

MODERN FALSE PROPHETS AND WORLDLY ECUMENISM : PART 1

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The Passing Of Reverend Billy Graham, Abide In Your Calling, Worldly Evangelists And TV Preachers, Dangers Of Materialism, Pastors And Politicians: Deadly Mix, Billy Graham And Nixon, A Deep Compromise By Preachers And Churches, Overcome By The World, Popular Or Persecuted?, Children Of The Light, Billy Graham's Alleged Masonic Association, We Will All Be Held Accountable Before God, Beware Of Internet Rumors, Exposing Doctrinal Errors, Strive For Unity Within The Body Of Christ

This series is an update to an original article which I first wrote twenty years ago in 1998. It concerns the world renowned American evangelist, the Reverend Billy Graham, and other issues which are related to popular evangelists. It was just a week ago on February 21, 2018, that Mr. Graham passed away at the ripe old age of ninety-nine, due to natural causes, according to news reports. Currently, both the mass media, as well as the Internet, are filled with commentary regarding Graham's passing. Some of it offers high praise for Billy Graham, while other commentary is quite harsh, and condemns him due to some of his personal beliefs which he expressed over twenty years ago.

As many of you will already know, over the course of his life, Billy Graham was known for drawing literally thousands upon thousands of people to his evangelical conventions worldwide. In addition, many millions more either heard him, or watched him, via various electronic media. In fact, I recall that as a young Christian boy quite a few decades ago, I was greatly impressed by those events which were broadcast nationwide on American television. Perhaps it was partially due to Graham's televised conventions, that in later years, I also dedicated my life to the Lord.

From that time until now, due to the course which my own

life has taken, I have paid very little attention to the ministry of Mr. Graham, or even to the ministries of other well-known American preachers. Other than being familiar with some of their names, I know very little about most of those radio, television and stadium/auditorium evangelists. This is due in large part to the fact that I believe that each servant of the Lord should abide in their own ministry, and concentrate their efforts on doing their best for the Lord. As you may know, this is precisely what the Bible instructs us to do, as we can determine by the following verses:

"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand."

Romans 15:20-21, KJV

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called . . . Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God."

1 Corinthians 7:20, 24, KJV

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."

2 Corinthians 10:12-18, KJV

"But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the

circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."
Galatians 2:7-9, KJV

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."
Philippians 2:12, KJV

Having said that, if I were to make a general statement regarding other Christian ministries, based on what I have heard and seen during the past few decades, it would be that while I feel that some of these men are probably doing a lot of good for the Kingdom of God, many others have become too distracted by the lights, cameras, big money and politics. They've become too worldly, too commercial, too materialistic and too political in their evangelical approach. Sadly, many of these men are also preaching doctrines which are clearly not backed by the Scriptures in the least. I discuss some of these topics in the article "Money-Making Bible Hucksters and Mammon".

As the regular readers of my articles are probably already aware, my views concerning participation in secular politics are rather different from the views of other more worldly preachers. As I explain in my various political discourses, my belief is that as Christians, the Lord has called us out from the world, and told us not to touch the unclean thing. We are not to associate ourselves with, or to mingle with, the unbelievers of the world any more than is absolutely necessary in order to get the job done. Of course, that job is primarily to win souls to Jesus Christ, so that should be our main objective when we do mingle with the children of the world. It shouldn't be to go out and drink and party and have fun. Consider the following verses which confirm this point:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:14-18, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

John 17:14-15, KJV

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

1 Corinthians 7:31, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:18, KJV

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24, KJV

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16:13, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

1 Timothy 6:6-14, KJV

It seems rather obvious to me that some of these American evangelists have done the exact opposite. They have gone too far to the extreme in their attempt to win souls to Christ; even to the point of compromise. Some of these pastors and preachers seem to think that by becoming involved in worldly affairs, and by associating themselves with high-profile politicians, and maybe even by running for political office themselves, they can change the American political system from the inside. This includes men such as Pat Robertson and Franklin Graham, the eldest son of Billy Graham, who is also the heir to his father's ministry.

Ironically, Franklin Graham -- and other evangelicals -- is doing the exact opposite of what his father had advised him to do. As some of my older readers will recall, back during the early 1970s, Billy Graham became involved in quite a cozy political relationship with President Richard M. Nixon, who was later disgraced, and forced to resign from office due to the Watergate scandal. Graham was not left unscathed by the incident, and later embraced the position that it is not wise for the Lord's servants to become too enmeshed with politicians, or to engage in partisan politics. In fact, in a 2011 interview with the Christianity Today magazine, Mr. Graham stated the following in retrospect:

----- Begin Quote -----

"I also would have steered clear of politics . . . I'm grateful for the opportunities God gave me to minister to people in high places; people in power have spiritual and personal needs like everyone else, and often they have no one to talk to. But looking back I know I sometimes crossed the line, and I wouldn't do that now."

----- End Quote -----

Quite frankly, I just don't believe that Christians at any level becoming engaged in American politics is going to change the deep corruption which exists within the U.S. government. In my view, the system is already too far gone. Instead of these evangelists changing the government and system of the United States, it seems to me that the rotten spirit of modern American politics is overcoming and even corrupting some of them instead. Just like the Scribes and

the Pharisees of old, some of these charismatic television and stadium preachers compromise their message, and become more concerned with the opinions of men, instead of being faithful to the full, true message of Jesus Christ, and pleasing God first.

Sadly, many of the 501(c)(3) churches -- that is, tax-exempt churches -- are doing the very same thing in order to keep their tax-exempt status. In other words, they are becoming menpleasers instead of God pleasers. They tone down their message and lose their spiritual effectiveness. They are overcome by the very same worldly spirit against which they fought when they first began their battle in the Spirit. Tragically, and to their shame, some of them are even now ordaining sexual deviants as priests, ministers, pastors and bishops, as well as blessing same-sex relationships. It is unbelievable how far some of them have fallen into deep apostasy from the faith. There can be no compromise here. There are no neutrals. Either we overcome, or else we are overcome. Consider the following verses and be warned:

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Romans 6:16, KJV

"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

2 Peter 2:19-20, KJV

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:21, KJV

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

1 John 4:4, KJV

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be

of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33, KJV

I also discuss this topic of being overcome by the world in the series "Have You Been Slain in the Spirit?". As the Lord Himself said in the previous verse, because He has chosen us out of the world, the world hates us. It doesn't like us. It does not love us. It doesn't accept us. It in fact hates us. This is becoming more evident with each passing year as the Children of Darkness become ever more bolder in their wicked defiance against God. As I explain in "Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution", Jesus, Paul and others told us that if we remain true to the Gospel message, we will be hated, persecuted, and possibly even killed. In some countries -- such as certain Muslim countries -- our Christian brethren are already being persecuted, incarcerated and killed.

One thing is for certain. If we really preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ without compromise, we won't ever become rich, powerful and popular like some of these modern evangelists who hobnob with high society, and preach a watered down gospel of compromise. If these people aren't suffering and being ridiculed and persecuted for their Christian beliefs, somewhere by someone, then perhaps there is something wrong with their message. If they are being fully embraced by the the American government, then perhaps there is something wrong with their message. As we saw earlier, there can be no communion or fellowship between the Children of Light and the Children of Darkness. Consider these verses as well:

"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."
John 15:20, 21, KJV

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"
2 Timothy 2:12, KJV

The ungodly people of the world do not like those of us who endeavor to live godly lives dedicated to the Lord. If we are full of God's Truth through the knowledge of His Word, then as Jesus said, we will be similar to bright lights which shine on the darkest recesses of their lives. Their sins will be exposed through the words that we speak, and especially through the godly lives which we try to live. As a result, they will think us odd, and they will hate us for it. Once we come to the Light, we are of the Light, and we can no longer walk in Darkness. From that point forward, we must do the works of Light to show the world that we are truly the Children of Light. Consider the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."

Luke 11:33-36, KJV

"And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

Luke 16:8, KJV

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

John 3:19-20, KJV

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them."

John 12:36, KJV

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

John 15:22, KJV

"For ye were sometime darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light."

Ephesians 5:8, 11-13, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, KJV

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:5-7, KJV

I also discuss this topic regarding the Children of Light and the Children of Darkness in articles such as "The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?". I highly recommend that you read it as I believe it will be an inspiration to your heart.

This now brings us to one of the main points of this series,

and it concerns a statement which I made at the beginning of this series. Twenty years ago, I was involved in an online discussion with a particular person who claimed that Billy Graham was a thirty-third degree Mason. In fact, now that Reverend Graham is deceased, this very same claim is being resurrected by certain individuals, such as on a number of the social networks in which I participate. This charge is based upon a purported list of famous Masonic members, which is said to have been posted on a Masonic lodge website in the state of Louisiana, U.S.A. While Billy Graham vehemently denied this claim, there are those people who insist that he was simply lying, and trying to cover his tracks. Even today.

If there is any truth to this matter -- and I honestly don't know that there is -- it is indeed deplorable; because the Reverend Graham was supposed to be a representative of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. While I personally do not know very much about the Freemasons, from what I have read, as well as from what I have been told by a few other people who either participated in this organization at one time, or who knew other individuals who did, there are some very sinister beliefs and practices which are associated with Freemasonry, which are very non-Christian in nature. In fact, I discuss the Freemasons in a four-part series called "Freemasonry and the Danger of a One World Religion", if you wish to read it.

So again, if there is any truth to this charge concerning the Reverend Graham having been a high-level member of this evil organization, it is indeed sad; because many people worldwide placed their utmost trust in his words as a representative of Jesus Christ. If he really was a thirty-third degree Mason, despite his own denial of the same, then no doubt he will be held accountable for his dishonesty. After all, as the Lord, the Apostle Paul and other writers inform us, we will all give an account for ourselves and our actions when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, as we can determine by the following set of verses:

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
Ecclesiastes 12:14, KJV

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

Matthew 12:36, KJV

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

Matthew 25:31-34, 41, KJV

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

John 5:28-29, KJV

"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:10-12, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

"Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead . . . For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1 Peter 4:4-5, 17, KJV

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it,

from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

Revelation 20:11-13, KJV

Let me reiterate again that, personally, I don't know with any degree of certainty that the Reverend Graham was really associated with the Freemasons. For all I know, that could have been just another of so many Internet rumors which are used to discredit people, and to destroy their reputations and their lives on the web. I have warned many times before that the Internet is quite the rumor mill, and should be used with great caution and wisdom.

As my regular readers will know, I try not to make it a habit of judging or criticizing fellow Christian evangelists. As I already mentioned, normally, I do not even pay attention to any of them. They each have their ministries, and I have mine as well. Thus, I strive to mind my own business, and to just keep busy doing what the Lord has given me to do. However, when the Lord does see fit to put a certain situation before me -- such as when a brother or sister asks me "What do you think of so-and-so?" -- I believe that it must be for a good reason. Thus, if I do know something about said evangelist which does not appear right, I feel obligated by my personal conviction to uphold the Truth of God's Word, to expose the lie, delusion or false doctrine that is being propagated by that preacher.

Allow me to make clear that when the Lord does move me in that direction, my primary goal is to expose the doctrinal error which I believe is leading the Lord's precious sheep astray. That alone is my priority. It is not to attack the person who is espousing the erroneous belief. I see enough of that online as it is. As I point out in articles such as "Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word", none of us -- myself included -- possesses a perfect understanding of God's Word. We are all striving on a regular basis -- or at least we should be striving -- to obtain a more perfect understanding, as we endeavor to reach the unity which the Apostle Paul mentions in the following set of verses:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all SPEAK THE SAME THING, and that there be NO DIVISIONS among you; but that ye be PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER in the SAME MIND and in the same judgment."

1 Corinthians 1:10, KJV

"That ye may with ONE MIND and ONE MOUTH glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:6, KJV

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of ONE MIND, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

2 Corinthians 13:11, KJV

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in ONE SPIRIT, with ONE MIND striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

Philippians 1:27, KJV

"Fulfil ye my joy, THAT YE BE LIKEMINDED, having the same love, being of ONE ACCORD, of ONE MIND."

Philippians 2:2, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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MODERN FALSE PROPHETS AND WORLDLY ECUMENISM : PART 2

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Modern Church Is Very Divided, Warnings Regarding False

Teachers And Preachers In Our Midst, False Doctrines Divide The Church, Apostasy And Modern Delusion, Reject Doctrinal Heretics, 1997 Schuller-Bill Graham Interview, The Name Of Jesus, We Are Predestinated And Chosen, The Necessity Of Verbally Confessing Name Of Jesus, Salvation Is A Conscious Act, We Must Acknowledge Christ As The Head Of The Church

Continuing our discussion from part one, sadly, as much as we would like to achieve Paul's goal of unity in the Body of Christ, it seems that as each year passes, we become even more divided regarding our understanding of God's Word. I dare say that insofar as doctrine is concerned, the modern Christian Church is probably more divided today than it has ever been before. It is nothing short of amazing -- perhaps "disappointing" is a more appropriate word here -- how many different denominations, organizations and doctrines have evolved from the teachings of just One Man and His twelve followers almost two thousand years ago. There are now so many different doctrinal positions, each with their own special labels and such, that quite frankly, I find it all extremely confusing.

At the same time, as I explain in other articles such as "Exposing the Tactics of the Enemy", I am convinced that this doctrinal division has all occurred by design. Why do I feel this way? Because since the Christian Church came into being, Satan, and his human pawns, have been bent on destroying it by any and every means possible. One of the ways he does this is by sending his emissaries -- that is, his false teachers and preachers -- into the Lord's flocks, in order to deceive, confuse, misguide and divide them. We need to remember that we all possess the potential for becoming deceived if we are not careful. We need to constantly remind ourselves of the many warnings which are found throughout the Holy Scriptures -- such as the following ones -- regarding these wolves in sheep's clothing and false brethren:

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN."

Proverbs 6:16-19, KJV

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Matthew 7:15-20, KJV

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."

Matthew 13:24-25, KJV

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Matthew 24:24, KJV

"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."

Luke 10:3, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Acts 20:28-30, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15, KJV

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:"

Galatians 2:4, KJV

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision."

Philippians 3:2, KJV

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

1 John 2:18-19, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

Exactly what is the method of division which is used by these false teachers who enter amongst the flocks of the Lord? It is the deceptive doctrines which they bring with them. Yes, in some cases, they will quote from the Bible just like you and I. However, they will twist and pervert the meanings of the Scriptures in order to draw people away from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. They will also mix the Scriptures with secular humanist ideas, oriental philosophies, New Age thought, materialism, and other nonsense too shameful to even mention here.

Let me again remind you that after the Lord had spent forty days fasting in the wilderness of the Jordan River Valley, Satan also tempted Him. When he did so, that snake quoted the Word of God. He said "It is written", but then he added his own twist to the verses he was quoting. Peter clearly tells us that some day, these people will be destroyed because of their perversion of the Scriptures, as we see here:

"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."
2 Peter 3:16, KJV

Just as Jesus warned His followers to beware of the leaven -- that is, the doctrine -- of the Scribes and the Pharisees of His day, we too must be extremely careful concerning the many deceptive doctrines which are being espoused by these modern false angels of light. Consider the following verses and take heed:

"Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."
Matthew 16:12, KJV

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"
Ephesians 4:14-15, KJV

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Hebrews 13:9, KJV

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."

1 Timothy 1:3-4, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes."

2 Timothy 2:23, KJV

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

Titus 3:9, KJV

So the question is this: Why does God allow such apostasy -- that is, falling away or defection from the Truth, from the Koine Greek word "apostasia" -- to occur? The Bible informs us rather clearly that the Lord purposely allows it to happen because people simply no longer want to hear the Truth. In other words, they purposely want to be deceived by the lies of Satan and his workers of darkness. These ideas are made evident for us by the following verses:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come A FALLING AWAY FIRST, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all

that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, KJV

". . . because THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, that they might be saved. And for this cause GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION, that they should believe a lie:"

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, KJV

"I ALSO WILL CHOOSE THEIR DELUSIONS, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

Isaiah 66:4, KJV

"And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak. So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD? And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD

hath spoken evil concerning thee. But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace."

1 Kings 22:13-27, KJV

Exactly how do the Scriptures advise us to respond to those people who, after several warnings, continue to preach their deceptive doctrines? Both Jesus and His followers clearly advise us to avoid them, and to have absolutely nothing to do with doctrinal heretics, as we can determine by the following set of verses:

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

Matthew 18:17, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Romans 16:17, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil

surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."
Titus 3:9-11, KJV

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:9-11, KJV

At this point, I would like to return to the conversation I had with one of my readers a number of years ago. While the idea of evangelist Billy Graham possibly being associated with the Masons was alarming, it was really the additional information which was provided to me by this reader which prompted me to write this current series back in 1998. You see, according to my reader, on May 31, 1997, the Reverend Robert Schuller, of the "Crystal Cathedral Church" television show, interviewed Billy Graham on his -- that is, Schuller's -- worldwide television program. Following are some excerpts from the Schuller broadcast twenty-one years ago:

----- Begin Quote -----

Robert Schuller: "Tell me, what do you think of the future of Christianity?"

Billy Graham: "I think everybody who knows Christ, whether they're conscious of it or not, they're members of the Body of Christ . . . God's purpose is to call out a people for His name, whether they come from the Muslim world, Buddhist world, the Christian world, or the non-believing world, they are members of the Body of Christ, because they've been called by God. They may not even know the name of Jesus . . . and I think they are saved and that they are going to be in

heaven with us."

----- End Of Quote -----

My reader informed me that both video and audio tapes of this broadcast were available via Schuller's church, if I had any doubts regarding what he was telling me. Well, as is my modus operandi, I did in fact research the issue, and I discovered that my friend was telling me the truth. So, for those of you who may possibly doubt that this is what Billy Graham really said in his interview with Robert Schuller, below is a video excerpt of the 1997 interview, which I acquired from YouTube. If you don't hear any audio at first, try clicking or tapping once on the video.

[Video goes here -- HTML version only]

If for some reason the above video does not play in your web browser, you can likewise watch it on YouTube at this URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INPyY0QjgpY>

It is evident then, that this is indeed what Mr. Graham said during that broadcast. As such, it is plain to see that there is good cause for alarm. While Reverend Graham's statements may seem innocuous at first glance, the truth is that his words carry a lot of subtle deception. In other words, while it may appear that Graham might be suggesting that the Lord has called out His children from these different religious and non-religious backgrounds, in order that they might come to know and to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, the remainder of his statement does not seem to uphold this idea.

Before analyzing Reverend Graham's statements, I do want to point out that we should not become too technical or overly legalistic in regards to the name of "Jesus". After all, that is merely our English transliteration of His Name. In Hebrew He is known as Yeshua. In Greek He is Iesous. In many other languages of the world, He is known by different names, based on how the original Hebrew name is translated into each of those particular languages. For example, as you may know, in the Spanish language, Jesus is Jesús, which is pronounced hay-soose, with a soft "s" sound in both cases. Regardless of which language is being used, all true Christians know that

we are referring to the one and the same Son of God who died for the sins of the world. I also discuss this issue in the article "Jesus Christ or Yeshua Messiah?: More Christian Zionist Legalism".

Having established the previous point, in my view, Reverend Graham's idea of not consciously knowing Christ, and simply being a part of the Body of Christ because one has been called by God, is a dangerous half-truth. On the side of Truth, as I point out in several other articles, God does indeed know those people who are His. This is clearly supported by Scriptures such as the following one which is taken from the Apostle Paul's second Epistle to Timothy:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

The first half of this verse touches on a topic which I discuss in other articles. That is the Scriptural fact that we are predestined, or foreordained, to Salvation since the foundation of the world. My personal understanding of this concept is the following. Being as the Lord is apparently not bound by the limitations of time and space as we humans are; and being as He is likewise all-knowing; He already realizes that at His appointed time, we are each going to choose Him. While this may not occur until a certain point in our lives, in the Lord's eyes it is already counted as being done, and as having already happened. As we are told in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul discussed the idea of Divine Predestination in several of his Epistles. Consider the following verses which were written to the churches at Rome and Ephesus:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."
Romans 8:28-29, KJV

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"
Ephesians 1:5, KJV

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"
Ephesians 1:11, KJV

Clearly then, Divine Predestination is indeed a Scriptural doctrine. Notice though what Paul states in the second half of that verse in his Epistle to Timothy. He says "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity". What we learn from this is that while God has indeed chosen us; and while we may not be conscious of it at first; there does indeed come a time when we must actually name the Name of Christ as our Savior.

That word "nameth" is actually a very precise translation. It is derived from the Greek word "onomazo". Pronounced on-om-ad'-zo, it means to name, to utter or to make mention of a name. In other words, it is a conscious, verbal act. I point out this very same fact in the article "To Pray or Not to Pray? That is the Question", as well as in the series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?". Verbal confession is clearly, and very necessarily, an important part of God's plan of Salvation. We must acknowledge and receive Christ, and then we must verbally confess Him before others. Again, this is a very sound Scriptural doctrine which is supported by verses such as the following:

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world . . . And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God . . . And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"
John 1:29, 34, 36, KJV

". . . Of a truth thou art the Son of God."

Matthew 14:33, KJV

". . . Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 16:16b-17, KJV

". . . Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel."

John 1:49, KJV

". . . Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

John 11:27, KJV

"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him."

John 9:35-38, KJV

"Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

Matthew 27:54, KJV

". . . I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Acts 8:37, KJV

"And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."

Acts 9:20, KJV

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

John 1:12, KJV

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,

and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:9-10, KJV

"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

1 John 4:15, KJV

There should be no doubt then, that contrary to what was apparently being espoused by the Reverend Graham during that interview twenty-one years ago, our Salvation is actually a very conscious act. While we are indeed saved by the Grace of God through the precious Blood of Christ that was shed on the Cross, we must acknowledge our sinful state, confess our need for a Savior, place our faith in Christ, receive Christ, and openly and verbally accept Jesus Christ as that Savior.

Clearly then, Salvation is not some mysterious, mystical thing which happens without our even being aware of it. We are not just automatically brought into the Body of Christ without our knowledge or personal choosing. Such an idea is totally contrary to all of the verses I have just shared with you. How can one be a member of the Body of Christ if he does not even consciously acknowledge and recognize the Head of that Body of which Billy Graham erroneously claimed that person is a part? Notice what the Apostle Paul states in the following verses:

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."
Ephesians 5:23, KJV

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."
Colossians 1:18, KJV

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"
Ephesians 4:15, KJV

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head

of Christ is God."

1 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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MODERN FALSE PROPHETS AND WORLDLY ECUMENISM : PART 3

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The Surety Of Our Salvation, Christ Draws All Men, Every Knee Shall Bow, In Which God Do They Believe, The Antichrist Jews, Jesus Is The Only Door, There Is No Such Thing As Unconscious Salvation, The Father And Son Are A Package Deal, The Devils Likewise Believe, Billy Graham's McCall's Magazine Statement, Natural Creation Can Point Us To God, My Love Of Nature, God The Father Draws Us To Christ, The Core Gospel Message, Fall Of Modern Preachers, Exposure To Foreign Cultures, Many Paths Doctrine: Oprah Winfrey, Ecumenism RCC And One World Religion, True Doctrinal Unity Versus False Worldly Ecumenism, Jesus' Prayer For Unity For His Followers, One Fold And One Shepherd

Continuing our discussion from part two, the Apostle John clearly wrote that we are to know who our Savior is. We are to be sure of from whence our Salvation comes. It is not some nebulous, unconscious decision made by God alone. Yes, He has chosen us from the foundation of the world; but as I already said, I believe it is because He already knows that we will someday choose Him according to His Perfect Will and Plan. In other words, personal choice is indeed involved in our Salvation. As John wrote, we must choose to believe in Christ in order to obtain Eternal Life. Please consider the

following verses:

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

John 20:31, KJV

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

1 John 5:13, KJV

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12, KJV

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Acts 16:31, KJV

Based upon all of the Scriptural evidence which I just shared with you, I firmly believe that Billy Graham's statements were indeed dangerous and misleading. They were not based on Scriptural Truth whatsoever. They give the false impression, and very clearly so, that Mr. Graham was stating that if one does not consciously know Christ, or even know His Name, that he can still be saved, simply because God has called him. For the sake of emphasis, Reverend Billy Graham stated "I think everybody who knows Christ, whether they're conscious of it or not, they're members of the Body of Christ . . . They may not even know the name of Jesus . . . and I think they are saved and that they are going to be in heaven with us."

It simply does not make any sense in my mind. How can anyone possibly know Jesus Christ and not be conscious of it? How can anyone be a part of the Body of Christ if one does not even consciously know or acknowledge the Head? Non-English speaking people may not know the exact name of "Jesus" in our English language. However, they will know Jesus' Name in their native language. They will likewise know of the loving Sacrifice which He made for all men everywhere. As our Lord said Himself in the Gospel of John:

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men

unto me."

John 12:32, KJV

I believe that is a conscious drawing together of His fold through faith in His Name. It is not some kind of mystical, mysterious, subconscious knowing. It is very conscious, and it is very physical. Sooner or later, either in this life, or at the Judgment Seat of Christ, every knee shall bow, both metaphorically, and physically, at the name of Jesus Christ. Everyone will know what they are doing, as we can see by the following verses:

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

Romans 14:11, KJV

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:9-11, KJV

I can only wonder if Graham was ever publicly challenged after making his erroneous statements. If he was, and if he personally gave a public response to these things, and did not just rely upon his associates to answer for him, I would be very interested to know what he said. I must also wonder if Robert Schuller challenged Billy Graham on live television immediately after he made these misleading statements. The transcript I have read indicates that he did not. If Schuller didn't do this, then I must also wonder why he did not do it.

The final point which disturbs me concerning Billy Graham's statements, is the fact that he seems to further alienate Jesus Christ from the picture of Salvation when he states "I've met people in various parts of the world . . . that have never seen a Bible or heard about a Bible, and never heard of Jesus, but they've believed in their hearts that there was a God."

While Graham states that these people believe in "a God", we must ask ourselves if such people believe in the one and only true God the Father, or if they believe in some other local

god or deity to whom they attribute creation and all life and breath. Even if they do actually believe in God the Father, as Bible-believing Christians, we know that just believing in God the Father is not enough. The Jewish elders of the New Testament also believed in God the Father -- at least they claimed to believe -- but were they truly saved? Not by any definition of the word. Jesus very clearly said that they were of their father the devil, as we see by these verses:

"They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham . . . Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it . . . He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

John 8:39, 44, 47, KJV

Notice the Lord's key phrases in those statements: "Ye are of your father the devil . . . ye are not of God". Jesus made very clear in the Gospels that believing in God the Father is only half of the Salvation Equation. Because the Jews rejected -- and for the most part continue to reject -- Jesus Christ as being the Son of God, they are all damned unless they repent. As I explain in articles such as "Not Everyone is a Child of God", this harsh reality applies to anyone who knowingly rejects the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no Salvation outside of Christ. To believe otherwise is to contradict the Scriptures.

The Lord, as well as other New Testament writers, have made it very clear that in order to get to God the Father, we must go through Him first. There are no detours. There are no side entrances. There are no secret passageways known only to a few initiated ones such as is promoted by certain occult groups. In short, there are not "many paths" as one very famous female TV personality has told her audiences. We all must enter through the Main Door, the Only Door. That is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only Mediator between God and man. Please consider the following verses:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber . . . I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

John 10:1, 9, KJV

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

Thus again, we can only conclude that unless we personally make a conscious effort to openly confess our belief in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are not truly saved. There is no such thing as unconscious Salvation. There is no such thing as being saved simply because God has chosen us. As we have already seen, if our Heavenly Father has chosen us, it is because He knows that in His appointed time, we will each accept Him by choosing to openly and consciously believe in the Sacrifice of His dear Son.

I cannot emphasize this important point enough. There is simply no such thing as being saved without a conscious knowledge of the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ. This is a false doctrine which contradicts the Scriptures. There is no such thing as being saved simply because we believe in God the Father, or in some other local god or deity. By God the Father's very own design, Jesus Christ His Son is a central part of the Salvation Equation. So we must believe in and accept both of them. The Father and the Son are a package deal, plain and simple. While discussing faith and works, the Apostle James also emphasized this point in his Epistle when he wrote the following:

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

James 2:19, KJV

Do you see that? Even the devils believe in one God. They all know that God the Father is real. They have seen Him. In fact, as I point out in the four-part series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", they also know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In the Gospels, when the Lord cast those devils out of the demoniacs, they clearly identified Him as the Son of God, as we can determine by the following verses:

"And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"

Matthew 8:29, KJV

"And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God."

Mark 3:11, KJV

"And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ."

Luke 4:41, KJV

"When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not."

Luke 8:28, KJV

So why is it that these demons are not saved? It is because they have not submitted themselves to the authority of Jesus Christ. They are in rebellion against God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. They are at war with them. In like manner, these people, whether they are Jews or anyone else, are not saved unless they not only believe in the one true God, but also in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They must accept the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the only valid Atonement for their sins. As Jesus said in the Gospel of John, "I and my Father are one". As with the rebellious Jews, no one can say that they truly believe in God the Father if they reject the Sacrifice of His Son. To reject Jesus Christ, is to reject His Father as well. So as I said a moment ago, they are both a part of the same package. They are like the yolk and the albumen. Consider these verses:

"I and my Father are one."

John 10:30, KJV

"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me."

Matthew 10:40, KJV

"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me . . . But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not."

John 5:30, 36-38, KJV

". . . If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me."

John 8:42, KJV

Tragically, as I discovered years ago, it may surprise you to know that Billy Graham's wayward walk from the one true Gospel of Jesus Christ did not begin with his 1997 interview with Robert Schuller. Believe it or not, twenty years prior to that 1997 interview, he was already going off-track in his doctrine. In a 1978 interview which appeared in McCall's Magazine, Reverend Billy Graham made the following startling statement:

----- Begin Quote -----

"I used to think that pagans in far-off countries were lost -- were going to hell -- if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that . . . I believe there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God -- through nature, for instance -- and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying yes to God."

----- End Of Quote -----

Just like his other statements, the above quote from Billy

Graham is another half-truth. Reverend Graham's words are a compromise. This is one of the Devil's favorite tactics. He will tell you a little bit of truth, but then he will throw in his terrible lies. Tragically, many people who are not familiar with the Word of God as they should be, will fall for this kind of subtle deception. Please understand that I am not saying that Billy Graham was purposely trying to be deceptive by stating the above. I am sure that he was very sincere regarding his beliefs, just as he was when he was interviewed by Robert Schuller. I simply believe that he was wrong, and that what he said may have misled people, insofar as the way to Salvation is concerned.

I can testify myself that it is indeed true that many people recognize the power of God through His Creation. Undoubtedly, this is a part of God's plan in order to cause such people to realize that there is indeed Someone greater than themselves. It also results in people lifting up their voices to Him in praise, and in thankfulness for the wonderful world which He has given them in which to live. Writers such as King David and the Apostle Paul confirm this point that the natural creation can point people to God. In fact, Paul very bluntly states that it is because of the obvious evidence we find in the natural creation, that no one has any excuse whatsoever for not believing in God. Consider these two verses:

". . . The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Psalms 19:1, KJV

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

Romans 1:20, KJV

As I mention in a few other articles, I too was captivated by God's natural creation, and felt very close to Him when I was in it. While other children were off doing other things with their friends, more often than not, I would be lost somewhere in the wooded areas around our home, just enjoying all of the wildlife. I remember the very first time that I saw a hummingbird in the wild. Wow! It absolutely amazed me. In fact, it was while living on a commune in the U.S. state of Oregon as a teenager, totally surrounded by the natural

creation, that I strongly felt God's Call in my life. While I have always believed in God and Jesus as far back as I can remember, living amongst nature is what served as a catalyst, and resulted a few months later in my choosing to dedicate my life to Christ, and to start serving Him. It was a very conscious decision on my part, and not some nebulous thing.

I can also agree with the Reverend Graham when he states that God can speak to us, and reveal Himself to us, in a lot of different ways and through many different things. It would be foolish for any of us to try to limit the Almighty. However, as I have already made clear, He will ultimately draw us to Christ, His Son, who is the one and only way to Salvation. This point is made evident by the following set of verses:

"ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVETH ME shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out . . . No man can come to me, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM: and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:37, 44, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. MY FATHER, WHICH GAVE THEM ME, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

John 10:28-29, KJV

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for THEM WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME; for they are thine . . . And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name THOSE WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME, that they may be one, as we are . . . Father, I will that they also, WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

John 17:9, 11, 24, KJV

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13, KJV

Once the Lord does draw our attention to Him through His wonderful creation, is that supposed to be the end of the story? As I just explained through my own testimony, no; not

by any means. Once He has our attention, God desires for us to start listening to Him. What will He tell us if we are listening? He will tell us of the story of His great love for us. He will share with us the story of His beloved Son, Jesus, whom He sent to die for the sins of the world. He will find a way -- a person, a Gospel tract, a TV or radio show, a website, etc. -- to deliver the Gospel message to us. He will draw us to Christ. Then He will tell us that His physical creation is nothing compared to the wonderful world He has waiting for those people who accept His token of love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Consider the following verses:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

1 John 3:16, KJV

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV

Thus we see that believing in God the Father through the proof of His creation is not enough. It is only a vehicle He uses to point us to the whole Truth. That truth is plainly the Gospel -- or Good News -- of Jesus Christ, which Billy Graham seemed to think some people do not necessarily need to hear. That Gospel is that Jesus Christ died for our sins, so that through faith in His Sacrifice, we can be saved and thus inherit Eternal Life. To reiterate, by his own statements, at that time in his life, Graham seemed to think that believing in God's existence was enough for some people. What do you think?

It is so terribly sad to see these kinds of things happen. It is really pitiful. Some of these evangelists start out so sincerely dedicated to the Lord and to His service. They are full of the Lord's spiritual fire, and they want to do what is right. They want to preach a pure Gospel. Billy Graham was definitely such a burning flame for the Lord during his

time. He certainly reached a lot more people with the Gospel than I ever have. None of his critics can take that away from him. But then, as I mentioned earlier, they are either tempted and led astray by their desire for wealth and power, or else maybe they start wanting to take a little bit of the credit to themselves. Sadly, they become more interested in popularity, so they begin to soften and compromise their message.

In the case of Billy Graham, it seems to me that he became deceived by this false ecumenical spirit which has invaded modern Christianity. During his many travels, Graham became exposed to other cultures, and many wonderful people, and he apparently thought, "Surely these people must be saved, even though they don't personally know Jesus Christ. Surely they are God's children too." Just like Oprah Winfrey, he seems to have become deceived by the "many paths" doctrine, when in reality, there is only one path to the Father: Jesus.

As I thought about this, I was reminded of King Solomon. As you may know, he started out well. God even blessed him with wisdom so that he could better rule the kingdom. But then what happened? As he got a little older, he became lifted up in his pride, and thought that he knew better. So what did Solomon do then? He listened to the advice of his younger counsellors, instead of to the advice of the older and wiser counsellors. Sadly, that was the beginning of his downfall, which would eventually lead to the division of the kingdom.

But that is not all. Just like Graham, Solomon became very popular, and very rich. He started having pagan wives and concubines who fed him with foreign ideas, and foreign gods. In a sense, Billy Graham kind of did the same thing. In other words, he started interacting with other faiths, and it seems that he became deceived by them to some degree, so that he no longer embraced John 14:6 as necessarily having to be applied to the whole world. Then he started hobnobbing with the Roman Catholic Church, and became involved in ecumenism to some degree.

For those of my readers who are not familiar with this term, "ecumenism" is simply a worldwide movement which hopes to achieve spiritual unity amongst the various religions of the world, whether they be Christian or not. Many Christians are convinced that this evil movement -- which has received the

approval of some of the major religious figures of the world, including many prominent American Christian leaders -- is nothing more than a major step towards the creation of a new One World Religion, which will nicely fit into the scheme of the New World Order.

Any informed person knows that many wars have been fought, and millions of people have died over the centuries, over matters of religion. Ecumenism seeks to resolve this problem by creating a One World Religion which will appeal to, and which will be acceptable to, everyone. However, for such a religion to really work, it suggests that there will be no place in it for Jesus Christ to be viewed as the only Lord and Savior of all mankind, as we are clearly taught in our Christian Bible. Going by his above statements, it appears that Billy Graham may have possibly been in support of ecumenism. I do recall reading online that his organization did work to some degree with members of the Roman Catholic Church. The thing is, the RCC is actually the main driving force behind the ecumenical movement. That should trouble us.

As we saw earlier in this series, the idea of spiritual unity in the faith is indeed a Scriptural doctrine. Not only did the Apostle Paul and other New Testament writers encourage their followers to speak the same thing, but even Jesus Christ prayed for spiritual unity amongst His followers, as becomes evident by the following verses which are found in the Gospel of John:

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are . . . That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

John 17:11, 21, KJV

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

John 10:16, KJV

In the previous verses, it is important to realize that Jesus is not praying for the religious unity of the world through ecumenism. This is a lie of Satan. It is a lie of

the world and of false religious leaders. In fact, Jesus is not even praying for the people of the world. He is praying only for those followers whom His Father has given Him out of the world. While we Christians are in the world, because we physically live in it at this current time, we are not a part of it. We are not to participate in its affairs, just as we saw earlier in this series. Please understand this, because it is very important in order for you to grasp the deception which is being promoted by these ecumenists. We Christians are the only ones for whom Jesus is praying for spiritual unity in the above verses. This is why He also said in that very same prayer:

"I pray for them: I PRAY NOT FOR THE WORLD, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."

John 17:9, KJV

The Lord is simply praying that we will be one in spirit, mind, purpose and doctrine, with Him and the Father. When He talks about One Fold and One Shepherd, He is referring to one Christian fold with Himself as the One True Shepherd. He is not talking about some worldwide ecumenical fold of some One World Religion in which different worldly religions have put aside their differences in order to come together to support the New World Order. Again, these are utter lies of Satan! The point is, the Apostle Paul tells us quite plainly that there can only be one true Great Shepherd of the flock; and we all know who that is. Consider this verse:

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"

Hebrews 13:20, KJV

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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One True Doctrine, Hold Fast Your Faith, Modern Corruption Of The Gospel, Billy Graham's 2013 "The Cross" Video Sermon, Vicious Lies Of Billy Graham's Detractors, Not Wise To Judge The Status Of Someone's Salvation, Wherefore By Their Fruits, Graham Was A Powerhouse Of God's Spirit, No One Understands God's Word Perfectly, Resist Condemning Each Other, Graham's Impact On The World, Nevertheless The Gospel Is Preached, Restore Brethren Who Have Fallen Into Doctrinal Error With A Spirit Of Meekness, The Grave Responsibility Of Being Bible Teachers, Don't Doctrinally Stumble The Weak, A World Full Of Deceivers, Stay Grounded In God's Word, Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part three, this One Fold which Jesus prays for in John chapter ten is united by the Love of God, by their faith in Jesus Christ, and by the one true doctrine which was taught by the Lord and all His holy Apostles. As the following verses reveal, the doctrine of Jesus Christ is powerful, it is astonishing, it is good, it is sound, and it is to be obeyed, cherished, guarded and held fast by those people to whom it has been entrusted, including by us modern Christians as well:

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:"
Matthew 7:28, KJV

"And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine."
Matthew 22:33, KJV

"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes . . . And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him."

Mark 1:22, 27, KJV

"And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine."

Mark 11:18, KJV

"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power."

Luke 4:32, KJV

"Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

John 7:16-17, KJV

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Acts 2:42, KJV

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Acts 4:13, KJV

"Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

Acts 5:28, KJV

"Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord."

Acts 13:12, KJV

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuades me to be a Christian."

Acts 26:28, KJV

"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

Romans 6:17, KJV

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained . . . Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

1 Timothy 4:16, KJV

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 1:13, KJV

"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Titus 1:9, KJV

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

Hebrews 10:23, KJV

"But that which ye have already hold fast till I come."

Revelation 2:25, KJV

Sadly, despite the fact that the Founding Fathers of our faith gave their very lives in order to preserve, protect and promote the Truth which was taught to them by Jesus Christ, as we have now seen, Christ's sound doctrine is being corrupted, perverted, twisted and changed more and more each day by those people who are either novices with the Word of God, or who lack the initiative to faithfully and prayerfully study the Word in order to gain a proper understanding of it, or by those people who are purposely seeking to lead the Lord's sheep astray for whatever their reasons. So, I believe that some people do it out of ignorance, while others do this intentionally.

It seems that very few Christians today are holding fast to the sound doctrine with which we have been entrusted. And when we do strive to do this, we are often accused of being narrow-minded, and haters, because we don't agree with their worldly, ungodly ways, and we expose their sins through our preaching. Just look at the nonsense that is currently being preached and going on in some churches, in the cults, on the

television set, on the Internet, etc. I discuss some of this in my other articles. As we saw earlier, both Jesus Himself and Paul foresaw a time when there would be a great falling away from the faith as more and more people become deceived by the lies of the enemy. In His message that is found in the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the Lord said the following:

". . . Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:8, KJV

What a sad testimony for those of us who are now living at this current time, and watching as this apostasy happens all around us. Clearly, the children of darkness are increasing in numbers, and becoming more blatant in their defiance against God and His holy Laws with each passing year.

Now, while I have once again found myself in the position of having to expose a false doctrine, I ask you the reader to please understand that I do not do this with any degree of malice in my heart toward Reverend Graham. As I mentioned earlier in this series, I have no doubt that Billy Graham did a great deal of good during his many years of faithfully walking with and serving the Lord. Graham plainly preached Salvation through Jesus Christ. I am sure that many lives worldwide -- millions in fact -- have been touched and also transformed by his inspiring sermons. By comparison, my own ministry is but a small speck in the sea of humanity, and hardly worth mentioning. But we each have our calling.

I should also add that while I do not know if Billy Graham ever made a public reversal concerning his 1978 and 1997 comments, I do know that many years later in 2013, at the age of ninety-five, he gave what has been labeled as his final public sermon. It was actually a taped video sermon called "The Cross", which was part of a larger program that was called "My Hope With Billy Graham". In that 2013 sermon, Mr. Graham offers a very clear Salvation message in which he laments the backslidden spiritual condition of the United States, and points to Jesus' Death on the Cross as the Way to Salvation. If you never had an opportunity to watch it, you can watch it below.

[Video goes here -- HTML version only]

If for some reason the above video does not play in your web browser, you can likewise watch it on YouTube at the URL below. This is the extended 28:52 minute, official version that was uploaded to YouTube by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bba2Dqaw6SI>

Or, if you just wish to watch the edited 8:54 minute version which was uploaded by another user, and which does not have all of the surrounding extra material -- in other words, only Billy Graham's core message -- you can also go to the URL below. This is a lower quality video, but it is still worth watching. This is in fact the video which you are watching above. I merely increased the video dimensions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4TMuee7Ir8&t=191s>

Whether or not the message Graham delivered in that video means that he actually forsook his misguided ideas from decades earlier, I honestly do not know. However, it is my personal belief that at the time of his death, Graham was -- and still remains -- saved. He did not turn against Christ, as some of his vicious detractors would have us to believe. This video totally contradicts their claims. Billy Graham most certainly did point the way to Christ. He did a lot of good for the Kingdom of God, and led many millions to Jesus Christ, and that is something which I don't believe God will take away from him. I was just reminded of the following two verses:

"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

1 Corinthians 3:14-15, KJV

I was quite appalled when I discovered online that there are some ignorant people who are making some extremely cruel and callous comments regarding Reverend Graham, now that he has passed on, even claiming that Graham is now burning in Hell. Instead of looking at his dedication to the Lord for so many years of his life, and the millions of souls which he helped to lead to the Lord, such people only seem to be interested

in criticizing and condemning him, due to Graham's alleged involvement with the Freemasons, and supposedly with the New World Order.

I have mentioned before that it is simply not wise to judge the status of another person's Salvation. Yet there are some self-righteous Christians who do it all the time. Salvation is one issue which remains between each person and the Lord. We most certainly do not know the mind of God. Neither do any of us know what may have transpired between Graham and the Lord between the time that he fell into doctrinal error, and his death one week ago. Personally, I have to hope that Graham realized his mistake, and eventually repented of the same. He could have even done it up there alone with the Lord in his mountaintop retreat.

Jesus taught us "Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them" -- Matthew 7:20. To my knowledge, Graham never once denied God the Father, or his faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah. As I already said, his 2013 video sermon certainly seems to confirm this fact. The Reverend Graham clearly and openly confessed Jesus Christ, exactly as the Scriptures command us to do, and the good fruit in his long life is more than evident. I am also reminded of something that the Apostle Paul wrote in his first Epistle to the Church at Corinth. Consider this verse:

"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."
1 Corinthians 12:3, KJV

There is no doubt in my mind that Billy Graham was filled with the Holy Ghost. He was a force to be reckoned with and a tremendous powerhouse of God's Spirit. If he was backslidden and on his way to Hell as these online detractors would have us to believe, then he most certainly would not have made the 2013 video where he uplifted and pointed to Jesus Christ. So I advise everyone to refrain from making harsh statements, such as claiming that Billy Graham is burning in Hell. If you are guilty of having said that, or of having made any similar statements, please repent of such foolish talk. Let God be Graham's judge.

To reiterate, Billy Graham's main error was that he brushed

against other world religions -- false religions, mind you -- and apparently fell under the "many paths" deception, similar to Oprah Winfrey. As I pointed out earlier, in his many travels, Graham undoubtedly met many people and some cultures who had never heard of Jesus, or who at least did not understand God's Message of Salvation. Apparently, he wondered "What about these people, God?" That may have been when he came to the conclusion that God's Mercy is so great, that surely such people can be saved without knowing Jesus Christ. Again, it was a serious doctrinal error on his part.

As I mentioned in part one, I think it is important that we all remember that none of us understand God's Word perfectly or completely. We all have some fuzzy spots in regards to our understanding, although in our pride we may not be willing to admit it. I am sure there are a few things which I believe, or at least theorize about in my head, which would raise your eyebrows. In similar fashion, you have probably pondered thoughts about the Bible which I might likewise find a bit unusual. Perhaps Billy Graham's mistake is that he stated certain things out loud which he should have kept to himself. Are we to judge and condemn each other to Hell, just because we don't see eye to eye when it comes to certain doctrinal issues? We just have to trust that the Lord will eventually straighten us out if we happen to become doctrinally misled. He has done so in my personal life a number of times, and I am still learning.

I think one difference between us and Graham, is that most of us are just small-time online preachers, small-time street preachers, or maybe not even preachers at all. Our audiences are small, perhaps a few dozen of close followers/listeners at best. So our influence is also rather small. In contrast, Billy Graham impacted the world -- millions and millions of people -- with his message. So when he fell into doctrinal error, it probably affected a lot of people as well. That may have weighed heavily on him. I know that if the Lord reveals to me that I am in error regarding something that I teach, I try to correct it as soon as possible. I will then upload an updated version of my article to the BBB website.

On a final note concerning the Reverend Billy Graham, and the controversy which surrounded him for many years of his life, I was reminded of the following verses which the Apostle Paul wrote to the brethren at the Church in Philippi:

"Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."

Philippians 1:15-18, KJV

In this case, despite the controversy which surrounded his life, and the people who alienated themselves from him, and even condemned him due to his aforementioned beliefs, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was still preached. Not just to a few people here and there, but to millions worldwide. For that, I continue to respect the man. He was a bright light and an inspiration to many people around the world. Can any of his detractors make the same claim? Hardly.

While sometimes it is indeed necessary to expose the lies and deceptions of false brethren, or perhaps the errors of our true brethren who have been sincerely misled in their understanding of the Holy Scriptures, we really need to be careful and prayerful concerning what is motivating us to do this. Are we doing it simply to make ourselves look better or more spiritual by comparing ourselves to others? Or are we truly doing it in a spirit of love and meekness for the sake of protecting the Lord's precious sheep from error, and to restore a brother or a sister who has fallen from the Truth? Consider the following verses:

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

2 Corinthians 10:12, KJV

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

James 5:19-20, KJV

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one IN THE SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS;

considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."

Galatians 6:1-3, KJV

It is so easy for us to become lifted up in our pride when the Lord uses us to point out the error of another brother or sister in the faith. However, we all need to remember that we are all sinners. We have all committed our share of serious mistakes in this life, myself included. We have all become confused regarding some things which are stated in the Bible. We don't have it all worked out to perfection. For those of us who have felt called to be preachers and teachers of the Gospel, there is an even greater degree of responsibility. For as the Apostle James wrote in his Epistle:

"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

James 3:1-2, KJV

If we go off-track and teach false doctrine, God may very well hold us accountable. As I point out in other articles, the word "masters" in that verse is actually referring to spiritual teachers, and not to a slave master, as some people might possibly assume. It is derived from the Greek word "didaskalos". Pronounced did-as'-kal-os, in some other verses it is translated as "teacher". That is why Jesus was constantly referred to as "Master" in the Gospels. That is, because He was a teacher of God's Word.

As occurs in the Gospels, the word "offend" in the previous verse also has a slightly different meaning from its modern definition. In these verses, it is derived from the Greek word "ptaio", which is pronounced ptah'-yo. This word means to cause one to stumble or fall. It also means to err, to make a mistake, or to sin. In other words, James is saying that those people who seek to be teachers, are the most vulnerable to the danger of not only falling into doctrinal error themselves, but also of causing others to fall away from the Truth due to their erroneous teaching. Not only that, but the more we teach and preach, the more this is

likely to happen. For as King Solomon wrote in his Proverbs:

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

Proverbs 10:19, KJV

As you may know, to cause one to fall away from belief in Jesus Christ is a very serious sin in God's eyes. This is quite evident from Jesus' own words in the Gospels when He states the following:

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

Matthew 18:6-7, KJV

In the previous verses, the word "offend" also means to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which one may trip and fall. However in this case, the word "offend" is derived from the Greek word "skandalizo". The Lord is issuing this warning to those false teachers who cause His followers to stop believing in Him as their Savior, through their deceptive false doctrines. This is evident by the fact that Jesus uses the phrase "which believes in me". In other words, the people who are falling into error, or stumbling, are people who actually believe in Him. One would think that such a serious warning from the Lord would be enough to stop anyone from intentionally leading His sheep astray. Sadly, as we all know, this is most certainly not the case.

Tragically, the world today is full of false prophets and teachers who are doing this very thing at a very alarming rate. As we discussed earlier in this series, some of these deceivers are found within our very own churches and Bible classes. Many others preach their false gospels on the TV set. Yet other wolves in sheep's clothing fill stadiums and auditoriums where they spew forth their spiritual poison. And with this relatively new medium of the Internet and the social networks, we have seen the deception spread at the speed of light.

The most alarming thing about this situation is that some of

these deceivers seem like they are our very own Christian brethren. They blend in so easily. They say the right words. They make the right gestures. They smile and give handshakes. All the while, they are filling our minds and hearts with false doctrines. The other deceivers are more easy to spot. These include the New Age psychics and gurus; the Hindu and Buddhist monks; the so-called "Ascended Masters"; the LGBT militants and evolutionists who have infiltrated the public school system; the Native American shamans; and many other such individuals. This is why it is imperative that we fill our minds and hearts with the Truth of God's Word, so that we will recognize these deceivers and their false doctrines.

What about you? Are you a faithful student of God's Word? Do you depend upon the wise leading of His Holy Spirit as you carefully and prayerfully compare Scripture with Scripture? Do you rightly divide -- or balance -- the Word of Truth? I certainly hope so, because this is the only way to come to the knowledge of the Truth, and to guard yourself against deception. Without God's Spirit, you can read and study the Bible as much as you want, but you will never understand any of it properly; at least not very much of it. Consider the following verses:

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

1 Peter 2:2, KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

Isaiah 28:10, KJV

"A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight."

Proverbs 11:1, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

2 Timothy 3:7, KJV

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Luke 11:13, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5, KJV

With these verses, I will bring this series to a close. I hope that it has been an inspiration and an encouragement in your life. Most of all, I hope that it has been a sobering lesson which has alerted you to the fact that we must all be extremely careful and prayerful concerning what we believe, in whom we believe, and what we choose to teach and preach.

If you have been blessed by this article, I encourage you to please consider sharing its URL link with all of your online friends. Likewise, if you have a user account with Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Tumblr, etc., I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding share button that is found on this same page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of resources below which were mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

All Are Given a Chance, But . . .

Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess?

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?

Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution

Exposing the Tactics of the Enemy

Free Will and Personal Choice

Freemasonry and the Danger of a One World Religion

Have You Been Slain in the Spirit?

Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word

Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?

Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men
Jesus Christ or Yeshua Messiah?: More Christian Zionist Legalism
Message to the World
Money-Making Bible Hucksters and Mammon
Not Everyone is a Child of God
The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?
To Pray or Not to Pray? That is the Question

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