

BULLETIN

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY
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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Jane S. Hancock

I am absolutely not interested in the hoopla that has been going on during the last month (as of this writing) about the retirement of the previous pope and the selection of the new pope. And notice that I do not capitalize “pope.” Every television station has covered every minute of this event with “breaking news.” The choice of a pope even knocked the killing of three American servicemen out of the top news spot. The Los Angeles Times devoted the “above the fold” section of the front page and banner headlines to the story: A new world; a new era! Time Magazine used ten pages and its cover to inform the world all about it.

For me it’s a story I have never understood. These are rhetorical questions; therefore I don’t expect answers. How did the Catholic Church become such a political and cultural force in the world? How do Catholics explain calling Peter the first pope? How can an elected official be a spokesperson for God, for a religion? How did Catholicism survive the Dark Ages? What gives the Catholic Church the right to make up rules for the “faithful” to follow? What happened to humility? Why is the Vatican a political state? Who came up with the idea that a few Hail Mary’s would make up for any sins committed? Who invented the rosary?

I could go on. But the big question to me is this one. Do Catholics ever read Colossians 2? Do priests in seminary read Colossians 2? Let’s go there—to Colossians 2:6-8:

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

In the Time Magazine article the word “Christ” was not used once. Verse 8 tells us to “Beware.” Is anyone listening?

“And ye are complete in him” (Col. 2:10). Not in the pope. Not in the church. (Notice I do not capitalize “church.”) Complete in Christ Jesus. These words which are so precious to me let me know He is all I need. I am complete in Him.

Colossians 2:14-16: *“Blotting out handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no*

man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days.”

So my question to the Catholics again is what is it that draws you to a religion that makes all these rules? These words, words inspired by God, are so clear. *“Let no man therefore”*

Colossians 2:20-23: *“Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh.”*

I have more questions. Why all the ceremony? Why all the pomp? Why do you allow people to make these decrees, tell you how to dress, what to eat? Why do you follow those rules? Why do you go to confession when you don't follow the rules?

I know. I'm preaching to the choir here. If you are reading this, you are probably not Catholic. You probably already agree with me.

Although Otis Q. Sellers thought every book in the Bible was important, he called Colossians one of the great books. Why? Because it points to the believer; it points to those of us living in this Dispensation; it points to you and me. I'm glad I have His wonderful Word.

And if you just want some good advice, keep reading Colossians. Go to Chapter 3. You'll find some commandments there worth keeping. Colossians 3:8-10, 14: *“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”*



PAUL, THE APOSTLE TO THE NATIONS

By M.B. Hammond

In the Acts Period, all of the teachers of the faithful had the gift of teaching; they spoke the words Jesus Christ had given them as apostles with the powers of the Holy Spirit to enforce the Word. When the dispensation of Grace opened on the day of Acts 28:28, Paul stated that the “salvation bringing grace of God would be sent to the nations (not just the Jews) with the promise that they would hear it.” It must have been a time of vast change. The Apostles lost their mighty powers; the manifest work of the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from them and with this their very credentials as believers in Christ. It was the beginning of the present dispensation in which God is silent and men are not commissioned of God to teach the Word.

The change of dispensation, which happened in spring of 62 A.D., was totally shocking and unexpected to the Acts Period believers. It occurred so suddenly that even Paul was unprepared and his first task was to clarify to all the believers, not just his converts, what this dispensation was all about. Even though Paul's apostleship was removed, God still commissioned him to explain to the faithful what it meant. Paul, at that time, was a prisoner in Rome and not able to travel to his special believers. But in the two years he spent in his own house he continued to work, writing letters to the faithful and teaching groups, including the emperor's household,

about the salvation provided by Christ to all men. He wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon during that time. John's Gospel was also completed toward the end of Acts, and this was the book that replaced the Gospel-preaching teachers of the Acts Period. Paul undoubtedly wrote many other letters we do not have, but the Holy Spirit saw fit to give us the important information about the dispensational change.

Ephesians was a general letter explaining what God had done and how it would influence all believers in this dispensation. Philippians was written to a group of believers that Paul had founded about ten years before (Acts 16) in Philippi (Macedonia) on his second missionary journey. Paul wrote in Philippians 1:6, "The work (in Acts) has been brought to a full end (*epiteleo*) until the day of Christ (the Premillennial Kingdom)." He went on to say in Philippians 1:10 that an important gift of the Holy Spirit "would carry through until the day of Christ." Paul rehearsed for them that God was doing a work of great importance to Him, and their powers would be returned in the future life.

The Colossians were a group whom Paul had never met, but they had been revealed to him through Epaphras who had taught them through the Gospel. Colossians 1:4-6 says, "Since we heard of your faith in Jesus Christ and the love which you have for all the saints. Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, which you previously heard in the word of truth, the Gospel, which has come to you, just as in all the world also bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth." Clearly, Paul knew that the Gospel (of John) was as valuable to old believers as new ones and it would supply teachers who could speak from the authority of God. The single chapter letter to Philemon explains that a run-away slave (Onesimus) was returning to him as a believer, and Paul gives his assurances and tells Philemon he plans to visit in his home in Colossae. We have no further letters but it is apparent that after his release from Rome in 64 A.D. he had at least a couple of years to visit these groups of believers.

Paul realized that the out-called assembly organization of the Acts Period was not suitable for the new dispensation of grace. No persons were given the authority or powers of God to discipline or punish men who wormed their way into the different assemblies of believers (the fakers and unbelievers). As such it probably took him more time and much prayer to work out his instructions to Timothy and Titus. In Ephesians 6:20 Paul assigned Timothy to go to Ephesus to lead the believers there. Titus was sent to Macedonia and the island of Cyprus. These more personal books were given to these men to help them work with the believers and know what God required of them. In 2 Timothy 1:6 Paul asks Timothy to "kindle afresh the gift that God had given him to teach the Gospel." However, in 2 Timothy 1:15 Paul admits that "all in Asia (the Roman province) have turned away from me." This suggests that Paul had seen for himself how the dispensational change had made a shambles of the previous assemblies. Thus in 2 Timothy Paul makes his instructions more clear, and a saddened Paul recounts his accomplishments.

This explains why God chose Paul to be an apostle to the nations and how he related the salvation of Christ after Acts 28:28. Today we have Paul's words and we know that belief in Jesus Christ is all we need.



Bible Study Audio Disks

By Otis Q. Sellers, Bible Teacher

The entire Tape Library (TL) series, consisting of numbers TL-001 to TL-570, is available on MP3 compact disks. A complete subjects list may be obtained from our Web site, www.seedandbread.org, or the home office in Pasadena, CA, or writing/e-mailing:

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BIBLE STUDY SATELLITE GROUP LOCATIONS

In Southern California (Los Angeles Area):

The Word of Truth Ministry, 228 N. El Molino Ave., Pasadena; Sundays from 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dr. Milton Hammond moderates. Mr. David Hettema may be reached at (626) 794-0819. Hymn “sing-a-long” before service. “We continue studies based upon the Biblical records of our Bible, and written/spoken words of the late Otis Q. Sellers.”

In New York (New York City Area):

The Chelsea Studios, 151 West 26th Street (Room No. 609), New York City, the last Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Mr. Luis Casillas, moderator. Contact Mr. Mike Steele by e-mail: quickby22@aol.com. “We use O.Q. Sellers’ Seed & Bread leaflets (found on www.seedandbread.org) as a guide for our discussions.”

In New Jersey:

430 Boulevard Ave., Pitman, Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mr. Sam Marrone presides as host and may be reached at (856) 308-3820 or by e-mail at andthewordwasgod@hotmail.com. Marrone notes, “Bring your Bible and a hunger for the Word.”

In Oregon:

Portland, No regular schedules. Contact Mr. Bob English at (503) 357-8449 for information.

In Texas (Houston Area):

5847 Chinaberry Drive, Houston, Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 or 1 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Don Black are hosts and may be contacted at (713) 462-2250. “We usually listen and study one of Otis Sellers’ tapes.”

In Minnesota (St. Paul Area):

622 Selby Ave. (Room above Mississippi Market Food Co-op), St. Paul, Every other Friday, 6 p.m. Mr. Nathan C. Johnson presides and may be reached at (651) 733-5821 (work). Johnson encourages: “Please contact me, and come enjoy your time around God’s Word with our group.”

In South Carolina:

3800 Cottage Path, Sumter, the second Sunday and the last Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mr. Allen Tolbert presides and is assisted by Mr. James Johnson. You can contact Tolbert at (803) 469-7190 in South Carolina or Johnson at (704) 864-4212 in North Carolina. “Bring your Bible and come believing God’s Word.”

In Florida:

9082 Chatsworth Cascades, Boca Raton, No regular schedules. Contact Mr. Frank Bonano at (561) 883-5018 or (954) 675-4501. “We use The Word of Truth **Seed & Bread** leaflets.”



THE INTERNET CORNER

By Bob Hammond

I have been reviewing statistical materials and I saw a couple that I want to share with you: 2006 was the first year for our Web site, www.seedandbread.org, and we recorded 58,500 pages of our list of free materials downloaded by Internet users. This has grown each year to 308,100 pages in 2012! This is a positive sign in that many people are doing more than just glancing—they’re taking the time to download and read. Jesus alone knows how many hearts have been helped.

Another observation: the year 2006 recorded 7,540 visitors. This grew to 14,000 in 2009, but did recede a bit to 11,450 in 2012. We’re sure that many people are repeat readers (like yourselves?); each separate visit is counted as a “visitor.” There are certainly many possible reasons for this receding—perhaps some people are getting tired of the Web site format. Or perhaps we’re finding the formation of a “core” group of readers. Or perhaps we need to explore other search methods/engines/places to expand the awareness base for believers to find us. Or perhaps YOU have some thoughts and ideas you’d like to share here? (Write me at roberthammond@earthlink.net.) Please be as specific as possible—being self-taught, my limitations are many. I am appreciative for our Web site developer and maintainer, Cindy Fajardo, in helping lead me/us.

We are very grateful to each of you for your faithful support of this ministry. Thank you!



WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN YOU DIE?

By Joanne L.H. Johnson

Recently, I attended the funeral mass and wake for a good Boy Scout friend of my father and former Scoutmaster of my three brothers, Fred Davidson. Now, Fred had died from a heart attack. He was young, only 61 years old when he died.

At the funeral mass, we sang all sorts of nice, modern comforting hymns that really didn't say much. For instance, we sang a song about how in life Jesus comforts us, but it gave glory to the Virgin Mary for her ultimate comfort. How hypocritical was that! Mary is dead and gone and Catholics think that she is still alive!

Another thing was the liturgy of the priest. He repeatedly told how Fred was now in Heaven looking down on us (he did a lot of good things on earth and had paid off the priest). But the really sad and interesting thing was, how the priest said without understanding, that Fred was going to be raised from the dead on the last day. Now, how is Fred going to stay in Heaven until the last day and be raised from the dead?

Otis Q. Sellers reminded us about death (**Seed & Bread** No. 79, *What Is Death?*). The soul (**Seed & Bread** No. 77, *What Is the Soul?*) dies and the body returns to dust and the spirit of that soul goes back to God who gave it: "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God Who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7, NASB). The opposite is true: man was taken from dust and the spirit of life was breathed (**Seed & Bread** No. 78, *The Breath of Life*) into him and man became a living being, as found in Genesis 2:7. The human being is dead and there are no more sensory perceptions. The spirit of that being is not flying aimlessly about the world, as noted by the Greek philosopher, Plato. And one doesn't go to Heaven or Hell, as believed by many religions, besides Catholics.

There was a lot of repetition to the prayers that were said by the priest and his helper. The Word of God is so plain. Why do people have a hard time understanding it? Like Christ said on Earth when He was here, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a man who is rich that doesn't believe in the truth of Christ (Matt. 19:24). Christ also said that one should not fear them that kill the body, but should fear Him who is able to kill body and soul in gehenna (the burning rubbish heap, Matt. 10:28).

The people at the funeral mass also repeated the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13). But it had a hollow ring to it, like there was no understanding to what they were repeating. "Thy Kingdom come," they recite. But do they believe it?

There was Holy Communion taken. Father, my brothers and I skipped that part, as we take no part in ceremonies. It was like they all had to be sanctified because of Fred's death. Like sheep led to the slaughter.

Well, it is a sad report that this funeral mass was not really honoring God in Christ, but was honoring Mary, Mother of God and mankind. Mary is no longer alive, but is dead. How can anyone honor her knowing this?

We read the Scriptures and it is that which keeps us on "the straight and narrow" (Matt. 7:13-14). We believers know that when we die, we will be resurrected from the dead and will not be flying around as "wandering spirits" or be looking down from Heaven, watching to see the rest of us suffer or go through trials of many kinds.

When we die, we are "dead." That is what the Scriptures say and what I believe. I will be resurrected from the dead in the future Kingdom of God: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22, NASB; see **Seed & Bread** No. 80, *Concerning Resurrection*). What do you believe?



SEED & BREAD VOLUMES 1 & 2

Would you like to read the **Seed & Bread** references given in Joanne Johnson's or Jane Hancock's articles? You can now purchase the entire amount of Seed & Bread articles in both volumes in hard cover or soft cover editions, called **Seed & Bread Volumes 1 and/or 2**. These two volumes are printed in large type and are easy to read. The price for the soft-cover volumes is \$19. The cost of the hard-cover volumes is \$25 each volume. Please add \$3 for orders up to \$30 and 10% for orders over \$30. Kindly make out checks or money orders in U.S. dollars to **The Word of Truth Ministry** and mail to **228 N. El Molino Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101-1675**. Please allow 3-6 weeks delivery time for small orders (or more time for large orders).

