

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 32 No. 4

October 2019

George L. Faull, Editor

Instrumental Music To Use or Not to Use?

--By Larry West

With the kindest request I can humbly make to my dear brothers who insist instrumental music in worship is unscriptural, I want you to know I too was there. It was the way I was raised. My father was a preacher. I went to the debates. I heard the sermons. I preached them myself. I read the materials and stood hard on it. But, laying aside the arguments I read I decided one day to look just at the Word.

So, may I please simply relay something I have found in God's Word? I humbly ask, do you believe the Holy Spirit was deliberate when picking his words to write the entire Bible? Of course, you do. Were his words accurately and specifically chosen? I believe they were. I believe you do too. I believe his word is truth (**John 17:17**). That is, I believe "all Scripture is God-breathed" or "inspired" by God himself (**2 Timothy 3:16**).

Believing that, then, we students search for the most exact translation into English we can find! That is, in our Bible study we look for the details of many a Greek or Hebrew word to discover its fuller definition. It often makes God's Word come to life! We want to understand truth! To get it, we want the most nearly perfect translation into English we can find! Like, for example, to begin with, take the word for baptism, the Holy Spirit chose for baptism the Greek word

"*baptizo*" and not the one, "*bapto*." There is a difference.

A physician and Greek scholar named Nicander of Colophon lived about 200 BC and used both words, "*baptizo*" and "*bapto*" at one time, showing the clear difference in their definitions. He gives, of all things, a recipe for making pickles. He says, that "to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (*bapto*) into boiling water and then 'baptized' (*baptizo*) in the vinegar solution."

Scholar James Montgomery Boice makes this good observation: "Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change. When used in the New Testament, this word (*baptizo*) more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. e.g. **Mark 16:16**. 'He that believes and is baptized shall be saved'. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle!" (Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989.)

Beautiful! The Lord says the same, that it's not "*bapto*," it's "not the removal of dirt from the body," but rather it's "*baptizo*," that producing a deeper change," or as God says, it's "the pledge," coming from, or "of a clear conscience toward God" to the saving Gospel all the way through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 3:21-22**).

Then it's God who reaches down and into that solution (the water) and, like an agitator in a washing machine, stirs it up and washes away a man's sins, cleansing, thus bringing in the bonding with Christ, putting him on, and then being given the Holy Spirit, all that bringing this devastating change within and union into existence; the Holy Spirit says it's the "working of God" (**Colossians 2:12**). It is as much a miracle, or mighty power, as Jesus being born of a virgin! What beauty! How obvious it is God chose *baptizo* over *bapto*! What clarity!

Yes, we search for the deeper definitions. We want to know more! Digging into both original Bible languages and Bible-time languages of people like Nicander of Colophon excite us. As a Greek poet Dr. Nicander's works were praised by Cicero, imitated by Ovid and Lucan and frequently quoted by Pliny and other writers.

Now, does the Holy Spirit likewise choose His specific words when speaking of making music in New Testament praise to God, specifically in reference to instrumental music? Of course, He does! Emphatically He does ... and not just in the Old Testament but, yes, in the New. And if you will read further I believe you will find freedom, joy and relief. As best as I can tell the major verses that actually instruct God's church on the singing are **Colossians 3:16** and **Ephesians 5:19**. And from the debates I have read, and other defenses, these verses are the nuts

and bolts of our arguments, for these are the New Testament instructive ones. Those convinced that instrumental music in worship is NOT permitted by God say it's because of a key Greek word, the single one for "make music." They insist the Greek word for it, "*psallo*," changed from once permitting it to later disallowing it. However, if that were true, the Holy Spirit's actions on the matter showed otherwise.

It's the verse **Ephesians 5:19** that has the word "*psallo*" for "making melody." The argument against the instrument is that where "*psallo*" in the Koine Greek once included the instrument, the word changed by the beginning of the first century to exclude it, that is, to mean to sing with no instrument sound and with the voice only. He wasn't the first, but MC Kurfees was one of the most prolific to claim it. MC Kurfees was a gospel preacher in Louisville, KY, at the same church from 1886 to his death in 1931. He also was an editor of the Gospel Advocate.

He affirmed, "...The Greek word *psallo* once meant to pluck the hair, twang the bowstring, twitch a carpenter's line, and to touch the chords of a musical instrument, but had entirely lost all of these meanings before the beginning of the New Testament period. At this time, it not only meant to sing, but that is the only sense in which it was used, all the other meanings having entirely disappeared."

And then it appears others of our writers, preachers, debaters picked up on it and instead of really studying it out they have simply repeated what they have been taught over and over again. It's a human weakness all of us have. Many who believe, for example, in the "sinner's prayer" for salvation merely repeat the arguments they've been taught over a lifetime and can't think "outside the box." And it's detrimental to their discovering truth. Many of our own are guilty of the same.

The problem here is, if by the beginning of the first century the

definition of *psallo* no longer included the instrument, that is, if it strictly excluded it, then the Holy Spirit didn't know it. That's because the Holy Spirit more than a half century later deliberately chose, as He deliberately chooses all His words, to use *psallo* to translate a word from another language that included it. Hear that! Fifty-seven years after it was supposed to have changed the Holy Spirit Himself did something that proves it's a false claim!

What the Holy Spirit did was, in New Testament koine Greek He quoted from ... neither the language of the Hittites nor the Egyptians ... but from the language, the speech, the tongue of the Hebrews. Please see this! In that original Hebrew language, the word is "*zamar*." And *zamar* is defined this way: "...though meaning to sing with instrumental accompaniment yet means also simply to sing or to sing praises".

This shows *zamar's* definition includes both with and without instrumental accompaniment. Every writer, preacher, debater, every linguist, lexicographer and etymologist I can find admits *zamar* simply permits it, and that's a key word, "permits." Its definition includes both with and without the instrument.

Nowhere does one word translating another word end up producing an opposing definition. Contrarily, the very fundamental goal of language translation is to take a word (or even a group of words) with the strict goal of translating the meaning from one language and convey it as close to, as accurately to, the SAME meaning in the other language. It is defined this way: "'Translation' is the interpreting of the meaning of a text and the subsequent production of an equivalent text, likewise called a 'translation,' that communicates the 'same message in another language.'"

(<http://www.answers.com/topic/translation>)

Again, the Holy Spirit deliberately chooses His words. I believe it. I know you do too. Just as He did with *baptizo*, He did with *psallo*. And

again, notice, He did it more than a half century after it is claimed *psallo* changed definitions! It was in 57 A.D. that He chose to use *psallo* (**Romans 15:9**, contemporary with letters to both the Ephesians and Colossians) to translate the word *zamar*. And please remember, although The Holy Spirit is quoting Himself in **2 Samuel 22:50** and **Psalms 18:49**, we are not talking covenants here. We are addressing strictly language translation, from one language to another language. And the meaning of *zamar* is "to sing with instrumental accompaniment yet it also means simply "to sing or to sing praises". It proves the claim is totally untrue!

If the claim WERE true, then it would be because *zamar* itself disallowed the instrument just as strongly as the opposers claim *psallo* did. But there's not one linguist, not one lexicographer, not one scholar, not one preacher, editor, debater, not an expert in the field in a single century, in a single country, in a single institution that I can find that even hints *zamar* prohibited the instrument. Not one! Not ever!

So, the question comes, did the Holy Spirit make a mistake? Who among us would dare even think we could tell the Holy Spirit, "You selected the wrong word to translate *zamar* in 57 A.D.! Didn't you know *psallo* changed definitions way over 50 years before that date? You should have first checked with our preachers, debaters and lexicographers before choosing *psallo* to translate *zamar*!" None of us! The Holy Spirit trumps them all!

Yet, still in their continued efforts to show God excludes everything but the voice, some of our writers, preachers, debaters point to the phrase in Ephesians "with the heart," trying to make the heart now the instrument. Yet, elementary grammar knows, "in (or with) the heart" is an adverbial phrase. An adverbial phrase is simply two or more words that act as an adverb. It can modify a verb, adverb, or adjective and can tell "how", "where", "why", or "when."

And then the dictionary gives examples: "These are adverb Phrases describing "HOW":

- With great regret.
- In dismay.
- Like a monk in meditation.
- As if I care.
- In silence.
- Like greased lightning.
- With a song in my heart.

(<http://www.answers.com/topic/translation>
<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/adverb-phrase-examples.html#VIZOEJyDcGBLfITU.9>)

Notice above the last example: "With a song in my heart." Even the dictionary itself uses the exact rendition as **Ephesians 5:19**, showing "how" or "where." Where are Christians to make the melody (the song)? "... In my (your) heart." It's an adverbial phrase. It just means, "Do it heartily!" Notice again, the dictionary, with no agenda to prove, used the exact example synonymous with **Ephesians 5:19**. Once more, it's being simply an adverbial phrase is elementary grammar!

Most kindly, and with the greatest respect for God's Word, I cannot ignore God's Word. I love singing with voice only. I'm not particularly fond of the instrument in such settings as the church service, but what I like or don't like doesn't change God's Word. Isn't God's Word deliberate? Doesn't the Holy Spirit choose His words on purpose? And aren't we to speak where the Bible speaks, but be silent where the Bible is silent?

God's Word is neither silent on this, nor is there a "law of exclusion" on this subject as some of our writers, preachers, debaters have wanted us to believe. They have merely ignored what the Bible actually and deliberately shows on the subject. Actually, the **Ephesians 5** context was not written to prove "no instruments in the assembly!" The emphasis God is making is not to get drunk, and then he gives five participles telling the Ephesians what rather to do in their Christian walk and

singing Heavenly songs instead of what's sung in the bars is one of them. Please, may we spend as much passion and time preaching the Gospel that saves. And even more so! LIFE: it's all about Jesus!

THANK YOU FROM SUMMIT

We want to thank not only the regular contributors to the school but mention other ways the school is supported and blessed. Some have given Life Insurance policies or named us beneficiaries of those policies. Others have given Annuities or made us the beneficiaries of them. Some have purposely purchased insurance or annuities to leave to Summit. This allows them to leave a large amount with only a small monthly payment.

One farmer took a load of grain to the elevator and had the check made to Summit, tax-free, not shown as income to him.

Some, Like Barnabas, "having land sold it and gave the money", to Summit. Some churches have received money from a member's estate and shared the proceeds with Summit. Some small churches found they had accumulated more money than they would want in a bank account when Jesus came with a lost world all around them, and gave to four missions with one-fourth of it going to Summit.

Some have named the school in their will. One man has donated much money because as he traveled on his retirement he was discouraged with the state of our churches. This helped our resolve to give free tuition for preachers at our resident School of Preaching increasing our student body.

Some have given in honor of a beloved preacher and others in memory of loved ones who have gone home. One preacher has given over \$50,000.00 from his speaking engagements. Other individuals and congregations gave monthly to the school.

As always, donors of these gifts are not published, nor do they wish to be honored, in order to protect their privacy. We know other schools that publish the names of such donors, but we believe our donors are content to know that God knows what they have done.

These are ways that come to mind in which people help us to train preachers. When they are dead, their works will follow them. They have provided for our current needs and made it possible for us to move on with confidence in God's provision for future years.

Thank you one and all!
 Terry Carter and George L. Faulk

Parents: Your Children Should Not Be Your Friends

--By John Rosemond
 Kokomo Tribune – August 2nd, 2018

When Baby Boomers get together, we often talk about our observations of parenting in these postmodern times, one of which is that today's parents seem, as a rule, to want to be liked by their children, to want to be their children's friends. That, we agree, is very odd. What is lacking in the life of an adult that they want to be liked by a child? we ask.

Furthermore, what could it possibly mean that a child – an emotionally immature, ignorant (no matter how smart) human being – likes you? Or, at any given moment in time, does not?

Well, to begin with, it means to the parent in question that he or she is doing a splendid job. Being liked by one's child is the measure of a parent these days, or so it seems. If you are liked, then you need correction and you will know when you have corrected yourself sufficiently when your child begins to like you, or like you again. It is indeed odd that grown-ups – think in those terms. (If you happen to be one of the parents in question, and

you are offended at my characterization of you, fine. Offense may be prerequisite to your coming to your senses.) "What is so bad about wanting to be your child's friend? the reader may ask. It is an excellent question with at least five bads:

First – a parent's task is to raise a child out of childhood into adulthood. To accomplish that requires a parent who acts capable of the heavy lifting often required. The parent-friend lowers himself to his child's level (the child, after all, cannot rise to the level of the adult), thus rendering himself so incapable.

Second – a parent who desires, above all else, wonderful relationship with one's child is incapable of delivering effective discipleship. Discipleship, if it is properly corrective, does not make the recipient feel warm and fuzzy toward the agent of correction. That is contrary to the intent of having a wonderful relationship, because the overarching Rule of such is "Thou shalt never make thy child upset at you."

Third – and for the reason immediately above the parent in question allows himself to be manipulated by his child's emotional output, which becomes, over time, more and more uncivil.

Said parent interprets his child's emotional outbursts as evidence (a) he has done something wrong and needs to correct it or (b) that something is wrong in his child's life and he needs to discover it and fix it. That boils down to the child being in COMPLETE CONTROL of the relationship. The parent-child relationship, therefore, is inverted, which is bad for both parties.

Fourth – we have defined a co-dependent relationship in which said parent becomes an enabler. In this case, the job of the adult enabler is to always make sure his child is happy. "What's wrong with that?" a reader shouts. Because that is not in your job description, which ways you

are to prepare your child for responsible living in the real world, and the real world is full of disappointment, failure, loss, and other stuff that isn't "happy". Accepting those realities is to become emotionally resilient, and emotional resilience is key to personal satisfaction. It is more important than success.

Truly happy people are not in co-dependent relationships with dedicated personal enablers. People who are being enabled have not had to accept full responsibility for state of their lives. Their enablers are the responsible parties.

Fifth – enabled people almost always think of themselves as victims. Enabling always fails. No amount can defeat life's realities. So, enabled people are unhappy; either angry unhappy or depressed unhappy. All of which is why I am convinced that the post-1960's phenomenon of parents trying to be their kid's friends is a major contributor to childhood, and especially adolescent, mental health problems.

If you think you can defend your attempt to be your child's friend, I'd love to hear from you. Email me at radio@rosemond.com. If I use your defense in a future column, rest assured I won't use your name.



GOSPEL UNASHAMED DELAY

This issue of the Gospel Unashamed has been sent out late due to the recent health issues the editor, George L. Faull, has undergone for the past month. Many already know that he has been hospitalized twice in November; first due to the Parainfluenza type 3 virus then secondly for an upper GI bleed from 4 ulcers due to aspirin intake over the years. He is currently improving, and we are hopeful that he will be released in a few days from the hospital! George sends his gratitude for all the prayers, calls, visits, cards and such during his ordeal.

Charge to a Young Preacher

--By Roger Chambers

(The formal charge addressed to Robert Bennett at the occasion of his ordination, Bridgetown Church of Christ, April 24th, 1977)

BOB, I charge you to fill your mind with the Word of God, so that you will have something to say worth saying.

I charge you to keep your heart pure, so that you will have the courage to say it.

I charge you to read books, so that you can say it skillfully.

I charge you to know the people to whom you are preaching, so that you can say it clearly.

I charge you to make your *first* ministry the one to your family, so that people will believe you when you say it.

Bob, I charge you to preach "the faith once delivered," so that God will be pleased with what you say.

I charge you to preach the cross. Men and women and boys and girls do not need to be impressed they need to be saved.

I charge you to work from the spirit of quality; second best is never good enough for Jesus.

I charge you to work from the spirit of humility, Bob, for you and I will never be as much as people think we are.

I charge you to know and to remember that the highest kind of nobility is found in the pew at least as often as it is found in the pulpit.

I charge you to know and to remember that the people to whom you preach have as much to teach you about the Christian life as you have to teach them.

I charge you to know, Bob, that this ordination service does not canonize your opinions. Your only justification for entering the pulpit on any day to preach any message is your readiness to preach the Word of God.

Kathy, I charge you to know and remember that you hold Bob's ministry in your hand just as you hold his heart. The wisdom, patience,

and dedication that Bob must have to fulfill his ministry is not even close to that which you must have if he is to do so.

And finally, Bob, I charge you to pray. The difference between praying and not praying in this thing is the difference between life and death.

Please Contact Us If

You Desire Any of the Following:

- ➔ **Summit Theological Seminary Catalog (Free)**
- ➔ **Voices of Victory Tape, CD, DVD, and Article Catalog (Free)**
- ➔ **Sermon Subscription**
Listen to 4 sermons in a month by receiving 24 of George L. Faul's sermons on CD twice a year at only \$2.00 per CD. (Mailed/billed \$48.00 twice a year - a total of \$96.00. Also saves you on postage costs.) Or - Audio Tapes
- ➔ **One Year's Subscription of the Gospel Unashamed**
\$5.00 a year, which is mailed Out quarterly. You will receive 4 issues a year. Or, GOSPEL UNASHAMED on the Internet For **FREE**. (Please send your name, contact number, and email address.)
- ➔ **Information on Annuities**
SUMMIT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2766 Airport Road - Peru, IN 46970
(765) 472-4111 summit1@myvine.com /
www.summit1.org

Various Sayings or Quotes....

I used to think that I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure...

The best vitamin for a Christian is "B-1".

"No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar."
-Abraham Lincoln

My mind is like my internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, three of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from!

Paul's Epistles

--By Terry Carter

"15 And consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation-
-as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and *unstable people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures." **2 Peter 3:15-16** (NKJV)

There are a number of groups who try to discredit Paul's writings. There are a number of different ways in which they do this.

Some claim that Paul and Peter taught different things. Some even claim they taught different Gospels. Others claim that Paul was not really an apostle or that his writings were not really inspired.

Finally, there are those who accept that Paul was an apostle and that his writings were inspired, but each letter that Paul wrote was only intended for those to whom it was addressed. The verses quoted above actually refute all these ideas.

First of all, Peter referred to Paul as "our beloved brother". I can't imagine Peter speaking of Paul this way if they taught very different things.

This is especially true if they taught different Gospels. Paul himself said that there's only one Gospel and that anybody who tried to teach another one should be accursed. In fact, he went so far as to say that even if "we or an angel from Heaven preach any other gospel...let him be accursed." **Galatians 1:8-9**

Certainly, Peter and Paul would not have been on good terms if they were preaching different Gospels.

Secondly, Peter made it clear here that he believed Paul's writings were inspired. He referred to them as Scriptures. Since Paul's writings

were inspired there could be no doubt about his apostleship. After all, he repeatedly called himself an apostle and defended his apostleship against his detractors in his epistles.

If Paul were not an apostle or his writings are not inspired, Peter could have ended the debate right here. Instead, he calls all of Paul's epistles, Scripture. That ought to end the debate alright. Paul was an apostle and his writings are inspired.

Finally, Peter made it clear that Paul's epistles were not just for those to whom they were addressed. Most of Paul's letters were addressed to specific congregations like the congregation at Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, etc.

Some of them were addressed to individuals like Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. But here, Peter made it clear that he was familiar with "all of his (Paul's) epistles".

Not only that, but he made it clear that those to whom he was writing were also familiar with all of Paul's epistles. Peter addressed this book to "those who have obtained like precious faith with us". **2 Peter 1:1** That is, he was writing a general epistle to all Christians everywhere.

What this means is that Peter expected that any Christian anywhere who reads his letter to be familiar with all of Paul's epistles.

This is pretty strong evidence that Paul's writings were widely circulated among the congregations everywhere.

That pretty well destroys the idea that Paul's letters are only intended for those to whom they were addressed. They may not be addressed to a general audience, but they did have a general audience.

Whether you like what Paul wrote or not, he was an Apostle and his writings are inspired. They are meant for all Christians everywhere and at all times. They are Scripture and need to be believed and followed.

Environmental Disaster

—By Terry Carter



There has been a lot of focus on the environment lately, particularly global warming. One television network is encouraging people to confess their environmental sins like eating a steak once a week or using their air conditioning. High school students recently testified before congress about the anxiety they feel and the sleep they are losing over global warming.

The democratic presidential candidates took part in a couple of environmental forums that lasted hours and were televised nationally. Climate change protests were held across the country a few days ago.

Most of those protesting were under the age of 20. (No word yet on whether any of them were willing to give up their cell phones or to give up their air conditioning to reduce their carbon footprint.)

None of this is too surprising to me. I learned two things in second grade that I have found to be timeless truths.

First, there will always be some Chicken Littles around claiming that the sky is falling. **Second**, there will always be Henny Pennies and Turkey Lurkies that are thrown into a panic by these claims.

The earth and I have already survived countless claims of the sky falling. I'm pretty sure we will survive countless more. I tried to make a list of them but lost track after a while. Here is a partial list:

Silent Spring was published three years before I was born.

The Population Bomb came out three years after my birth. I remember being told in the third grade that cars would be a thing of the past by the time we were adults because of the energy crisis.

When I was in junior high school, everybody was worried about "the coming ice age". By the time I got to high school, the fears had shifted to nuclear power and Three Mile Island. My freshman year of college, the nation was traumatized by the television movie *The Day After* and its depiction of the aftermath of a global nuclear war. As an adult, I've seen panic over war in the Middle East, El Nino, Y2K, La Nina, the Aztec calendar, etc. There is always a coming stock market crash according to some expert. "Better buy gold now," they advise.

Always a Chicken Little followed by Henny Penny and Turkey Lurkey. I'm just not easily scared by the prophets of doom any longer. I've seen too much to panic.

There is another reason that I don't panic about global warming. This one is way more significant than the fictional story of Chicken Little. It is the Word of God.

After the flood of Noah, God promised to never again destroy every living thing as He did in the flood. Part of that promise is that as long as the earth remains, there will be winter and summer. **"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."** Gen. 8:22 (NKJV)

This promise was made to Noah, his descendants (every person living since then), and all living creatures.

"9 "And as for Me, behold, **I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, 10 "and with every living creature that is with you:** the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth." Gen. 9:9-10 (NKJV)

I know that God is still honoring that covenant today for three reasons. **First**, there has never been another global flood. **Second**, the sign of the covenant is still with us today. In fact, I saw it in the sky just last week after a brief rain. Of course, I am talking about the rainbow. **Third**, God said He was making this covenant for perpetual generations. "12 And God said: **"This is the sign of the covenant** which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, **for perpetual generations:** 13 **"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.** 14 "It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 "and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 "The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 And God said to Noah, **"This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."**" Gen. 9:12-17 (NKJV)

This raises the question of why high school students would experience anxiety and lose sleep over fears of global warming. There is an obvious reason for this. What God said in the above Scriptures is not taught in school today. Instead, the religion of environmentalism is an intricate part of the entire curriculum. I say religion, because it requires faith, demands a change of behavior for the adherents, condemns the nonbelievers, and predicts the destruction of the earth and all of mankind. It even has its prophets and global commission to proselytize all of mankind.

Anxiety, as a result of a belief, is no proof of the validity of that belief. It only proves the sincerity of the believer. Furthermore, the government should not be in the business of acting upon feelings. Its actions ought to be based upon facts and demonstrable and practical

solutions to problems indicated by those facts.

But there is more that needs to be said in this discussion. First, we need to recognize that God has given us dominion over all the earth. That does not mean that we are free to abuse our environment. It does mean that it was meant to serve us rather than for us to serve it. Still it only makes good sense to use our resources wisely and take care of our world. God, Himself, tasked Adam with caring for and keeping (guarding) the garden. "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**" Gen. 1:26 (NKJV)

"Then the LORD God took the man and **put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.**" Gen. 2:15 (NKJV)

Second, we need to understand that man has done great damage to the environment on a global scale. However, the damage has not been caused by industry, chemicals, fossil fuels, etc. It has been caused by sin. Sin is, and always has been, the most environmentally destructive thing that man does or can do.

This is initially seen in the fall of man. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were cursed along with the serpent. However, so was the ground itself. Now it would bring forth thorns and thistles and would need to be worked with difficulty and sweat. Nature itself was altered as a result of sin. It is now less hospitable towards human life. "17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': **"Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it** All the days of your life. 18 **Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,** And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 **In the sweat of your face you shall eat** bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were

taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." Gen. 3:17-19 (NKJV)

It is further seen after Cain killed his brother Abel. Remember that Cain was a tiller of the ground. But after he murdered, God told him that the ground would no longer yield its strength to him. Thus, he would be a vagabond and wonderer on the earth. This may not have affected the earth for all of mankind as Adam's sin did, but that mattered little to Cain. ""When you till the ground, **it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.**" Gen. 4:12 (NKJV)

The flood of Noah came as a result of the continual and pervasive wickedness of mankind. The flood killed every man and beast in which was the breath of life. But it also destroyed the earth itself. In fact, God cursed the ground again. "5 Then **the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** 13 And God said to Noah, "**The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.** 17 "And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, **to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.**" Gen. 6:5,13,17 (NKJV)

"5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and **the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.**" II Pet. 3:5-6 (NKJV)

"And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "**I will never again curse the ground for man's sake,** although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done." Gen. 8:21 (NKJV)

The world that was is no more because of sin. It is impossible to know just how profoundly different the world we live in today is from the

world before the flood. The environment was changed globally, permanently and profoundly.

One indication of how much the world changed is the drastic change in the life span of humans. Prior to the flood, a man's life was measured in hundreds of years. That changed radically after the flood. Within just a few generations after the flood, it was rare for a man to live anyway near as long as before.

Abraham's father lived to be 205. Abraham died at 175, which the Bible calls a "good old age". Sarah lived to be 127. Isaac was 180 and said to be "old and full of days". The Patriarchs lived long for their time, but they were quite short lives compared to those before the flood. Mankind simply does not live as long after the flood as we did before it. Clearly something in the environment changed because of the flood. It is simply not as friendly to human life as it had been before.

In **Leviticus**, we see that sin defiles the land which may just vomit you out as a result. "24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for **by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.** 25 'For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. 26 'You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you 27 '(for **all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled**), 28 'lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you." Lev. 18:24-28 (NKJV)

Notice that the context here is sexual perversion. It includes incest, homosexuality, and bestiality. These things defile the land for any nation, not just Israel. In Numbers, we see that violence without capital punishment also defiles the land. "31 'Moreover you shall take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death. 32 'And you shall take no

ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the priest. 33 'So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for **blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.** 34 'Therefore **do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell;** for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.'" **Num. 35:31-34 (NKJV)**

But there is good news in that the land can be healed. "13 "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin **and heal their land."** **II Chr. 7:13-14 (NKJV)**

Sin has caused all of creation to groan and be in the bondage of corruption. "21 because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption** into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that **the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."** **Rom. 8:21-22 (NKJV)**

Finally, the world will once more be destroyed because of sin. This time it will not be a global flood, but fire, that God uses. "But **the heavens that now are, and the earth,** by the same word **have been stored up for fire,** being reserved **against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."** **II Pet. 3:7 (ASV)**

Peter even warns that we should live Godly in light of the coming destruction of this world. This world is going to be destroyed, but we look for a new Heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. "10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which **the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** 11 Therefore, **since all these things will**

be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?** 13 **Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."** **II Pet. 3:10-13 (NKJV)**

Yes, we should be concerned about the end of the world. Yes, it will be due to "global warming" to put it mildly. However, this global warming will not be caused by excess carbon emissions. It will be caused by sin and wickedness in excess. Refraining from beef, fossil fuels, plastic straws, and air conditioning will not stop it from coming.

What should we do about the destruction of the planet? Repent of sin and live a holy and Godly life. The world will still end. However, it will end when God chooses, not man. It will end because of sin and wickedness, not pollution. But repentance and righteous living will have you prepared to live eternally in the new Heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells.

That's where I plan to live eternally, not this earth. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." **Prov. 14:34 (NKJV)**

A Little Fire Kindleth Much...

Many of you may know of the beautiful antique Mercedes Benz 540K car I've had since 2005. I vowed to the Lord that I would donate the proceeds from this car to several missions.

On Saturday, August 24th, 2019, my mechanic and I went to my secretaries' garage, where it has been stored for 14 years during the winter and began to start it to take it to get tuned up to sell.

To our surprise, the car didn't start at first but then after running for about

30 seconds, backfired, sparked, and caught the engine on fire. With the car being made of fiberglass, it didn't take long before the fire burned out of control and ended burning not only my antique car, but my secretaries' garage as well as melting the siding from the back of her house and 6 other surrounding structures.

My company has covered the cost of my antique car. As of today – the insurance companies are still determining the situation for the other structures involved.

This fire was no ones' fault, yet one little spark set a chain of events that affected several people. It did bring neighbors together and all have been very thankful to God that no one was hurt!!

We appreciate your prayers that this will be handled in a fair and just way and remember – Take precaution... a little fire kindleth much!

BEFORE:



AFTER:

