Master?

There may be a number of things to which the Pacifist role being played may be attributed, but three things affect some who claim to be marching under the “banner of the cross” but who are unwilling to stand against the enemy. When people will stand battles rage, but in many areas the sounds of battle for the Truth are not being heard.

Some are not fighting because they have allowed themselves to take the position that Matthew 18:15-17, applies to every wrong, whether it be an individual matter or not. Therefore, the rank-est of false teachers cannot be opposed until one has made personal contact with him and verified every word of his false teaching. It matters not that the false teacher is sowing his damnable doctrine far and wide, he is to be allowed a free course in the matter until he is personally confronted. This is sometimes nigh unto impossible, but where is the Bible teaching for such an idea anyway? I’ve not found it.

Then there is the “love” advocate. He maintains that “love” will not allow the “good soldier” to withstand the enemy. This, however, is not the kind of love Jesus had, is it? But while the “loving” is going on the enemy is doing his devilish work unopposed. The church, purchased by the precious blood of Christ, is not considered as being more valuable than the “tender feelings” of the enemy, who might possibly be saved if shown the truth.

The “fearful” soldier is not likely to stop the enemy. He is likely to stay hidden when there is a battle to be joined. That word “fearful” is used in Revelation 21:8, as the first in a list of those who “Shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.” “Fearful” is from the Greek *delios* which means, “timid, fearful, pusillanimous, cowardly” (*The Analytical Greek Lexicon*). Timidity, fear and cowardice are without doubt one of the greatest causes in allowing the enemy of truth to make his great advances. We are reminded of Gideon’s army of 23,000 (Judges 7) and how that “Whosoever is fearful and afraid” was allowed to go home. Just think, 22,000 of the army fell into the “fearful” category. We wonder just how many of the Lord’s people would fall into the lot of the “fearful” today?

It might be said that one cannot help being “fearful.” But is this so? If one cannot help it, why would one be consigned to the “second death” for something that could not be avoided? The apostle Peter obviously became fearful and denied the Lord, cursing and swearing. But Peter recognized his mistake and did not allow it to continue. Man can do the same today if the love of truth and righteousness is strong enough.

Brethren, let us not think that Pacifism is the path to a peace which is acceptable to God. To fail to fight is to invite spiritual disaster, and encourage the enemy to conquer where there is no opposition. If we would avert **Spiritual War**, brought on by the enemy, let us be strong! Let us “Stand fast in the faith” (I Cor. 16:13), and “contend for it” (Jude 3). Pacifism will only encourage the enemy of the Truth to war against us because we appear to be weak. If we aren’t willing to fight, then we are weak.

- - Walter W. Pigg

FELLOWHELPERS

July and August 2001

Maple Hill	100.00
Anonymous	50.00

Mrs. John H. Brown	50.00
R. S. Lowe	20.00
Alhambra church of Christ	50.00
Elizabeth Sublett	20.00
Donald R. Shiflett	100.00
Clarence E. Hall	100.00
Hornbeak church of Christ	200.00
Charlene Cain	20.00
Anonymous	150.00
Berea church of Christ	100.00
Pine Ridge church of Christ	100.00
Durham church of Christ	50.00
Green Plain church of Christ	100.00
Cloverdale ch. of Christ (In memory of Ida Daniels, mother of Leta Sellers)	100.00
Mike Ray	25.00
Larry Pennington	35.00
Lou Nell Elkins	50.00
Thomas O. McPherson	1,000.00
Fred C. & Bess Johnson, Judith and Lyndal Jackson – In memory of	
Pauline Cain Hatcher	100.00
Fred M. Neal, Sr.	25.00
Robert M. Price	350.00
Dean Ferguson	100.00
Angella M. Goodlet	10.00
Dan Tiffany	25.00
W. H. Farley, Jr.	5.00
Wayne Crum	5.00
Anonymous	100.00
Barbara S. Jones	<u>15.00</u>
Total July & Aug. contribution	3,155.00

***“That we might be fellowhelpers
to the truth” (3rd John 8)***

Our sincere thanks to our concerned brethren who have been so good to supply the financial needs which are necessary to make *Banner of Truth* possible. - - Editor

Banner of Truth Financial Report
July and August 2001

Balance on hand July 1, 2001	13,108.57
July and August contribution	<u>3,155.00</u>
Total funds available	16,263.57
July and August expenses:	
Mailing July & Aug. B.O.T.	1,259.15

Internet (six months)	90.00
Phone	25.83
Supplies, envelops, etc.	38.93
Stamps & other postage	68.00
Mailing Labels	52.38
Paper, staples, strapping	303.16
Plates and ink	374.20
Total July & Aug. expenses	2,211.65

Total funds available	16,263.57
Less July & August expenses	2,211.65
Balance on hand Aug. 31, 2001	14,051.92

Our work with *Banner of Truth* is very time consuming, but we are convinced by the response we receive from our readers that is time very well spent. One problem that we do not have, thanks to the liberality of our brethren, is whether or not we will have the needed finances to carry our work. **For this, we are indeed most grateful! - - - Editor**

READERS' RESPONSE

“Thanks. I continue to enjoy, and profit from BOT, as I’m sure others that read it do. The excellent lead article in the May issue is accurate, and relevant for many congregation. Continue to contend for the faith, brother! - **Denny Durigan.**” (*Comments from our readers are at least 95% positive. This is a great encouragement. We do expect some negative response, and this confirms the need for the defense of the faith once delivered. - - Editor.*)

“Please remove this name from your mailing list.” (*The name was Dale Smith. - Editor.*)

“Love your paper! Thanks - **Mayne Crow.**” - **TX.** (*We are thankful that you find Banner of Truth worthwhile. We thank you for the check - Editor.*) (*Contd.last page*)

Do you need to change your address? We do appreciate greatly those who send a change. Editor

AN URGENT, WORTHY NEED

In the June and July issues of *Banner of Truth* we carried an announcement of the fact that Alan Adams was scheduled to become a full-time instructor at the **Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies**, at 57 East Hanna Circle, Pensacola, FL 32534. The Adams family moved to the Pensacola area near the end of August, and Alan began his duties as a full-time instructor. We also in the above issues of *Banner of Truth* carried an appeal for financial support in order to make brother Alan Adams’ work possible.

When the Adams family moved to the Pensacola area it was necessary for them to buy a place to live. In addition to this expense, other expenses have been incurred as a result of the move from Cowan, TN, where they worked with the church in Cowan.

The school in Pensacola is not financially able to support the teachers, since the school must have financial assistance to operate. The Ensley congregation, the sponsor of the school, does not have the financial means to support the teachers. Therefore, it was necessary for the Adams family to raise financial support from the ground up.

Several concerned brethren, individuals and congregations, have sent one-time contributions. But the need for monthly financial support has not been met. There is still a need for more than

\$1,000 in monthly support.

The work of brother Alan Adams is such that it is deserving of the needed financial support. With his knowledge of the scriptures and his many years of preaching and teaching he is eminently qualified to do an excellent job with the work which is before him. His teaching will influence young men as preachers of the gospel, for many years to come. The need has never been greater in our lives, for men who will declare “the whole counsel of God” without fear or favor of men. This is the kind of teaching the students can expect in the school.

Brethren, individuals and/or congregations, who want to see the Lord’s church strengthened in these trying times, and for years to come, have a great opportunity to support the work of the Adams family. Though some schools of preaching may be larger, none is above the quality of work being done at **The Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies**. Brethren are asked to seriously consider this Urgent and Worthy need.

I / We _____ Address _____

Phone _____ wish to help in the following way: \$ _____ Monthly support

\$ _____ As a one-time Gift. \$ _____ \$ Other basis _____

Contributions should be sent to: The Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies, 57 E. Hanna Circle, Pensacola, FL 32534. Further information may be obtained by calling the school at: (850) 476-1417, or (850) 968-2207. Alan Adams:(850) 479-4405, or 937-1460.

READERS’ RESPONSE Continued

“I have appreciated receiving BOT for some years. You publish good articles that are needed today. Much good will be the result, no doubt...I’m enclosing a check to help with the expenses. We must teach, preach, live, defend and stand for Truth today as never before. And at the same time expose error and false doctrine, unscriptural practices and those who teach and practice it. May God bless all the good being done - **Fred R. Bogle.**” - **FL.** *(You see the situation exactly as I do. Brethren are not standing for Truth as they once did, but the need to do so increases day by day. In evidence of this, I have noted that virtually all the letters of criticism I receive almost never offer any criticism of false teachers, but of those who are standing tall for the truth. Thanks for the church to help in our work - Editor).*

“Enclosed find a check for your work and please add the following names for Banner of Truth - **Virginia F. McCoy.**” - **OH.** *(Thanks for the names to be added to our mailing list. Your check is greatly appreciated. People like you make our work possible - Editor).*

Free 20 Page Tract

This tract, entitled: **Non-Denominational Christianity**, for the purpose of strengthening the brethren and also to be used as an evangelistic tool. The tract is made possible by a concerned Christian who wants to do something to help the cause of Christ. If you desire some of the tracts, contact: Clarence E. Hall, 2107 Cedardale Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Phone: (225) 344-6519.

Editor’s e-mail: <wpiggbot@apex.net>

Visit BOT on David Lemmons’ web at:

<http://www.hcis.net/users/dlemmons/BOTlist.htm>

Readers may get on David's LemmonsAid e-mail:
< LemmonsAid-Subscribe@YahooGroups.com >

Error in Aug. BOT, p. 14. One paragraph and part of another were printed, with no connection to any other part of BOT. How this came to be, I don't know. It must have been some fault of my computer! I'm trying to run down the rest of the article. Editor

Welcome New Readers! Let us hear from you.