

# FACEBOOK AND THE BATTLE FOR OUR YOUTH : PART 1

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BBB Ministry: Where Are The Young People?, Honorary BBB Forum Memberships, Creation Of BBB Forum Members Gallery, Where Are The Young Faces?, My Criteria For Approving Facebook Friend Requests, One Exception To The Rule, Wicked Dark Side Of The Internet, Building Up The BBB Ministry, Wise As Serpents And Harmless As Doves, Dilemma: Hungry Young Believers Vs Their Ungodly Vengeful Parents, Facebook's Reaction, Sheep For The Slaughter, Liberal Facebook's Discrimination And Censorship, Mark Zuckerberg's Atheist Background, A Politically Correct Compromise, U.S. Government Threatens To Break Up Facebook, Facebook Content Monitors, AI-Empowered Algorithms, Watch Out For Facebook Community Standards, Facebook's Love Affair With LGBTQ Community, Lights Shining In The Darkness, Facebook's Campaign Against "Hate Speech", AI's Make The Big Decisions, Facebook's "Independent" Review Board, Facebook Takedowns Restores And Appeals, Guilty Until Proven Innocent, Facebook Jail, Forget About Tagging, Two Sure-Fire Ways To Be Blocked On Facebook And How To Overcome Them, Warnings And CAPTCHAs, BBB Content Is Freely Available To All Ages On BBB Website, Scatter The Seed Of The Word, Only God Is Able To Draw Them

Some time ago, one of my younger Facebook friends made an interesting comment to me during one of our private chats. His comment concerned how it seems that the Bill's Bible Basics ministry attracts a lot of older folks, but not too many young people. By "young people", I assume that he meant people around his own age. That is, folks in their twenties and possibly earlier. My friend suggested that I need to do something to try to draw more of the younger generation to the BBB ministry.

Well, I pondered my friend's comment for a few weeks. Then I got rather busy creating honorary memberships on the Bill's Bible Basics Forum for some of my longtime Facebook friends. These are people who have been my friends on Facebook for at least a few years or longer. These are also friends who have

shown some level of serious interest in my ministry work for the Lord, as has been demonstrated by their Facebook likes, comments and their sharing my graphics and other materials on their own timelines and Facebook pages.

As some of you may know, part of the process of setting up a new honorary BBB Forum membership account requires that I visit each person's Facebook timeline, in order to gather a little bit of information about them, and also to select one of their profile pics. I then convert the image into a 100 pixel by 100 pixel image, to be used as their avatar on the Bill's Bible Basics Forum. All of this is done in an older version of Adobe Photoshop. Creating these accounts is very time-consuming work, and I can only create about ten new BBB Forum memberships each day, because it really tires me out. After all, I am not a spring chicken anymore.

At any rate, after creating these member avatars for a while, it occurred to me that it would be nice to create a special BBB Forum gallery where all of our forum members could get an idea of what we each look like. Well, at least those members who are not shy about posting their profile pics publicly on Facebook. I thought that such a gallery could help us to feel more of a kindred spirit with each other, and draw us closer together as an online Christian family. The avatars could possibly serve as prayer reminders as well. So, that is what I did, and the BBB Forum Members Gallery came into being.

This is where we get back to my friend's comment from a few weeks ago. To date, due to my health, and my busy schedule, I have only had time to add about one hundred and fifty avatars of the three hundred or so people who I have thus far made honorary members of the Bill's Bible Basics Forum. However, if you go to the gallery and look at the current images which are on display there, you will in fact make an interesting and unavoidable discovery which confirms what my young friend stated.

Most of our current BBB Forum members -- if not everyone -- appear to be in their early thirties, if not older. So what my friend asserted is indeed true. Please note that this is not due to age discrimination on my part. None of my current Facebook friends were accepted as my friends based on their age, gender or nationality. As I have mentioned before, the primary criteria which I have always used in determining whether or not to accept a person's friend request is the contents of their timeline, the information on their "About"

page, and how serious of an interest they demonstrate in our Christian faith. That is it.

While I have stated that I do not discriminate based on a person's age when it comes to Facebook friend requests, I do make one exception to this rule. That is when I detect that an individual is very young; meaning in their early teens or even younger. Given my own age, I simply do not feel that it is appropriate for me to accept friend requests from people of such a young age, even if I am preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and want them to accept Salvation. Please don't jump to conclusions. Keep on reading.

Aside from that, we all know what kinds of wickedness occur every single day on the Internet; from pornography -- both adult and child pornography -- to drug trafficking, to human trafficking, to weapons trafficking, to sexual predation and much more. While I am obviously not engaged in any of those kinds of vile activities, I am nevertheless very protective of the Bill's Bible Basics ministry. As some of my longtime friends know, I have worked very hard for over twenty-five years now to build up my online presence. It has been slow, tedious, hard work involving countless hours on my part, and a serious sacrifice of my health as well. So I am not about to see my endeavors jeopardized in any way; particularly not due to a foolish mistake on my part. I am reminded of what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."  
Matthew 10:16, KJV

"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."  
Matthew 7:6, KJV

Now, imagine if you will, that I unknowingly accept a friend request from a young teen, or someone even younger than that. They may be a real sheep who loves the Lord and who wants to learn more about His Word. But what if their parents are not? What if their parents are in fact complete atheists, or a gay or lesbian couple, or someone who just does not agree with my views and the things that I teach? I am talking about people who are totally demon-inspired, and set on vengeance, due to the fact that I dared to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their child, and exposed the sins of the world to that young

person. Such people could cause a lot of problems for me and the BBB ministry, if their child is my Facebook friend, and a minor to boot.

Trust me when I say that Facebook would willingly sacrifice me, and my Facebook account, in order to appease that irate parent, and thus protect their online business from further negative fallout. Never forget that Facebook is a business, despite all that silly talk about how much they care about us. Ultimately, every decision that they make is determined by how it affects the profit margin. Obviously, this applies to each of you as well, if you happen to be an uncompromising witness of your faith on the Facebook platform. They will put their business interests before your personal interests. So it seems that just like Jesus, we too are counted as sheep for the slaughter when it comes to the unbelieving world, and their prejudice and rabid hatred towards us and our deeply held Christian beliefs. Consider the following group of verses which confirm these points:

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

Isaiah 53:7, KJV

"The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:"

Acts 8:32, KJV

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Romans 8:35-36, KJV

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 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.

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 15:18-21, KJV

"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake."

Luke 21:17, KJV

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

1 John 3:13, KJV

Let's face it. We all know that Facebook is run by liberals and progressives, and that discriminating against Christians and Conservatives and censoring their posts, has increasingly become a regular practice on Facebook, as well as on a number of other liberal-minded social networks. It is a well-known fact that for many years, Mark Zuckerberg claimed to be an atheist. By his own accord, he was raised Jewish; which means that he did not believe in Jesus. It was only a few years ago that Zuckerberg seemed to demonstrate a little more tolerance in regards to people of different religious persuasions. At the time, he made the following online statement when someone questioned him regarding his position as a staunch atheist:

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

"No, I was raised Jewish and then I went through a period where I questioned things, but now I believe religion is very important."

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

My friends, let's be honest. That is not by any means an endorsement of our Christian faith. It is a noncommittal, lukewarm, politically-correct compromise which is meant to appease persons of all religious faiths. It is exactly what you would expect from a person who is in Mark Zuckerberg's position. He is everyone's friend, right? Think again.

While Zuckerberg made that statement, no one can deny that since that time, the discrimination and censorship against Christian and Conservative points of view on Facebook has continued unabated, to the point that it has even become a contentious issue with the US government. As you may know, there has even been talk of breaking up Facebook, along with a few other powerful, tech-oriented businesses. In fact, just today I was reading another news article in which Zuckerberg and his COO, Sheryl Sandberg, were countering the demand to break up their company. So in light of everything that has been going on with Facebook as of late, I have to wonder how

much the 2017 statement made by Zuckerberg was meant for public consumption, and to simply dial down the heat. It is also worth mentioning that at that time, Zuckerberg voiced an interest in Buddhism, and not in Christianity.

Aside from his personal position regarding people of faith, we need to realize that Zuckerberg may no longer entirely control the online beast which he created so many years ago in his college dorm room. What I mean by this is that Mark Zuckerberg has a global force of Facebook "policemen" -- or "content monitors" -- who monitor everything that occurs across the Facebook platform. In addition, there are those well-known, secretive, AI-empowered algorithms which control so many different aspects of Facebook. Many of those human monitors are likewise very liberal-minded, and Mark cannot possibly know or control every single thing that they do, or the decisions which they make. So if you make a post which one of the editors does not agree with, it is quite possible that it will be removed -- due to supposedly going against Facebook's "community standards" -- and Mr. Zuckerberg will never even know anything about it. After all, the guy is not God.

If you are wondering exactly how liberal Facebook has become -- as if all of those sickening drag videos you often see in your news feed aren't already enough to convince you of this fact -- then consider the following. Earlier this evening, while looking for something in my Facebook settings, I came across the following unexpected information in a little window in regards to the "About" section. I had never seen this particular window before, and it made my jaw drop:

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

If you set your gender to Custom and select one or more genders, you can also select an audience for your custom gender. In addition to your custom gender, you'll choose a Pronoun. The pronoun you select is public. This feature isn't available in all locations.

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

If that doesn't convince you how much Facebook caters to the LGBTQ community, nothing will. By the way, I was not able to access the gender feature on my timeline. I don't know if it is due to my location -- as the above states -- or because Facebook has that particular feature disabled for Christians

such as myself. At any rate, taking into consideration all of the gender confusion nonsense that's been going on in recent years regarding being non-binary, and choosing the pronoun by which ones wishes to be referred, I can just imagine what is listed under that setting. You will find similar language in Facebook's ads anti-discrimination policy. Consider the following:

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

Ads are discriminatory when they deny opportunities to individuals or groups of people based on certain personal attributes such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, family/marital status, disability or medical or genetic condition.

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

As Christians, we can obviously agree with most of what is being stated there. But clearly, Facebook is bending over backwards to accommodate and appease the LGBTQ community by adding "sexual orientation, gender identity" to their list of attributes. As I think about all of this, the verse that comes to mind is the following:

"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

Or we could say a crooked and perverse -- and very liberal -- social network, my dear friends. Sadly, as we all know, Facebook is obviously not alone in all of this sickening liberalism. If it were not for my desire to be a witness of my faith, and an encouragement to my brethren in the faith, I would not even be a part of Facebook. I have no other reason for being there.

But returning to the previous issue, as I stated earlier, if some irate parent were to complain to Facebook that not only had I become friends with their minor-aged child, but that, God forbid, I was teaching their child certain things which they -- that is, the parent -- didn't agree with, it's quite possible that despite my innocence, Facebook could even shut me down permanently. This has already happened to a number of folks for a variety of reasons, so this is not just some wild

conspiracy theory. Many of us already know that Facebook has their own proprietary definition when it comes to the phrase "hate speech". Make no mistake. Some of the things which we teach from the Scriptures are viewed as hate speech by this modern, liberal, sinful world. In fact, just this evening, I read the following on a popular news website. It concerns Facebook's endeavors to remove hate speech from its platform:

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

Facebook, facing withering criticism from governments around the world, said Thursday that it had been more aggressive in recent months about scrubbing its platform of hate speech.

In a report the company releases biannually, Facebook also said its automated detection software that scrubs illicit content was improving: It now automatically detects and removes more than half of the hate speech on the platform.

Facebook said it had removed four million hate-speech posts during the first three months of the year, and detected 65 percent of them with artificial intelligence, up from 24 percent the year before.

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

So, if we preach against the wickedness of abortion, is that hate speech, Mr. Zuckerberg? If we expose the evils of Islam, is that likewise hate speech? If we boldly speak out against the LGBTQ lifestyle, which God's Word clearly condemns, is that also hate speech? In short, are you saying that anything which the Bible condemns as wrong and sinful, is hate speech in your book, Mr. Zuckerberg? Exactly where does hate speech begin and end for you, Mr. Zuckerberg? As I mentioned before, what is also rather alarming is the fact that a lot of these decisions regarding hate speech are being made, not by human beings, but by AI-empowered algorithms. Machine language is dictating what is hate language and what is not. It kind of reminds me of that 2002 Tom Cruise movie, "Minority Report" where one is basically guilty before being proven innocent. Perhaps the most laughable paragraphs of the entire article were the following two:

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

And Facebook sometimes mistakenly removes content that does not violate its policies. Mr. Zuckerberg said Facebook would



establish an independent review board that would double-check its removal decisions.

"This independent oversight board will look at some of our hardest cases, and the decisions it makes will be binding," Mr. Zuckerberg said, adding that he and other Facebook executives would not have the power to overrule the oversight board.

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

An independent review board? Really? Independent based on who's definition of the word, if I may ask? It seems to me that whenever a government agency, polling service, science institution, news outlet, or some other entity employs the use of the word "independent", it is a warning that they may really mean the exact opposite. If we could dig deep enough, we might discover that the independent board, or independent study, or independent poll, was not so independent after all. It was in fact manipulated in some particular way which is never revealed to the naive, gullible public.

Please also notice how Zuckerberg craftily removes himself and other top executives from liability by stating that even they cannot overrule the decisions made by the review board. That is called passing the buck, and is a very shrewd move indeed on Zuckerberg's part. Of course, Mark is trying to convey the idea of neutrality. But again, that depends a lot on how independent the review board really is.

I am compelled to ask the following question as well. With supposedly over two billion regular users, and with so much user content being removed from Facebook on a daily basis, how in the world is an "independent review board" going to be able to check all "hardest cases" removal decisions in a timely fashion? It would have to be a 24/7/365 job, and it still would not be enough.

In a related article which I found on the PCMag.com website, Facebook Vice President, Guy Rosen, reveals exactly how much user content has supposedly been restored during the first quarter of 2019. The article states that 80,000 user posts were restored, after being mistakenly removed as harassment. But here is the catch. Those posts were only restored after those users had made an appeal to Facebook. In other words, Facebook appears to place more faith in its algorithms than it does in its users. If a user does not appeal, then it is

as if Facebook assumes that they are guilty. As I mentioned before, we are guilty until proven innocent. Welcome to the new world of machine intelligence. The next thing you know, SkyNet will be telling us that we are no longer needed, and that we are a drain on the Earth's limited resources, and that we have been targeted for elimination.

The same PCMag article likewise states that during the first quarter of 2019, Facebook also restored over 130,000 pieces of content that were incorrectly flagged as hate speech. In this case, it does not specifically mention if they required an appeal first or not, but I would assume that they did. It also states that when 171,000 users appealed for posts that were taken down due to graphic violence violations, only a total of 23,900 pieces of content were restored. However, the article also notes that an additional 45,900 posts were also restored when Facebook realized its own mistake.

So assuming that these statistics are accurate and truthful -- I will leave that for you to decide -- this means that in all, a total of 279,800 posts were restored by Facebook in the first three months of 2019. However, do you notice what figure is glaringly missing from all of this reporting? We have absolutely no idea exactly how many posts Facebook took down during that same time frame. As such, we cannot clearly determine what actual percentage of posts were restored. Is this an attempt by Facebook to conceal exactly what degree of censorship is going on? And don't forget. The posts which were restored required that a user go through the hassle of the appeal process first. Yes, it is easy enough to do, but nevertheless, it is still a hassle, and places the onus on the user.

Obviously, I cannot prove, or disprove, Facebook's claims, because I do not work for them. However, given the skeptic that I tend to be when it comes to the things of the secular world, I will confess that I have my doubts. One thing which I do know for certain is this. Regardless of what Facebook claims, I have certain Facebook friends who for many months now have been complaining about constantly being thrown in "Facebook Jail", and having their posts constantly being taken down, and not being restored. I know exactly how they feel, because quite a while back -- I believe it was last year -- when I was trying out tagging multiple friends in my posts -- at their request, by the way -- I was constantly being thrown in jail as well. In fact, it got to the point where I was spending more time in jail, than out of jail. It

was a very frustrating experience. Finally, I just stopped tagging my friends, because it was not worth the hassle, or the lost time.

On that same subject, and as I have mentioned before, I can tell you with certainty two ways in which you will definitely find yourself being thrown in "Facebook Jail". Both of these have to do with the speed with which you operate. The first one I have already explained to you. If you tag too many of your friends too quickly, you will end up in jail before you know it. Not only that, but if you keep doing the same thing over and over again, each time that you are thrown in jail, it will be for a longer period of time. It can grow from a few hours, to a few days, to a week, to an entire month. So watch out! Don't grow impatient. Don't be stupid. Slow down.

The second sure-fire way of getting yourself blocked is by posting messages too quickly on your friends' timelines. For the record, I discovered some time ago that the posting limit is about twenty per hour. Please note that I am referring to posting a message at the very top of a person's timeline. It seems that adding comments to their posts are not considered in regards to this limit. However, please note that Facebook is constantly changing the hourly and daily quotas, in order to purposely keep abusive users off-guard. In other words, if you have already posted a message on twenty of your friends' timelines, Facebook will then begin to put up the warning box where you have to add the checkmark, in order to prove that you are a real person.

This will continue for a short while. However, if you keep pushing it by trying to post your message on even more of your friends' timelines, eventually the warning message with the checkbox will be replaced by actual CAPTCHAs, where you have to select all of the images which match the query. At this point, you have really entered the danger zone. Based on my experience, you have probably posted your message on thirty or even forty different timelines. Suddenly, up comes the message which says that you have been blocked for going too fast. Poor you. You should have stopped while you were ahead. By the way, in case you didn't know it, CAPTCHA is an acronym for "Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart".

One way to get around this, is by slowing down, and allowing a minimum of at least four or five minutes between each post that you make on your friends' timelines. Obviously, the

longer space of time you allow between each post, the longer you will be able to last, and the more you will be able to post. However, keep in mind that Facebook has daily quotas as well. Back then, when I was figuring out all of this, I believe the quota was around two hundred posts per day. I have no idea what it is now, which is just the way Facebook likes it.

Returning to the issue of friend requests, allow me to also mention here that while I will not accept friend requests from persons who are obviously very young, this does not mean that they cannot access everything that I share in regards to the Scriptures. For the record, my timeline, page, and even the BBB group are all set to public. As such, even if I do not accept a friend request from a very young person, they still have access to everything which I publish online. They simply will not be able to comment on it, on Facebook. In fact, all of my Bible study materials are freely available on the Bill's Bible Basics website at [www.billkochman.com](http://www.billkochman.com). If it is on my Facebook timeline, page or in the BBB group, it will also be found somewhere on the BBB website as well. That is where all of my content originates in the first place, so please check it out, and avoid Facebook's hassles altogether.

As I have explained before in articles such as "The Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service", my approach to making known the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to scatter the seed of the Word far and wide -- as Jesus points out in said parable -- and then to trust God for the outcome, and the fruit that He wants it to bear. After all, only God the Father can draw people to Himself by His Spirit. It is not a work of human endeavor. I am reminded of verses such as the following:

"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 . . . And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."

John 6:37, 44, 65, KJV

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED."

Acts 2:46-47, KJV

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

John 12:32, KJV

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

Philippians 2:13, 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

"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

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

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FACEBOOK AND THE BATTLE FOR OUR YOUTH : PART 2

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Be A Faithful Witness And Leave The Results To God, Grounded In The Word And Not Bribe By Church Gimmicks, Guilt On Both Sides Of The Fence, Spiritual Generation Gap, God's Word Will Accomplish His Purpose, Work Of Faith, Our Works Will Follow Us, Other Reasons Why I Will Reject A Friend Request, Vet All Your Friend Requests, Theory: Does Facebook Prevent Certain Age Groups From Interacting With Other Age Groups?, Real Age Vs Fake Age, ID Check, Age Matching Will Hinder Our Christian Witness, Facebook For Fun Or Christian Witnessing?, Tagging Can Negatively Affect Your Online Witness, Will We Be Reduced To Just Preaching To The Choir?, Why Are We Losing Our Youth?, Overcome By The Liberal Spirit Of The World, Godless Public Education System, America's Decades-Long Spiritual Decline, Wicked Spirit Of Rebellion, An Emboldened Enemy Also Requires An Emboldened Witness Against Them, Church Gimmicks And Weak Generation Of Christians, "Repentance" Is The Word Of The Day

So in answer to my friend's question, I cannot force anyone to become my friend on Facebook. Neither can I force anyone to join the Bill's Bible Basics Forum. The only thing which I can do is to be a faithful witness. Then, I have to leave the results to God. As I have already made clear, only God can draw people to Himself, and to Christ, as He sees fit, according to His own purposes, whether they are young, old, or somewhere in-between. It cannot be a work of the flesh, such as has been occurring in so many American churches for quite a number of years now. Why not? Because that method is surely doomed to fail, and will only produce a generation of shallow Christians who will depart from the faith when the going gets rough. It surely will eventually, because God always tests our mettle, and burns off the dross. Only those Christians who are grounded in the Word -- and not bribed by modern church gimmicks -- will endure in the end.

As I thought about this, it occurred to me that the fact that there are so few young people involved with the BBB ministry, and by extension, with Christianity in general, is a rather sad testimony against both them, and us. Against us, because perhaps it reveals that some of us have not been living up to God's standard, or been the Christian examples that we should be. And against the younger generation, because it likewise reveals how callous, hardhearted, rebellious and insensitive

some of them have become to the Voice of God's Spirit. So clearly, there is guilt on both sides of the fence, and room for improvement.

I hope you now realize that this problem is not limited to the Bill's Bible Basics ministry alone. I am willing to bet that if you look at your Facebook friends list right now, you will discover that aside from perhaps members of your own immediate biological family, you'll find very few pics of people who are in their early twenties, or even younger. Most of your Facebook friends will be around your own age, or perhaps even older. True or false? So you see, there is indeed a serious spiritual generation gap when it comes to our Christian faith. It is slowly dying on the vine, and the current wave of liberalism has a lot to do with it.

So to reiterate a point I made earlier, if there is one thing I know with certainty, it is that God will accomplish through the Bill's Bible Basics online ministry, what He desires to accomplish. His Word will not return unto Him void. The Word I share will fulfill its purpose, and bear the fruit that He desires. This is made evident by verses such as the following:

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11, KJV

"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

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Psalms 126:6, KJV

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

Ecclesiastes 11:1, KJV

So, the truth is that I may never even see or know the full effect of the BBB ministry in this current life. I may never know every individual who has been reached. I may never know whose lives have been touched. I may never know who accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. I may never know who has decided to dedicate their lives to the Lord's service as a result of something I have written. I may never know who was inspired, motivated and encouraged to plow on because of something I've said. That is where faith enters the picture. We just have to do what we believe we must do, and trust God for the rest. While you and I may not immediately see the results of our labors in this present life, God certainly keeps a record; and perhaps in the life that is to come, He will reveal it to us. It is my earnest hope that my works will follow me, and that God will be pleased with them, just as your works will follow you too. Consider the following additional verses:

"If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"

Proverbs 24:12, KJV

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Matthew 16:27, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"

1 Peter 1:17, KJV

". . . I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

Revelation 2:23b, KJV

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Revelation 14:13, KJV

"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. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

Revelation 20:12-13, KJV

Continuing our discussion regarding Facebook friend requests, in addition to being of a young age, there are a number of other conditions where I will reject a friend request. They include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following, in no particular order:

1. If the page in question contains excessive vulgarity.
2. If the page promotes Islam or any other false religion.
3. If the page is strictly a business page with no detectable interest anywhere in Christianity.
4. If the page has any text, images or links which invite the visitor to engage in viewing pornography.
5. If the page is primarily geared towards husband or wife shopping.
6. If the page promotes the LGBTQ lifestyle in any way.
7. If the page is entirely, or almost entirely, in a foreign language which my English-speaking friends will not be able to understand.

Please understand that in addition to determining how much the person making the friend request is sincerely interested in our Christian faith, my other concern is how the page will affect any of my current Facebook friends who may decide to visit the page. Will they have a positive experience? Will it edify them and encourage them in their Christian faith? That is why some of the previous conditions are in place. I do not want to unknowingly lead my current friends into a wolf's den. That is why I never click blindly on the "Accept" button when new friend requests appear under the Facebook menu. I take the time to visit each page individually, in order to determine where the person is at in a spiritual sense. So it is wise to vet all of your friend requests. To do otherwise is to ask for trouble.

Regarding this Facebook age issue, it has also occurred to me that Facebook may possibly have certain mechanisms in place which purposely prevent younger audiences from intermingling with older audiences. Granted, I have no concrete data with which to prove this point, but it seems to make sense to me. After all, Facebook needs to protect itself as well. As you may know, Facebook requires that all new members provide a valid birth date. While one can lie about their age, sooner or later, they may get caught, because sometimes Facebook requires a valid ID before they will make certain changes to a person's account.

This in fact happened to me a number of years ago, and I felt very uncomfortable about it at the time. You see, when I first joined Facebook back in early 2011, I was using my online writing alias which I have used since 1997. That is, the WordWeaver. Well, after a few years, Facebook demanded that I begin using my real name, even though I saw a lot of people who were very obviously not using their real names. I really wondered why I was being singled out. At any rate, to prove to them that I am who I claim to be, I had to email them a copy of my local government-issued ID card. It has my photo on it, my birth date, my gender, my mailing address, and other personal info. I really did not like having to do that, but it was either that, or they were going to delete my account. At least so they said. So what could I do? In the end, I surrendered my personal privacy so that I could continue being a Christian witness on Facebook.

But my point is the following. If Facebook has a database which contains all of our birth dates -- which is highly likely -- then they could very easily create an algorithm which would match potential friends by age, and likewise prevent people of a certain age group -- such as young teens and pre-teens, for example -- from sending a friend request to people of another age group -- such as adults and older Facebook members, and vice versa. Even if we are not aware of this going on behind the scenes -- assuming that it does occur -- Facebook can reasonably justify taking such steps, because such age matching will protect young people from potential online predators.

Of course, the negative side to all of this, insofar as we are concerned as active, online, witnessing Christians, is that this kind of age matching will prevent us from reaching out to younger audiences. So this may possibly explain why I

-- and perhaps you as well -- receive so few friend requests from very young people. In other words, it may simply be that Facebook has set up certain technological barriers -- a.k.a. algorithms -- to prevent this from happening. Again, I have no clear proof that Facebook does this, but it seems to make sense to me that they would, for their own protection.

This is directly related to another concern I have had as of late, regarding our ability to be a witness on Facebook. Many of us have made it a priority in our lives to be an active witness of our faith. For some of us, it is the only reason why we joined Facebook in the first place. For me personally, it is in fact the entire reason why I purchased my very first computer back in 1993. It was not a luxury item to have fun. It was a tool which I wanted to use to be an online witness of my Christian faith. You will find this discussed in the article entitled "The Internet: Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance?". By God's Grace, I have endeavored to faithfully do this ever since that time.

But my concern is that with all of the compartmentalizing that Facebook has been doing, it is in fact limiting our ability to be a witness to nonbelievers, and shrinking our potential audience. My age matching theory is just one of the ways in which this is happening. Another way is through the use of tags. I don't know if Facebook still employs the use of tags or not. I am not referring to the practice of tagging people in posts, but rather to adding descriptive tags to your timeline or page. Years ago, it used to be possible to do this. I just checked, and I found no way to add tags, unless I missed it somewhere in the settings. If I am not mistaken, it's possible to add tags when you make a new Facebook ad.

But the point is, if you do have tags associated with your timeline or page, what that essentially means is that unless a person uses those specific tags in their Facebook search, your timeline or page may never appear in search results. The end result is that they won't even know that you exist, and you may never have an opportunity to be a witness to them. You remain basically invisible to them, unless someone happens to recommend your page to them, or by some odd chance they happen to come across your page out of the billions of Facebook pages which currently exist. How likely is that to happen?

Regarding Facebook groups, Facebook has talked about making

them even more interest-specific in recent weeks. Of course, they are painting this as a good thing because it will allow folks to have more intimate, tightly-knit groups that center around certain topics. While this may be true, at the same time, if your goal is to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then this compartmentalization will have the exact opposite effect. Why? Because just like I explained earlier, the only people who may be able to find you will be those who have a specific interest in Christian topics.

For example, about a week ago, two questions popped up in the BBB group. These were questions generated by Facebook. The first question asked me if the BBB group is related to Christianity, to which I responded in the affirmative. The second question asked me if the BBB group is related to Spirituality, to which I again responded that, yes, it is. So I imagine that the BBB group is now classified under "Spirituality/Christian", or something like that. I don't know if Facebook intends to create some kind of visible group index where people can see what is available. But if not, then once again, that means that unless a person uses those terms in the Facebook search field, they may never know that the BBB group exists.

So I hope you can see how in a subtle way, all of these different things are in fact limiting our ability to be a Christian witness to the nonbelieving world. Due to all of this political correctness, and people being so afraid to offend each other over the littlest things, it appears that Facebook may be corralling us into our own specific groups where we won't offend nonbelievers. If this is indeed the case, it may get to the point where we are just preaching to the choir. In other words, we will just be sharing the Gospel with those who already agree with us. That is not going to do much good insofar as saving the unbelieving world is concerned.

Now, as I said, if you are only interested in fellowshipping with like-minded Christians, then these moves by Facebook won't really be a problem for you. In fact, that is how most churches operate already. They basically preach to the choir, and rarely obtain new members outside of their little clique. And even that is slowly shrinking, to where many churches are closing their doors every single year. However, if you are on Facebook to be a witness to others outside of your immediate Christian circles -- that is, to nonbelievers -- then, yes, this compartmentalization will limit your overall audience,

and limit your witness.

Returning to the topic of the Bill's Bible Basics Forum, and the age range of our current members there, granted, the BBB Forum Members Gallery currently only shows about 150 avatars out of my total of just under 5,000 Facebook friends. As a result, the ratio between young and old members could change as I slowly add more avatars, and invite more of my Facebook friends to participate on the BBB Forum. However, as is, in looking at the gallery, it left me with a strong impression, and it is indeed a rather sad one. My friends, we are losing our youth when it comes to faith in the Lord, belief in His Word, and a strong interest in dedicating their lives to service to the Lord. It just seems that many of them do not have the same passion for the Lord as we older folks do.

Now, we can try to attribute this lack of serious interest in the things of God to a variety of reasons. For example, maybe it is due to their age. They are young, and still entranced by the things of this world. They have not lived as much as we have. As such, they may not yet realize the things which are of true worth in this life. Many of us were much the same way when we were at that age. It is only after we have gotten married, had a few children of our own, and endured the many struggles of raising a family in this modern world, that we have come to appreciate the value of serving the Lord and dedicating our lives to Him. Of course, that is not true in every case. For example, in my case, I knew at a young age that I was meant to serve the Lord; which is what I began doing shortly after reaching my eighteenth birthday.

But I think this lack of interest on the part of our younger generation has a lot more to do with something else, other than mental and spiritual maturity. I believe that they are being overcome by the spirit of the world. More specifically, I believe that they are being overcome by the liberal spirit of the world. Think about it. From the time they enter the public school system, they are being pounded by it. They are being taught to not have faith, but to trust in science, and to trust in their government. If they manage to go as far as the college and university level, it becomes even worse. The public school system is bad enough with all of its negative influences, including the way that the LGBTQ crowd has gained such heavy influence there during the past decade. But we all know that university life is even worse. It is a veritable breeding ground for liberalism, atheism, and every kind of rebellion against God.

This spiritual decline and spirit of rebellion in our youth is not something that just began yesterday or even last year. As some of you will no doubt realize, it's been a very slow, ongoing process which began decades ago. In fact, I would venture to say that it probably began during the 1950s with rock 'n' roll music, swivel hips, and everything associated with that era, and has gotten progressively worse since that time. With the advent of the hippie generation, free love and drugs during the 1960s, the train of rebellion sped up even more. Now it is raging down the tracks to destruction. This wicked spirit of rebellion is evident everywhere now within American society. Many of us can attest to the fact that we have never seen it so blatant as we see it now. Tragically, other nations are following suit as well. Satan is certainly having his day, sad to say.

So while it may appear to some of my readers that I have in large part pointed the finger at the younger generation in this series, make no mistake. Clearly, there is enough blame to go around to everyone. These sinful activities have always been present in human society, going back literally thousands of years. The big difference is that in previous times, they were done for the most part in secret. They were hidden in the closet. Now, however, as I have already stated, they are done openly, in public, and without any degree of shame or embarrassment whatsoever. They have even become the laws of our land, and of an increasing number of other nations too. So just as the enemy has become emboldened, so too, we have been forced to become emboldened as well, in order to expose their sins. In short, an emboldened enemy also requires an emboldened witness against them. I am reminded of something that Jesus said in the Gospels:

"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

While I obviously do not agree with or accept many of the things which are now occurring in the established church system and the various denominations, I do understand why they have been led to do the things which they now do. I am referring to all of the gimmicks which they employ in order to try to attract young people to their congregations. This includes rock music in their churches, night club lighting, and all of that other nonsense that they use. The churches are desperate to win back the youth. But from the looks of

it, they have not met with a whole lot of success. That is, unless you consider their feel-good brand of religion to be a success story. To me, it is merely entertainment; and as I said earlier, all they are going to produce is a shallow, weak generation of Christians who aren't going to be able to withstand the winds of adversity.

As I have mentioned in previous articles such as "Musical Ministries and Wordy Preachers", the fact of the matter is that Jesus, the Apostles and the early Disciples didn't have to resort to using gimmicks in order to reach and win the lost. They never endeavored to become popular. They simply preached the straight Gospel truth, and let the chips fall where they may. They preached "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". They relied upon the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and not on gimmicks, as becomes very clear by verses such as the following:

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 3:1-2, KJV

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17, KJV

"And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew 9:10-13, KJV

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:14-15, KJV

"And they went out, and preached that men should repent."

Mark 6:12, KJV

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Luke 13:2-5, KJV

"And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:3-7, KJV

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:37-38, KJV

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

Acts 3:19, KJV

"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

Acts 8:22, KJV

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

Acts 17:30, KJV

"Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea,



and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."

Acts 26:19-20, KJV

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Romans 2:4, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9, KJV

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

Revelation 2:5, KJV

"Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

Revelation 2:16, KJV

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

Revelation 3:3, KJV

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Revelation 3:19, KJV

So as you can plainly see, Jesus and the Christians of the First Century were not politically-correct menpleasers. They were not afraid to preach the straight truth, even if it did offend some people. They were more interested in convicting people of their sins, so that it would lead to repentance, and thus to their being won to the Kingdom of God. How unlike so many of the modern churches which are more interested in quantity, and a feel-good religion, so that they can continue

to fill up their coffers at the expense of the naive sheep.

Those of you who have been with me a long time know that I am the same way. I make no excuses for what I preach. That is the least of my concerns. I endeavor to follow the example of our spiritual forefathers. I just want to preach the truth of God's Word. I just want to be a faithful witness, regardless of how people react to the Gospel message. I will not rely on gimmicks to win the lost. I will not pretend to be cool so that the Gospel message is more palatable for some people. I will not water down the message, or endeavor in any way to be politically correct. It is what it is, my friends, and we all must simply stand firm, despite all opposition. Like many of you, in spite of my own personal sins and shortcomings -- and they are indeed many -- it is my hope that someday I too will hear that blessed "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

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

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FACEBOOK AND THE BATTLE FOR OUR YOUTH : PART 3

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Give Our Youth God's Word, We Cannot Override Free Will And Personal Choice, Only God Can Draw Them, Deceived By Seducing Spirits, Train Up A Child, King Solomon Backslides Into Deep Apostasy, Most Of The Kingdom Was Rent From David's Lineage, King David's Greatness Sins And Repentance, We Are Witnesses To America's Spiritual Decline, America Then And Now, So Many Sins, There Is No National Repentance On The Horizon In USA, America's Many Foreign Lovers, The Heartbreak Of Watching Our Own Children Rebel Against The Lord, Our Own Liberal Children Turning Against Us, Ye Shall Be Hated Of All Men For Gospel's Sake, Powerful Deceptive Spiritual Forces At Work, We Cannot

## Fight Our Children's Battles For Them, Are We The Last Voice Of Opposition?, The Future Is In The Hands Of Our Children, First Century Christians, Closing Comments, Suggested Reading

Concerning the current state of our youth, there is only so much that we can do. Our job is to give them God's Word, and to be a Christian example to them. But beyond that, as we learned earlier in this series, they are in God's hands. We simply cannot override their free will and personal choice. They alone must decide what they will do with the truth we have given them, just as we had to do at some point in our lives. To reiterate a point from part one, God is the only one who can touch their hearts, and convict them of sin. It is He alone who can draw them to Himself by His Spirit. Yet, there is a big caveat here; and that is that they must be willing. They must have seeing eyes, hearing ears, and also receptive hearts.

Tragically, right now, as we all know, many of them do not see, and they do not hear. They have hardened their hearts and are in a state of outright rebellion against the Lord; so much so that they openly flaunt their sins before His face. Yes, they hear something alright, but sadly, it's the wrong voices. They are communing with the evil spirits of the world. They have in fact been seduced. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy almost two millennia ago:

"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

Many of you will no doubt recall a verse that was written by King Solomon about a thousand years before the time of the Apostle Paul. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon writes the following words of wisdom:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6, KJV

As you may know if you are a Bible history buff, there is a certain irony to the previous verse. As I point out in the

seven-part series entitled "The Fruits of Disobedience", and elsewhere, Solomon -- who was King David's son -- backslid terribly from the faith of his father. Not only did Solomon engage in relationships with many pagan women, but he also introduced a lot of pagan worship into Jerusalem in his old age, which greatly angered the Lord, as becomes evident by the following group of verses:

"But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded."

1 Kings 11:1-10, KJV

As a result of Solomon's sins of idolatry and sliding into such deep apostasy, the Scriptures inform us that the Lord lifted up enemies round about him. However, it wasn't until his son Rehoboam sat on the throne, that ten of the tribes of Israel were taken from him by the Lord, and given to Jeroboam, who had fled years earlier to Egypt, in order to escape Solomon's wrath. The only tribes which were left to the house of David were Judah and Benjamin. This all came about due to Rehoboam's foolish refusal to listen to the wise counsel of the old men who had likewise served as the advisers to his father, Solomon.

Imagine that. Young David so loved the Lord, and wrote many beautiful Psalms to Him. He grew up to become one of Israel's greatest kings and warriors. Not only that, but David was one of the ancestors of Jesus Christ. Then, due to covetousness, lust and pride, he greatly sinned against the Lord, when he engaged in adultery and murder. But David repented, and God not only forgave him, but also blessed him and Bathsheba with a son who would become the next king of Israel, and who would build the House of the Lord.

Tragically, as we have already seen, despite the fact that he had been so blessed by the Lord, Solomon too fell in his old age. I have wondered if perhaps it was God's mercy that King David did not live long enough to see the terrible backslidden state of his son. According to tradition, David died in 961 BCE. This would have been about four years after Solomon became the new king of Israel.

Sadly, we today are in a very different situation. We -- that is, the older generation -- have watched as the United States has become trapped in a spiritual decline, the speed of which boggles our minds. Like myself, many of you no doubt remember what life was like just fifty years ago. Granted, it was far from being perfect back then as well. But in some ways, life was a whole lot better than it is now. People were a lot more decent and respectful. On the whole, the nation was likewise a lot more God-fearing. There was no cussing, nudity or other carnality in movies and television shows. One could flip the dial on the television set without worries of inappropriate material appearing before our children's eyes. Music was also clean for the most part, and contained zero vulgarities.

Yes, as I mentioned earlier, sin existed back then too, as it has always existed. However, it was not nearly as blatant and in-your-face as it is today. Today, one cannot escape it. As we have already discussed, the very laws of our land flaunt sin and rebellion against the Lord and His holy Laws. Our TV shows, movies and music blare defiance against God. We kill millions of unborn babies, while at the same time we dare to hypocritically shout "Save the seal! Save the whale!" We are sexually confused, while our children are continuously abused by people in whom we have placed our trust. We are a nation totally consumed by carnality and excessive materialism. We love TV and movie violence, and we wage war on weaker nations when something is to be gained. We are slaves to the bottle, or else constantly in a chemically-induced stupor. And all the while, we have the audacity to sing "God bless America!".

Yes, my friends, by her own foolish choice, the U.S.A. has selected her current path, and it is by no means a good one. The current tide of liberalism and rebellion against the Laws of God will surely be America's doom, unless there is a great national repentance. However, despite calls for the same by many of God's people for a number of years now, I simply do not see this happening. If I may be honest, it seems to me as if the United States has already gone over the edge, and is now in a state of free fall, just waiting to hit rock bottom. Many of you will be familiar with the following verse which is found in the Second Book of Chronicles:

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV

That verse clearly describes a people who are in a desperate state of repentance, perhaps similar to the Jewish refugees who returned from Babylon after seventy years of captivity. If you are familiar with the Book of Nehemiah, then you may know that the Jews were so determined to regain God's favor, that they were even willing to forsake their foreign wives. Clearly, America is nowhere near that level of repentance. I see no national repentance on the horizon. Do you? America has many foreign lovers in the form of false religions which have slowly crept into the country. She has not kept herself pure and undefiled. She has been soiled by a thing called multiculturalism. Like Israel of old, she has abandoned her spiritual husband, who is the Lord. So how can she possibly continue to expect or demand God's favor?

As I mention in another recent article, we older Americans have had our chance to shape the future, just as King David raised Solomon to love the Lord. Some of us did our best to raise our own children in the knowledge and fear of the Lord. We gave them God's Word. And for some of us, that is the most heartbreaking part of all; because it is some of our very own children who are now leading this wave of rebellion against the Lord, just as Solomon later backslid from the Lord. They have indeed departed from the way in which they should go, in direct opposition to what King Solomon wrote in Proverbs; and they have embraced things which we find utterly shocking, revolting, disgusting, ungodly, and totally unnatural.

But sadly, the tragedy does not end there. Due to their state of delusion, our own offspring have the audacity to accuse us of being the bigots, the haters, and the homophobes, when we try to remind them of the serious warnings which are found in God's Word, and the bad fruit which will result if they don't repent of their wickedness. As some of you will know, there are certain situations where Christian parents are now hated and despised by their own children, and treated as outcasts, because said parents refuse to go against the Lord or abandon His holy Laws. In short, they refuse to embrace the misguided liberalism of their wayward children.

This reminds me of a dear, elderly friend of many years -- now deceased, I believe -- whose adult daughter was involved in a lesbian relationship, and who eventually even "married" her partner. This tore apart the mother's relationship with her daughter. Some of my longtime friends may recall how I too have mentioned before that about ten years ago, my own teenaged daughter also went the same route and was involved with a lesbian for a period of time. It came as a total shock to me, considering that I had raised her in a very Christian environment. This likewise drove a wedge between us. While my daughter still holds some very liberal views, thankfully, she is now in a very healthy, heterosexual marriage relationship.

I have seen similar comments being made on Facebook where my friends lament how this same blight has caused divisions in their families as well, and caused them grief and heartache. While I believe that the Lord is referring to events which occurred during the latter half of the First Century in the following verses, nevertheless, they describe things which we are seeing in our own day to some degree as well:

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

Matthew 10:34-38, KJV

"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye

shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Mark 13:12-13, KJV

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

Luke 12:51-53, KJV

As I mentioned earlier, there are some very powerful, wicked, deceptive spiritual forces at work which have taken control of the hearts and minds of some of our own children. They've been seduced and bewitched by these vile lying spirits. The Apostle Paul mentions these wicked forces in verses such as the following:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

There is another sad truth which we must recognize. That is that we cannot fight our children's battles for them. We can certainly pray for them, as we all should, but we cannot win victories for them. That is something they must learn to do on their own, if they are willing. As we have seen, that is precisely part of the problem. Some of them don't even know that they are going down the wrong road. They are convinced that it is we who are in error. Such is the level of their deception. I really don't know what it is going to take to



wake them up, other than harsh judgment from the Lord one of these days.

My friends, in conclusion, our time is almost past. I have considered that our generation may quite possibly be the last voice of opposition, before total wickedness takes over this world. Once we are dead and gone, who will there be to rise up against the current tide of evil? Will there even be enough strong Christians left to continue waging the battle? Let's face it. Even now, our voices are slowly being drowned out by the younger generation, and the wave of liberalism which has swept the world. It is a very sobering thought, isn't it?

Like it or not, the future is in the hands of our offspring. They are going to make whatever decisions they will make; and honestly speaking, there is very little that you and I can do about it. As alarming as it may be, given what we see happening now across the country, I would not be the least surprised if in another twenty years -- or possibly sooner -- America will become a nation which you and I will hardly recognize, and one in which you and I will probably not want to live. It is already on its way there, and that is a very troubling thought indeed. God help us all!

On a final note, allow me to share one more observation. If we consider the ungodly state of the world today, it gives us a clearer understanding concerning why Early Christians were so willing to be sacrificed in the coliseums of Rome, and leave behind the wicked world of the First Century. It was obviously far better to be in the presence of the Lord. I am not necessarily suggesting that this is going to be our fate -- because I obviously do not know -- but if it were, would you be prepared to make such a sacrifice?

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. It is my hope that you have found it to be both informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the appropriate link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which

are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server.

Abortion: The Slaughter of the Innocent

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?

Are You Crucified With Christ?

Are You Redeeming the Time?

Churchianity or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?

Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: A Warning to Modern Society

Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?

Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy

Free Will and Personal Choice

Musical Ministries and Wordy Preachers

Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service

Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!

Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed

The Fruits of Disobedience

The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point

The Internet: Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance?

The Public School System and School Prayer

What is Wrong With Modern America?

When Sin is No Longer a Sin

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