

Bible Student's Notebook The Herald of His Grace

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Volume XVII Issue 412

The Cie: Recipe for Babylon

The Seduction of Religion and Politics

by — Dan Sheridan

Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature alongside the Creator, who is blessed for the ages. Amen. ... For this cause God shall send them a strong delusion that they should believe the lie: that all they might be judged who believed not the truth, but took delight in unrighteousness (Romans 1:25; II Thessalonians 2:12).

he expression "the lie" isn't an isolated phrase thrown into Romans and Thessalonians. "The lie" is a system of worship that has been in effect since Babel. It will reach its zenith with the coming of the man of lawlessness.

The lie must be considered in historical context. Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, sets forth the truth for the Body of Christ in letters – truth for today. His Church letters begin with Romans, where the Church of God is brought onto the scene. They end with Thessalonians, where the Church is taken off the scene.

In Romans, Paul looks at *the lie* historically from its inception in Genesis 10 up until his day. In Thessalonians he shows the future development of *the lie* with the worship of Satan (Revelation 13). In Genesis 11 "they left off to build the city." Man couldn't finish his earthly paradise – God scattered them to prevent that – but the lie has been working among the individual nations ever since. Nations have their own particular religions and gods, but they all have one thing in common: salvation by human merit. Soon, though, God will allow them to finish the city that they started. The language barrier is breaking down rapidly, and the nations will soon unite.

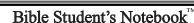
Paul's commission restrains *the lie* from coming out in full force. The Body of Christ keeps *the lie* from reaching its ugly conclusion.

WHAT IS THE LIE?

The lie is a false system of worship. The goal of religious men is to establish a brotherhood of the human race with universal peace. They want to create a paradise without God: A manmade paradise that denies the nature of death or the need of redemption from sin. They believe not the truth, but take delight in unrighteousness (II Thessalonians 2:12). In other words, they have no room for the gospel proclaimed by Paul, which reveals God's righteousness through the faith of Christ. They don't believe that truth. They have a works gospel, and that's why they delight in unrighteousness. They want a universal religion and a universal government based on human merit and religion.

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25):
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13):
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

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THE LIE (continued from front page)

Christendom is part of this false religion. Christendom teaches that the main goal of "the church" is to "do good" to the world, to improve our cities, and to establish a sort of Christian Socialism; to create a Christ-less millennium with world peace and united churches and religions. This is why they have become involved in international politics.

The church today is thoroughly settled down in the world. They have left Paul's letters completely. Christendom doesn't promote a pilgrim journey like Paul did. Instead, it promotes world establishment through religion and politics. Christians want to rule and reign here and now. These are signs of the last days - days that Paul describes as perilous. This tells us that the Body of Christ will soon be taken out of the scene. Not long after that, Babylon will be revived and dealt with.

The Christ-less churches will play a vital role in Babylon. The truth of God is no longer wanted today! The truth has been exchanged for the lie as it was in Genesis 10-11. The thing which hath been is that which shall be - there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The form of the truth may differ, but the spiritual act is identical: exchanging the truth of God for the lie. In Genesis 10-11 they perverted the truth revealed in creation and the testimony handed down through Noah. Today they have perverted the message of the Apostle Paul. The gospel proclaimed in churches today resembles the gospel proclaimed by Paul about as much as the Egyptian Book of the Dead represents Moses.

Warning! Note that the truth is EXCHANGED. That means the truth was once held. After that, it was perverted. That means we must look for the lie amongst those who go by the name "Christian." In the Old Testament the name of Yahweh was mixed-up with idols. Satan's tactics haven't changed.

There is a revival of Egyptian religion today, and Spiritism too. The doctrines of the Book of the Dead and Spiritism are laced into the creeds and doctrinal statements of Christendom. The name of Christ and Isis have been blended in the theology of Babylon.

Where does it all lead? There will be a false Messiah

in Jerusalem and a perverted Christianity all over the earth as portrayed in Revelation 13. This is the last form of "the lie."

A seductive city is going to be built on the banks of the Euphrates. Its luxuries will be unsurpassed. The whole world will admire it. Every international movement points to this one great object of man - a paradise without God, Genesis 10-11 all over again but the end will be the same.

Christ-less Christianity along with united religions will take advantage of the decline of nationalism to promote a unified socialistic world.

Thus we are on our guard. Religious movements in particular require to be watched, as they are mostly peculiarly subtle nowadays, and it is in respect of them that Satan can put the saints to the test. It is only by the most implicit belief in God's written Word that the many delusions of ecclesiastical systems starting up around us can be discerned in these days, and we are all first inclined to support some pet system of our own, instead of judging our own by the Word of God. We must watch them lest the conscience go astray. — E.W. Bullinger¹

A Word of Exhortation

The Lie is with us today. It affected the early Church in Paul's day, just as it affected Israel the moment they entered the promised land! Achan coveted a Babylonian garment. So too the Church of Corinth was infected by Babylon. Paul's letter to the Corinthians is a warning. In the first four chapters of First Corinthians we learn that the believers were being seduced by the world's wisdom. They were professing themselves to be wise! They thought Plato and Aristotle were on a par with Solomon, David and Paul. They sought to harmonize them. They wanted the world to accept them. They wanted Christianity to find acceptance among the world's celebrities. They wanted to make Paul's message palatable to the world! They wanted to convert an evil eon into a good one!

Then in chapters five and six they were following the world's commercial ways and worship. A man took

(see **THE LIE**, page 3698)

[&]quot;The Pseudos," Things To Come, 1894.

The Sabbath

by — Arthur P. Adams (1847-1925)

n occasion I receive letters from seventhday keepers, not exactly asking questions, but rather lecturing me on this point, and taking it for granted that I believe certain things in regard to this and other questions, which they have no means of knowing whether I believe or not, and which, as a matter of fact. I do not believe.

I will simply state my position briefly, and thus answer these.

I readily concede to our seventh-day friends that there is not the slightest authority for calling the first day the Sabbath, or keeping it as such, excepting that of the Church of Rome. I think that if there is any particular day of the week that we should keep especially holy, that day is the seventh, and not the first; but I recognize no such special obligation. What is wrong for me to do, or say, or think Saturday or Sunday, is wrong Monday, and what is right and proper Monday is equally right and proper any other day in the week.

One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be *fully persuaded in his own mind* (Romans 14:5).

I'm of the number who esteem every day alike. Our apostle says,

We are not under the law but under grace (Romans 6:14).

That Paul includes the ten commandments under the general term "law" as he uses it in his epistle to the Romans is positively evident from 7:7, where he quotes one of those commandments as a sample of the teachings of the "law" about which he was talking.

The distinction that seventh-day believers make between the "Ceremonia," and the "Moral" law is convenient enough for purposes of reference, etc.; yet the Bible makes no such distinction, but includes the whole law, ceremonial and moral, under the one general name of "law."

Paul declares that the law, which was "written and engraved in stones" (i.e., the ten commandments) was the "Ministration of Death," and was to be "done away" to give place to the "Ministration of Righteousness," "which remaineth" (II Corinthians 3:7-11).

(see **SABBATH**, page 3698)

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by — E.W. Bullinger

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Perfect Parents

by — Clyde L.Pilkington, Jr.

Love never fails! (I Corinthians 13:8).

here are no perfect parents, outside of Father Himself. Although those of us who have children may desire to be the best parents that we can possibly be, this fact should bring us great comfort. We are not perfect in our role; we will make many mistakes. Though we will falter and fail on many fronts with our children, there is one simple ingredient in parenthood that will make it all work.

Love covers all mistakes (Proverbs 10:12).

Genuine love for your children, lavished on them, will cover all of your parental mistakes. More than anything else your children just need to be loved; they need to know that you love them. We're not talking here about some mere sentiment, but a sin-

cere, active love. After all, love is "the greatest" (I Corinthians 13:13), "a more excellent way" (I Corinthians 12:31).

Though you will never be a "perfect" parent – without any mistakes – love will bring you up to a divine "perfection" that is unmatched, for love is "the bond of perfection" (Colossians 3:14).

Obviously I know that my parents were not perfect, since none are; but my memory of them is that of being perfect parents nonetheless. I now know why: they unconditionally bathed me with their love – and love covers all mistakes – it never fails.

If you want to be a "perfect" parent – love your children.

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THE LIE (continued from page 3695)

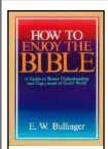
his father's wife (ch. 5), believers took other believers to court (6), and they were being seduced to partake in idolatrous rituals! First Corinthians 6 talks about eating meat, prostitution and harlots in one context. They are the enticements of Babylon! The very words "fornication" and "harlot" in the *KJV* are the same Greek words littered throughout Revelation, especially chapter 17, which describes Babylon. Read very carefully Numbers 25 in connection with meat, prostitution and idolatry. Isrealites were called to feasts and joined themselves to idols.

Compare also II Timothy 3:1-7 with Romans 1, and you will see that we can fall prey to this sin. It's with us today! Clinging closely to the rightly divided Scriptures while separated from the system is our only defense.

"The Church" is a huge religious business. Churches are about religion, commerce and politics. Its leaders are princes and kings promoting luxury and prosperity to their sheep. Do they suffer like Paul? Impossible. They don't have Paul's message! The "God" and "Jesus" on the lips of the common person and on the bumper-sticker of their SUV's is a non-descript deity - a deity made in the image of man. A religious fad.

Look at the churches today! False worship with the appeal of sensual surroundings, the music, the dancing, the cult-like energetic front-man (Priest, Pastor, Reverend, Apostle, etc.), the marketing, the food fellowship – all packaged in the evil cloak of religion! A soulish religion. An enticement with marketing campaigns behind them. Remember Numbers 25.

We are ripe for the one-world religion and government. Revelation 13 is just around the corner, and



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by —E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

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that means that I Thessalonians 4 is even closer!

The lie is upon us, and it is getting worse. Sufficient time needs to be allowed for building that great city Babylon. That means the snatching away is close. God hasten the day. Avoid the lie.

All Is Vanity

by - Martin Zender

Why does everything seem to go wrong? Because most things **do** go wrong. The reason this life rarely caters to our personal desires for order and perfection is that it is an experience of evil that God is giving us (Ecclesiastes 1:13), not an experience of order and perfection. The good stuff is saved up for the next life. In the meantime, God graciously provides us with the necessary contrast now to appreciate that life when it comes. Yes, this is precisely why you are constantly looking for your car keys.

Crack O' Dawn Report with Martin Zender Report #51: All Is Vanity

Sabbath (continued from page 3696)

What is the "Ministration of Righteousness"? Not the law,

For if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain (Galatians 2:21).

Righteousness comes by faith, and,

The law is not of faith (Galatians 3:12).

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Romans 10:3-13).

I will not pursue this subject further now. I intend to consider it more at length soon in an article entitled The Purpose of the Law. In the meantime, let us endeavor to fulfill all of the law in this one word: Love (Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:8, 10).



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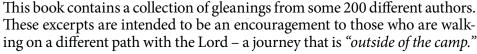
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