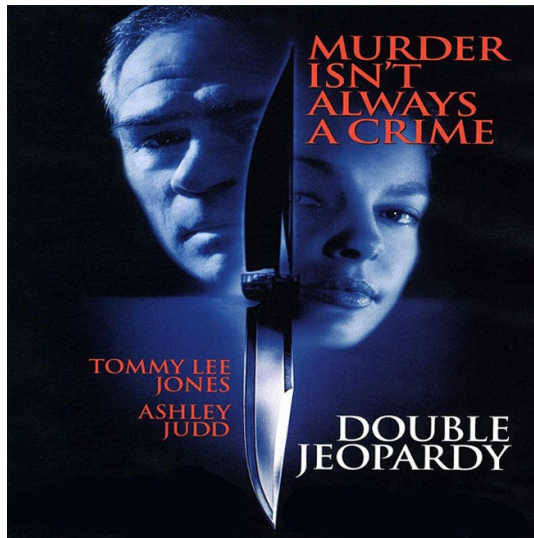


Double Jeopardy - Deception and Bondage of the Bride of Christ

Joseph Herrin (05-09-2014)



1999 Movie Double Jeopardy

(Note how the reflection of the sailboat forms the image of a knife.)

With the death of prophet Bob Jones who has had such an influence upon Mike Bickle of the International House of Prayer (IHOP) and Rick Joyner of Morningstar Ministries, I believe it to be profitable to share with the readers of this blog a prophetic experience I had some years ago through which Yahweh revealed to me a profound message that relates to these men and their ministries. The manner in which the Father spoke to me was very unusual both in its specificity and the deep impression it left upon me. My understanding of what the Father was speaking has grown in clarity over the years as I have observed the deception and bondage of the body of Christ that He was warning me about.

I was raised from the time of my childhood in Baptist churches. In my late teen years and early twenties my family attended a Southern Baptist Church in Georgia that was becoming more accepting in its attitude toward spiritual gifts and their exercise during congregational meetings. Manifestations of spiritual gifts were still rare, however, and it would not be until I was in my thirties that I observed the gift of prophecy exercised in my presence. This first occurred at this small Southern Baptist Church, and later at a non-denominational fellowship of believers that I joined at the time I met my wife.

Over the course of some years the non-denominational church began to exhibit more openness toward a free exercise of spiritual gifts and a freedom in worship among the members of the body. This included the twirling of banners during times of praise and worship, people lying prostrate on the floor, and a greater frequency of words of knowledge, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. Although the leadership of the church did not promote such moves as “The Toronto Blessing,” or “The Brownsville Revival,” in hindsight I can discern that the practices and beliefs of these movements were making inroads into many churches at the time, including the one I was attending.

There were certain denominations that were more accepting of these manifestations and teachings, such as the Harvest Cathedral churches, and Vineyard churches. The lead pastor at the church I attended also led the music, which was a major part of our local church experience. Praise and worship were deemed as important as evangelism and Bible teaching. The leadership obtained much of their music from the Vineyard churches. Consequently, I now perceive that a steady transformation was occurring at our local fellowship. There was less emphasis upon the teaching of the Scriptures, and a greater emphasis upon what was termed “the prophetic.”

In the 1990s, when I was in my 30s, I had my first introduction to Morningstar Ministries and to Rick Joyner. I had read his book titled *There Were Two Trees in the Garden*, and I found it to be insightful, though not radically transforming. Some years later someone shared with me Rick Joyner’s writing titled *The Hordes of Hell Are Marching*. This was an entirely different type of writing. It was written in an allegorical form, and was largely prophetic in nature. It was highly captivating as the descriptions in the writing were exciting in their fantastic descriptions of the battle between the church and the forces of evil. This writing that was originally posted freely on the Internet was later expanded and published as the book *The Final Quest*.

I believe all the ministers at the non-denominational church I attended had read this book and were excited about it. I was eventually appointed as a minister in this congregation, and I also considered the message contained in *The Final Quest* to be representative of the exercise of true spiritual gifts. I still see much of value in the book, such as the emphasis on being anchored in the word of God and being clothed in the garment of humility. Sadly, these are areas in which both Rick Joyner and the other ministers at Morningstar have turned aside.

The leaders of the church I attended began to speak more of Morningstar Ministries, and began using some of their music in our services. A greater emphasis on “the prophetic” became evident. Looking back I can see how the church was being influenced by what was going on in these other ministry organizations even though we had not officially joined any of them. The influence of organizations like Morningstar Ministries goes far beyond the churches affiliated with them. With the advent of the Internet, and the easy distribution of books, videos, and audio messages, the thoughts and beliefs of an organization are disseminated widely, crossing readily across denominational lines. In the past couple decades since the advent of the Internet I have observed that even the silliest of ideas “trend” among the churches. It is almost as if there is an unseen hand scripting the life of thousands of churches, easily directing their focus upon the doctrine or practice of the moment.

I did not discern these things very well as long as I was a member of these churches. The saying “I couldn’t see the forest for the trees” appropriately describes my experience at the time. I was being carried along to a great degree, swept up in the current of the changes that were taking place. That is not to say that I had no concern about some of the things that were occurring. I was concerned about some of the things I discerned to be excess, or departures from the Spirit of Christ and truth. These concerns were generally focused on specific issues or events, however. I was not seeing the larger picture of how the church was being moved away from a focus on Bible teaching, sound doctrine, obedience and sacrifice to a focus on emotional experiences and prophetic manifestations.

In the late 1990s I saw Morningstar Ministries as something very positive. Having read a number of

Rick Joyner's books (*The Final Quest, The Call, The Harvest*), watched videos of their church services, and participated in local worship where Morningstar music was performed, my perception of Morningstar was that it was a Spirit directed and empowered ministry that was focused on leading people into a Holy Spirit directed life. I deemed their openness, even promotion, of spiritual gifts such as prophecy to be a very good thing. I continue to value spiritual gifts, but at the time I was not practiced at discerning legitimate spiritual gifts from the counterfeit. I did not observe any testing of words of prophecy among the leaders of the church, and I did not practice this discernment as regularly as I ought to.

In 1999 I began to experience conflicts with the other ministers at my local church. There were five of us altogether. The issues in which we differed had to do with obeying God, walking by faith, and the proper understanding of the governmental order of Yahweh. The conflicts were not over the manifestation of spiritual gifts, or an emphasis on prophetic words. At the end of 1999 I was rejected by the other four ministers of the church who declared that they could no longer walk with me in ministry. This was God's way of bringing me out of the Babylonian confusion of the Christian religious system that I was only beginning to understand. I had been an active church member from my childhood, and accepted many practices and doctrines for no other reason than they were the only practices and doctrines I had ever been exposed to. Yahweh, in His mercy, led me out of the church that He might begin to teach me Himself, and to bring me to consider many aspects of the life of the church that I had never questioned before.

Coinciding with this time, the Father had recently directed me to leave my employment as a computer manager at a county hospital and to follow Him wherever He would lead. When I was put out of the church I was truly cast adrift. I was 38 years old in 1999 and had been in attendance in church several times a week for most of my life. Being a Christian and attending a local church were inseparable concepts in my mind. I had heard Hebrews 10:24-25 quoted from church pulpits ad infinitum, as the concept of church attendance was drummed into the minds of church members.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

Finding myself unchurched, unemployed, and facing many changes in life, I began to consider my options. I was free to go anywhere, not having anything to hold me to the area of Central Georgia where I had been living for nearly two decades. I had a sister who was married who lived in Southwest Mississippi not far from New Orleans where her husband worked. I had another sister who lived in Evergreen, Colorado. Both of them suggested that I should relocate to their area and find new employment there. I had also recently begun corresponding with a minister and his wife who lived in the Seattle area where they led a church on Whidby Island. They had invited me to relocate there so I could be part of their church and be mentored by them.

I did not discern at the time Yahweh's purpose in bringing me out of the church. I assumed that God would lead me to another church where I could be part of the life of the body of Christ. I did not discern that He was leading me out of the Christian religious system so that I could be taught of Him

and learn what true Christian discipleship is all about. As I considered my options, one thought that came to mind was that I could relocate to North Carolina and become part of one of the Morningstar Churches. In my mind, they were the epitome of a Spirit directed body of believers, and I wanted to become all that Yahweh desired me to be.

Immediately after I was cast out of the church by my brothers in Christ I arranged for my family and I to go spend a week at my older sister's home in Mississippi. She has children the age of our own son and daughter, and our families had always enjoyed spending time together. I figured that my wife and children could visit while I spent the week in prayer seeking the will of the Father to know the next step for us. My sister's family has a house and some acreage in a rural area. It was a perfect environment for me to sit on their front porch each day with a notepad, my Bible, and a pen in hand, praying and listening for the Lord to speak to me. I went with an expectant attitude, for I reasoned that Yahweh surely knew I needed His direction, and He would not withhold it from me.

I have shared part of this experience in the autobiographical book *Evidence of Things Unseen*. Yahweh truly met my expectation and revealed many things in a very clear manner as I sat on my sister's porch day after day. Yet, there is one part of my experience that I have never posted publicly before. I believe the Father would have me to do so now.

I want you to understand my mindset at the time. I had left my employer some months earlier. I was dealing with financial pressures due to following the Father in this matter. I had just been cast out of the church we had attended, in which I was a minister. I was feeling battered, bruised, and beset by many adversaries and had a pressing need to receive direction from Yahweh. I did not comprehend yet what His purposes were in bringing me out of the church and out of my former job. I was very much desperate to know the Father's mind that I might have some clarity and peace in my life.

After I had been at my sister's several days, my wife came out to me one evening as I was on the porch waiting before the Father. She told me that they would all like me to come in and watch a movie with them. In my heart I did not want to watch a movie. My focus was on hearing from God, and I did not want any carnal, or worldly activity to interfere with my pursuit of this goal. I was inclined to tell my wife that I did not want to watch a movie, but the Spirit of Christ stopped me. I suddenly had no peace in my heart at the thought of telling her that I would not join them for the movie. I thought perhaps that Yahweh wanted me to show some attention to my wife and my sister, and to not be a rude guest, so I relented and told them that I would join them.

I had no idea what the movie was about, and after viewing it, it is not a movie that I can recommend to anyone for entertainment. The movie is rated R as it contains a sex scene between a husband and wife, as well as profanity and violence. A point I would share for consideration is that we do not live in a 'G' Rated world. Yahweh has at times led me to dwell among a people of much sin and wickedness where I was daily confronted with profanity, obscenity, drug abuse, sexual impurity, and violence. I spent over three years at the Father's leading at an inner city rescue mission, and have twice spent time in jail where I shared cells with rapists, murderers, child abusers, and other immoral individuals. I learned much through these experiences, and was not corrupted by them. I did not view them as entertainment, however, nor take pleasure in the sin that was present.

Our heart attitude in any experience makes a great difference. If we are finding pleasure in sin then we stand condemned. I can truly say that I did not find pleasure in watching the movie *Double Jeopardy*. It is not the type of show that my soul is attracted to. Its dark themes of betrayal and revenge are repugnant to me. There are many aspects of this movie that would prevent me from choosing to watch it as entertainment. Similarly, there are a number of television programs today that focus on life inside of prison. Many people watch these shows for voyeuristic pleasure, being captivated by the violence, evil and profanity portrayed in these environments. I have no desire to watch such programming. I find these shows to be offensive and detestable to my soul. I was quite eager to be released from jail so that I would no longer have to hear the daily din of profane and obscene speech, or to observe the degradation of mankind in such close confines. Despite this fact, I can tell you that my two experiences of being in jail were God ordained for my spiritual profit. There is no contradiction here.

As I began watching the movie *Double Jeopardy*, I became aware almost immediately that there was a prophetic element to it and the Father had something to speak to me. My attention therefore became focused upon looking closely at the details of the movie to discern what was being communicated.

Double Jeopardy features Ashley Judd and Tommy Lee Jones as main characters. The movie opens with Ashley Judd sitting on the shore of the Puget Sound in the Seattle, Washington area. Her small son is with her, and she is teaching him to fish. Some of the first words spoken in the movie are between Libby (played by Ashley Judd) and her son Matty. Libby points to a beautiful sailboat out on the water, and draws her son's attention to it.

Oh Matty look! See that? See that big boat out there? She is the prettiest boat on Whidby Island. It's the Morning Star.

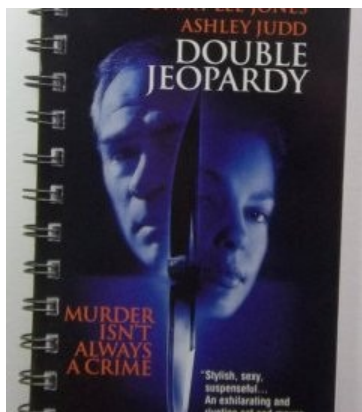


Libby and Matty Looking at the Morning Star

I had read something prior to this that explained that in dreams and visions vehicles often represent ministries. I have since experienced the Father using vehicles to speak to me of this very thing. A sailboat represents a specific type of ministry. Because it is wind powered a sailboat signifies a Spirit empowered ministry.

I did not perceive anything in this opening scene of the movie because I was not yet listening closely. I did not hear Ashley Judd tell her son the name of the boat. A few minutes later the boat appears again. The movie shows Libby and her husband holding a party at their house. Their house is right on the waterfront. When the party is over and most of the guests have departed, Libby's husband Nick says that he has a special surprise for her. He tells her to close her eyes. There are actually two versions of the movie that present the next scene in different ways. In the video I watched at my sister's house, Nick tells Libby to open her eyes, and sailing into view right in front of her is the sailboat she had been admiring earlier with her son. The name of the boat is clearly displayed on its bow. As it sailed into view I was struck at once as I saw the name Morning Star appear. The Father at once quickened my spirit and I knew the reason He wanted me to watch this movie was that I might perceive something He wanted to speak to me.

For weeks I had been asking Yahweh for His direction. In the previous days my entire focus had been upon petitioning the Father to give me guidance for my life. I was listening for His voice, and had an anticipation that He would speak to me. My expectation, however, was that He would speak in a certain way, communicating His thoughts to me as I sat before Him. He had indeed been doing this very thing, but I was caught off guard when He chose to use another form of communication to speak to me. My sister had thousands of videos to choose from at the local video store. Why had she been led to this particular movie? Why did my wife and sister have a sudden interest in urging me to join them to watch the movie? Yahweh often orders our experiences in unexpected ways. I was expecting Him to give me words to write in my notebook, and He had chosen an additional means to communicate to me.



The movie tells a story of betrayal and deception. Nick and his wife live a very affluent lifestyle. Nick's business is failing and he has kept this information hidden from his wife. Nick is also having an affair with Libby's best friend. He concocts a plan to escape his financial predicament and continue living an affluent life. He decides to fake his murder, and chooses to use the sailboat to carry out his deception. He goes sailing with his wife, and as they are anchored offshore he puts a drug into her wine to make her sleep. When she awakes she finds blood on her bathrobe, and all throughout the boat leading up on deck. She follows the trail of blood and it leads over the railing. On deck there is a sharp knife. In her panic Libby picks it up and at that very moment a Coast Guard vessel arrives through the fog and the crew see her with her bloodied clothes holding a bloody knife. All evidence makes it appear as if she has killed her husband and thrown his body overboard. Adding to the appearance of guilt, life insurance policies had been taken out on both Libby and her husband

just four months earlier for two million dollars, naming her as the sole beneficiary.

Libby is arrested on suspicion of murder and is eventually sentenced to seven years in prison. She asks her best friend, the one who has been having an affair with her husband, to take care of her son Matty. Libby somehow is able to give the money from the insurance policy to her friend who, unbeknownst to Libby, has arranged to move to another city with Nick who is very much alive.

Before I speak about the message to the church to be discerned from this movie, I would mention how the Father used it to speak to my specific situation that I had been seeking Him earnestly about. In the movie Libby is sent to prison. While there she discovers that her husband is still alive, but she is unable to prove it while incarcerated. She serves six years in prison, and her whole thought is to get her son back when she is released. Getting back in contact with her son is hindered by the fact that she is placed on parole upon her release and has very strict guidelines on where she can go and what she can do. She has to break the law and violate the conditions of her parole in order to pursue her son. She becomes a fugitive from the law. Tommy Lee Jones plays the role of Travis Layman, Libby's parole officer who goes after her. (It is not the first time Tommy Lee Jones has played a lawman chasing a fugitive.)

Libby begins tracking the places her husband has been while she was in jail. She is led first to Whidby Island to pick up the trail. She is then led to Evergreen, Colorado.



Evergreen, Colorado Sign in the Movie

When I saw this sign I definitely knew the Father was speaking to me. This sign represented the third place I had been considering relocating to that was shown in the movie. The first was Morning Star. The second was Whidby Island where the pastor and his wife lived who invited me to relocate there. The third was Evergreen, Colorado where my younger sister lives. When I saw this town mentioned in the movie, I definitely knew the Father was speaking something. There are many movies that mention Denver, Colorado, but I had never seen one before that mentioned Evergreen. The chances of that happening were indeed remote. The trail did not end there, however. In Evergreen Libby learns that her husband's next move was to New Orleans. This was the fourth location in the movie that I was considering locating to.

In New Orleans Libby catches up to her husband and confronts him. She tells him that all she wants is her son back. The son, however, is not in New Orleans. He has been sent to a private boarding school. At the end of the movie it is revealed that this private school is in Georgia. Georgia is the fifth location in the movie I had been considering. It was where I already lived. Not only did the

movie list all five places I had been praying about in regard to where the Father wanted me to live, but there was a parable revealed in that Libby was searching for her son and finally found him in Georgia.



St. Albans School in Georgia
(Note the cross on the sign)

Interestingly, Saint Alban is remembered as the first Christian martyr in England. He was killed by beheading. I have written elsewhere in my writings that beheading is symbolic of the Christian disciple removing his head to take Yahshua as Head of his life. Yahweh was communicating to me that my school of discipleship where I would learn submission to His will was in Georgia. It was there I would find the Son of God even as Libby found her son in Georgia.

I can see these things very clearly now in hindsight, but at the time, although I recognized the prophetic nature of this movie, I was not fully persuaded by the message it was conveying. I recognized that the movie ended in Georgia, and I accepted that Yahweh might have chosen Georgia to be the place I was to remain. I was much less clear about Morningstar. I knew nothing beyond the books I had read by Rick Joyner, and the videos and music of Morningstar. I did not yet connect Morningstar with deception, betrayal, and bondage of the bride. Due to my lack of understanding, Morningstar continued to be a very attractive option in my eyes. Like Libby admiring the boat from the shore, from a distance Morningstar Ministries appeared very desirable to me. I saw it as representing all that was desirable in a Spirit directed and empowered church.

Consequently, about a month later I planned a trip to Wilkesboro, North Carolina, where one of the Morningstar churches is located. I wanted to see if there was an open door before me, and I asked Yahweh to guide me as I went. I drove my family from Georgia to my sister's house in Mississippi once more. There, my wife and I borrowed my sister's pop-up camper and left our children while we traveled alone to North Carolina. I had reserved a campsite not far from the Morningstar church for the week. My plan was to visit the church, talk to some of the ministers, and see if I could find employment in the town.

From the beginning God gave me no encouragement in this venture. As we drove to my sister's house the first state line we came to was the Georgia/Alabama line. The Chattahoochee River forms the border between the two states. It was bright sunny weather in Georgia as we set out, but as soon as we crossed the bridge from Georgia the skies clouded up and it rained on us all the way to Picayune, Mississippi. From there, it remained overcast and raining all the way to North Carolina.

Wilkesboro truly looked like a dreary, unwelcoming place as we drove up alone under sunless skies and drizzling rain.

There was a retreat being held at the Morningstar church while we were there. It was very difficult to see any of the staff members of the church. I was finally able to speak to the pastor there on the second or third day. He was very cold and unsympathetic. He gave me no encouragement at all about moving there and joining the church. When I told him I had a desire to be trained in the use of prophetic gifts, which was something that I thought Morningstar emphasized as one of their main callings, he informed me that they had a program for training people in the prophetic that met one night a week. He informed me that I would be welcome to sign up for it the next time it was offered. I was very disappointed, to say the least.

We attended a Sunday morning service at the church, and I was equally disheartened by what I observed. Though the church was packed out, not a single person came by to greet my wife and I. We sat alone as strangers in the midst of a packed house. The music seemed mechanical, bereft of any true spiritual life, and the message was uninspiring. The service itself was cut short to keep the retreat being held at the church on schedule. Acceding to the plans of man seemed more important than being guided by the Spirit of Christ.

As I looked at the city of Wilkesboro through the steady drizzle and the unbroken overcast skies, it looked to be a very bleak and uninviting place. I had no strength to venture out and look for a job there. After three days it seemed that every door was shut. The skies appeared to be brass so that even praying proved to be difficult. We canceled our stay early and the campground owner was gracious to refund us the difference. It was still raining when we left and it continued rainy and overcast back to Mississippi. We picked up our son and daughter and drove back to Georgia. Remarkably, at the very moment we crossed the bridge back into Georgia the sun broke through the clouds and the weather cleared. I had not seen the sun, or blue sky, since we had left Georgia at the beginning of our trip.

This was Yahweh's confirmation to me that I would find the Son right here in Georgia. Georgia has remained my home base since that time in 2000. It has proven to be the place Yahweh appointed to be my private school of training in dying to self and living for God.

(To be continued...)

Double Jeopardy - Deception and Bondage of the Bride of Christ - Part 2

Joseph Herrin (05-12-2014)



Morning Star

The image above shows Libby, played by Ashley Judd, being held by the local Sheriff in front of the Morning Star as it is roped off with crime scene tape. There is a tremendous parable in this imagery. The character played by Ashley Judd represents the bride of Christ, the church. At the very beginning of the movie she is teaching her young son how to fish. This is symbolic of the church's call to train Yahshua's disciples to be fishers of men. Libby's symbolism as the bride of Christ is further revealed in the movie's first scene as we are shown her admiring the Morning Star sailing upon the water. Libby draws her son's attention to it, remarking upon its surpassing beauty. This signifies the bride of Christ's attraction to Spirit empowered ministries.

In part one of this writing I gave a general outline of the plot of *Double Jeopardy*. I mentioned that Libby, the main character in the movie, is deceived by her husband. She is framed for his murder and is sentenced to seven years in prison. Through this movie the Father was addressing my own attraction to Morningstar Ministries which I considered to be very fair in appearance, and something of which I desired to be a part. As I pondered this movie since first viewing it, I perceived that Yahweh was warning me that all is not as it appears with Morningstar Ministries. There is great deception there. Those who climb aboard this ministry will be delivered over to spiritual bondage from which they will have a very difficult time recovering.

After Libby was freed from prison, her overriding goal was to get her life back together. In her mind, this meant getting her son back. True life is lacking if the Son of God is not present. Libby's single-minded pursuit of her son is typical of the overcomer in Christ who desires to walk in close relationship with the Son of God. Yet, attaining her goal was beset with obstacles, and it was nearly defeated when she once more came in contact with her husband who was now living under a different name in New Orleans.

There is much that is symbolic in this. One of the chief characteristics of false and lying spirits and the servants of Satan who lay snares before the people of God, is their duplicity. They appear to be one thing, but they are in fact something else entirely. They are operating under a false identity.

II Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

Having observed Morningstar Ministries from a safe distance during the 14 years since I first watched this movie, I have observed the spiritual darkness that has been increasing there. Symbolically, Morningstar Ministries purchased the property formerly owned by Jim and Tammy Bakker and the PTL Club that was known as Heritage USA. On this property gross spiritual transgressions took place, including Jim's participation with other men in homosexual activities that took place over the course of many years while his ministry was being conducted; sexual infidelity with Jessica Hahn, a church secretary, and the engagement of prostitutes; Tammy Bakker's infidelity with singer Gary Paxton, and with a music minister at the PTL Club, both of whom were married men; the embezzlement of millions of dollars of ministry funds for their private use; using deceptive and manipulative means to elicit funds from donors such as proclaiming financial crisis when there was no actual crisis; Jim Bakker having knowledge that staff members were engaging in wife-swapping, but allowing it to go on because of his own infidelity, etc.. All these things, and many more transgressions, are well documented and available for any person to verify as they were widely reported and attested to by numerous witnesses. See the following article as one example:

<http://www.people.com/people/archive/article/0,,20121210,00.html>

Jim Bakker was eventually charged with 15 counts of wire fraud, 8 counts of mail fraud, and one count of conspiracy. A jury found him guilty of all 24 counts and he was sentenced to 45 years in federal prison and a \$500,000 dollar fine. His sentence was later reduced to 8 years, of which he served 5 before he was released on parole. Afterwards, Bakker published the book *I Was Wrong*, in which he confessed his error of preaching a prosperity message, but he has not confessed many of his egregious sins such as the homosexual behavior he engaged in for years.

A large portion of the book consisted of Jim Bakker commiserating about how so many people had failed, or betrayed him. When I observed this I knew that he had not yet owned up to the depths of his own depravity and the tremendous disgrace His transgressions had brought upon the name of Christ. Jim's sins were so egregious, being such a black mark against the God he claimed to have been serving, that there should have been nothing else in the book aside from a deep, remorseful repentance for his own misdeeds. A truly broken, repentant, and humble man would have spoken ONLY of his own failings, and would gladly have offered free forgiveness to those who transgressed against him. Their heart would have been like that of King David when Nathan the prophet confronted him with his sin of adultery and murder.

Psalms 51:1-4

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight - that You may be found just when You

speak, and blameless when You judge.

There was no blame-shifting, no posturing, no mention of the sins of others by David. He saw only the wretchedness of his own actions and cast himself upon the mercy of God. This same contrition and humility has been lacking in the string of disgraced men who have passed through Morningstar, among them Jim Bakker, Bob Jones, and Todd Bentley. The reproach each of these men have brought upon the name of God exceed that of David, for they feigned righteousness, and invoked the name of God in the very act of carrying out their abominable transgressions. While Bob Jones was at the Metro Vineyard Fellowship in Kansas City with Mike Bickle laying the foundations for the International House of Prayer movement, he was telling women in his church office that they needed to take off their clothes and “stand naked before the Lord” so that he could prophesy over them. Todd Bentley while conducting the “revival” in Lakeland, Florida was committing adultery with a staff member while his own wife and children were back home in Canada. He was getting drunk and living a besotted life as a shameless huckster who promised naive individuals a spiritual impartation of anointing, while fabricating false stories of healing.

When Todd’s sins were exposed, Rick Joyner stepped in at once and told Todd not to speak openly of his sins. Rick wrote an article saying that in time everything would be admitted openly and repented of, but he called for patience from the body of Christ as Todd’s first need was for spiritual healing and renewal. Despite the promise of a full confession, the worse sins that other men like Peter Wagner said were committed by Todd were never confessed. On top of this, the ministers at Morningstar supported Todd in divorcing his wife, the mother of his children, and marrying the staff member with whom he had been carrying on a sexual affair. This is truly mind boggling.

This woman, and Todd, after a year and a half of counseling and restoration were then released back into public ministry with Morningstar. How can a man be said to be restored when he is advised to marry his adulterous partner and divorce his wife? Where is the repentance? Where is the turning away from sin? Yet, in Rick Joyner’s twisted reasoning, he defended the action by saying that God divorced Israel, so the church needed to re-think the entire subject of divorce.

Following is a video of Todd and his wife. Forward to the 3:00 minute mark to see the evidence of the unclean spirits that continue to dominate their lives.

<http://youtu.be/XjMYqDHbYtg?t=2m49s>

<iframe width="420" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/XjMYqDHbYtg?rel=0" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

There is such uncleanness at Morningstar that adulterers are given positions of ministry and are set forward as examples of great spiritual men and women. The awe of spiritual manifestations and spiritual gifts has supplanted the call of Christ to be holy and to walk in the fear of God. The call to rule over the passions and desires of the flesh is ignored. As long as a person is deemed to have a spiritual gift, they are accepted and their transgressions overlooked.

Jim Bakker returned to public ministry almost immediately upon his release from prison. He did so

without confessing, or repenting of many of the things that he had been accused of by those who witnessed his behavior first hand. These things ought not to be. The sins of Heritage USA have followed Jim Bakker, and this is important to note, for Morningstar is now Heritage International. Jim Bakker has stated that God was merciful for not taking his life for preaching the false message of prosperity, but false teaching has not ended in his life, nor has it ended in Fort Mill, South Carolina where the Heritage property is located. False teaching that was spread to America under Jim Bakker's oversight, is now being spread internationally by Morningstar. A focus on money has never left the place. It is fitting that in the movie *Double Jeopardy* that the motive for the woman's betrayal was money.



Main Street Morningstar

The photo above is of the inside of the Morningstar Church facility once owned by PTL Club. It is called Main Street, and leads to the atrium where church services are held. Along Main Street are store fronts, and in many of them are actual stores, such as a book store, gift shop, café, etc.. The term Main Street has long served as a synonym for business in America. Does it not seem to be a glaring contradiction that Christ condemned the Jews for turning the Temple of God, which was intended to be a house of prayer, into a place of merchandise, yet Morningstar has embraced a merchandising/business theme on the inside of their facility?











Grace Street Morningside

The image above is of Jim Bakker's new ministry center in Branson, Missouri. Interestingly, the

name of the facility is Morningside, bearing a great similarity to Morningstar. The theme is the same. It is a storefront theme modeled after shops and restaurants. It is here that Jim Bakker tapes his daily broadcast for the Jim Bakker show. On the show there is ALWAYS something for sale. In the reincarnation of his ministry, Bakker has adopted a new focus. Since he has repented of the prosperity message, he needs a new revenue source. He has embraced the survivalist/prepper message, and he always has some new product to sell to viewers to protect them from the woe of the moment.


PRICE
 \$100.00 - \$149.99 (3)
 \$350.00 - \$399.99 (1)
 \$550.00 - \$599.99 (2)
 \$1,100.00 and above (4)


TODAY'S SHOW OFFERS
 10 Love Gifts


 One Second After Offer with Bonus Extreme Survival Water Bottles \$100.00 Give Now	 Bakker's Dozen One Second After \$100.00 <small>1 Rec'd</small> Give Now	 Double Bonus Silver Sol Starter Kit \$110.00 <small>2 Rec'd</small> Give Now	 2nd Generation EMP3 Bag \$350.00 Give Now
 Time of Trouble Bountiful Blessings - Buckets \$3,000.00 Give Now	 Year for Two Bountiful Blessings - Buckets \$1,100.00 Give Now	 Year for You Bountiful Blessings - Buckets \$550.00 Give Now	 Year for You Bountiful Blessings - Totes \$550.00 Give Now


Here is a screen shot from Jim Bakker's website featuring "Today's Show Offers." I couldn't fit them all on the screen, but you get the general idea here. There is a CD and book set called *One Second After*. This is a novel about life in America after it loses a war and is sent back to the stone ages when an Electro Magnetic Pulse renders all electronics useless. You also get two extreme survival water bottles with this for \$100. Next to that you see a product called Silver Sol. This is touted as a miracle healing product that is superior to colloidal silver. Next to that there is a 2nd Generation EMP3 Bag. With this kit you can protect your valuable electronics from being destroyed by an EMP blast. Then there are the buckets and tote baskets of survival food rations. These range all the way up to thousands of dollars, depending on how much you purchase.


10 Love Gifts



 12 Volt Charging Clip and Fan
\$10.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Air Compressor
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Radiator Fan
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Electric Backup Device
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Portable Video Player
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Cooking Pan
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Portable Oven and Popcorn Maker
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Refrigerator
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt 4 Cup Coffee To Go
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)



 12 Volt Pot Cooler
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)


 12 Volt Portable Oven
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)


 600 Watt Microwave
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)


 2nd Generation EMP3 Bag
\$350.00
[Give Now](#)


 1st Generation EMP3 Bag
\$200.00
[Give Now](#)


 1 Portable Solar Panel
\$20.00
[Give Now](#)

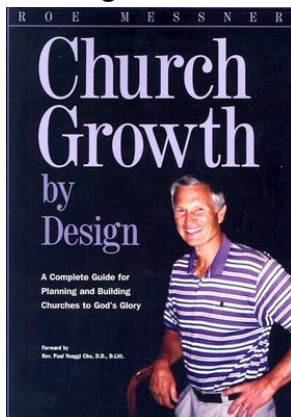
Then there is a section for survival power products where you can find anything from 12 volt appliances to solar panels. There are other pages selling jewelry, clothing, books, food, health products, and water products. The Jim Bakker show has become the QVC or Home Shopping Network for the Christian/Prepper/Survivalist. It seems fitting that his studio should be modeled after the business section of a small town.

Morningstar is no slouch when it comes to marketing either. They are, after all, located on the same property that Jim Bakker once developed. There is even a Jim Bakker/PTL Club/Heritage USA Memorial Hallway just off of Main Street at the Morningstar facility.



Jim Bakker Memorial Hallway

Each of the window boxes contains memorabilia from the PTL Club era, including photos of Jim and Tammy Bakker. Tammy Bakker died in 2007. After Jim was sent to prison in 1989 she filed for divorce. Tammy then married Roe Messner, a former associate of the Bakkers at PTL who is a building contractor. Roe Messner divorced his wife and married Tammy Bakker in 1993. Tammy was not to have any better fortune with Roe Messner, for in 1996 he was sent to prison for bankruptcy fraud, and served three years. Roe Messner boasts of having built more than 1,700 churches, many of them mega-churches. In 2003 he published a book titled *Church Growth by Design: A Complete Guide for Planning and Building Churches to God's Glory*. Do you see a theme developing here? Adulterers, financial swindlers, and liars seem to have cornered the market on church growth.



Does not the word “duplicitous” describe well these individuals. They maintain a facade of spiritual gifting and success, but they are full of deceit and are spiritually dead.



Tammy Bakker/Messner Shortly Before Her Death

The photo above shows Tammy Faye Messner during an interview with Roe Messner on the Larry King Live show when she was dying of cancer. Tammy’s life has in many ways been symbolic of what happens spiritually to those who embrace the false religious movements of this late hour of apostasy. These ministries, churches and ministers speak of life, but they are killing people from the inside out. After decades with Jim Bakker, living a life focused on money and material gain, Tammy married another huckster who was pursuing worldly wealth and acclaim. She ended her life as she lived it, spiritually destitute, and enduring much pain.



Morningstar Website

The top of the Morningstar’s webpage features a rotating banner that advertises upcoming seminars and retreats. There is always something for sale, and the price is not cheap. Clicking on the link for an upcoming 4 day writer’s retreat that features Rick Joyner and Debra Joyner (Johnson) you are shown the cost of the seminar is \$1,250 per individual. There is a great deal of money to be made in hosting seminars. This is why Morningstar purchased the Heritage USA facility. Morningstar now has their own high-rise, 400 room hotel and restaurant. They also have additional retreat facilities located elsewhere. The “prophetic movement” has become a big business enterprise, and the amount of merchandise for sale is staggering.

Some months back I published a series titled *Savage Wolves*. One of the posts focused on Morningstar's marketing schemes and bent toward merchandising. Following is an excerpt.

Have you not noticed many ministries today who speak of the great anointing that is present at their churches and places of ministry, directing the saints to come to their location to experience the presence of the Spirit and receive an impartation? Of course, they also want you to stay at their hotel, eat at their restaurants, shop in their bookstores, and put your money in their offering plates. On August 8, Todd Bentley went to Morningstar Ministries and Rick Joyner wrote of this event:

Todd Bentley's Ministry on 8/8/08

We were very excited about having Todd Bentley back with us for the gathering on 8/8/08. Todd has stirred up the church like few others in recent times. There are also very few who are neutral about him. Immediately, unprecedented excitement and threats about Todd were coming. The threats encouraged us even more that this was from the Lord, but in these times, they must be taken seriously, and we prepared for a move of God and attacks from the enemy. As most of us have learned, the greater the move of God, the greater the attacks usually are.

We had food vendors, different exhibition tents, and bookstores set up and ready early in the morning, and people started coming just after 9:00 a.m., even though the main service was not scheduled to start until 5:00 p.m. By noon, the crowds were getting large, and everyone seemed to be having a great time in the festival atmosphere and the incredible weather...

[Source: Morningstar Ministries - Special Bulletin]

Note, this was just a few days before the first revelations of Todd's sins became known to the body of Christ. I have noted an emphasis at Morningstar Ministries in creating a festival atmosphere and attracting large crowds. This goes hand in hand with a spirit of merchandising. I truly believe there is spiritual significance to the fact that Morningstar purchased the Heritage International Ministries campus where Jim and Tammy Bakker hosted the PTL Club. Jim Bakker's ministry was marked by financial transgressions and a focus upon money and worldly possessions, even to having a Rolls Royce on display. Rick Joyner has bought into this same Heritage, and he set a Bentley on display with the same intent of drawing a crowd and enlarging his following.

This type of charlatanism was never more evident than at the Lakeland meetings of Todd Bentley. All who came were charged admission just to enter the building. Then they were hounded by Bentley to give generously that they might receive something from the Spirit of Christ. He would frequently suggest that God had revealed to him that a specific number of people would write checks for thousand dollar gifts, and often larger amounts. He would also bring some book up to the podium and tell people how wonderful and indispensable it was. He would give a few "lucky" people a free copy, whetting people's appetites as they hoped they would receive the freebie. When they were sufficiently lathered up, and disappointed that they did not receive what they now greatly desired, he would direct them to the book sales tables where they could receive a "special deal."

These crass attempts to ply money from gullible and non-discerning believers reveal the absence of the fear of God in such men's lives. No wonder that this same man was not afraid to carry on an adulterous relationship and engage in frequent alcoholic drunkenness during the same period of time

he was conducting “revival” services.

The apostle Paul charged true ministers with the following command,

Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

In this spirit I am going to share some words of warning concerning what I perceive to be further attempts of the enemy to kill, steal and destroy, and I will not shrink back from naming names, and pointing out where I am perceiving wolves to be lurking. This is in keeping with the practice of the apostles.

III John 9-10

I wrote something to the church; but ***Diotrephes***, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, ***I will call attention to his deeds which he does...***

Many warnings were given to the church about the uncleanness of the Lakeland Revival and Todd Bentley? Yet just a little over a week before Todd’s sins were exposed, Peter Wagner, along with 16 others (including Rick Joyner), laid hands upon Todd Bentley, commissioning him as an evangelist, and prophesying that what had begun was going to continue to grow and intensify. Wagner’s organization, International Coalition of Apostles (ICA), was represented in that 13 people who participated in this endorsement of Bentley were deemed to be apostles by the organization.

If these were truly apostles, then where was their spiritual discernment? Did not any understand that there was great impurity present and God was about to expose and judge it? Were these truly apostles who not only endured this evil man, but who joined themselves to him thereby sharing in his sins?

I Timothy 5:22

Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.

Perhaps they were not truly apostles at all. I strongly suspect the majority are not appointed by the Lord as apostles. Their appointment has come from man.

Revelation 2:2

I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and ***you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false...***

People of God, the Lord praised the church of Ephesus for not being willing to endure evil men, and putting to the test those who call themselves apostles. Yet because of the current false doctrine that says Christians are not to judge, I know I will receive criticism from many for exercising discernment concerning these men and putting them to the test.

Even after Todd Bentley was exposed to be in serious sin, Rick Joyner of Morningstar Ministries

wrote that Christians should not be hasty to judge the situation, but should withhold their judgment. I will provide a direct quote:

Over the last couple of weeks, there has been an increasing swirl of controversy regarding Todd Bentley. I have had almost daily contact with him, and he asked me to post the following:

Todd Bentley asked me to convey his appreciation for all the prayers, expressions of love, and concern while he tries to navigate through this present situation. He is grieved by the trouble and confusion this has caused, especially to his friends, coworkers, and all who have trusted him. He wants to make a clear statement about it, acknowledging his responsibility in this and the mistakes he made, but he feels that he should first meet with Pastor Bill Johnson, who is out of the country and will not be available for a couple more weeks. He asks that you would continue to pray for him, and he thanks those who are willing to be patient. He wants to do this right and not hastily or superficially.

I would like to accept personal responsibility for counseling Todd to wait until he has talked with Bill before trying to make the “full disclosure” of his mistakes. *This needs to be done right and in a way that does not unnecessarily hurt even more people (In other words, the right spin has to be put on the matter).* *In just a couple of weeks, things should have calmed down enough for a statement to be made. Impatience is not a fruit of the Spirit, and I have personally never seen anything done under the kind of duress and pressure that some are trying to exert at this time that ended up not being a mistake.*

The only thing that I have received from the Lord about this matter directly is that “those who rush to judgment will be exposed.”

[Source: Morningstar Ministries Prophetic Bulletin]

People, let me share something with you that is a neglected truth in this hour. Judgment is not defined as only those judgments that are negative. Judgment also includes endorsing a person or event, for this is a positive JUDGMENT. I believe Rick Joyner may have clearly heard the Lord say, “Those who rush to judgment will be exposed.” All those men who participated in the alignment ceremony of Todd Bentley “rushed to judgment.” They failed to test the matter according to scriptural command, and to “lay hands on no man suddenly” and they became partakers of the sin of Todd Bentley.

God is exposing at this time those who have not been exercising spiritual discernment. He is exposing those who have been embracing impure men and impure movements, and He is showing forth their great error in doing so. It should be noted that Rick Joyner was present at Todd Bentley’s endorsement ceremony (called by them “an alignment ceremony”) and he has made much of the fact that the Lakeland “revival” had been carried to Morningstar, making numerous entreaties for Christians to come and join in their meetings and to book rooms at their hotel (the largest in South Carolina).

Note: The website for Morningstar’s hotel has a page encouraging the body of Christ to invest in the restoration of the hotel. It states:

To sponsor the restoration of a hotel room is only \$5,000. You can also join the Nehemiah Project with a gift of just \$1,000 or more for the general restoration of the facilities. These gifts will be named on our specially designed Nehemiah Wall that will be a permanent memorial at Heritage. All who donate any amount to The Nehemiah Project will be included in our permanent Register of Donors.

There are also many new areas available for sponsorship, including the Main Street suites, apartments and shops. Now is the time. Establish your name as a part in Nehemiah's Wall in the restoration of Heritage.

*Also, you can donate stocks, appreciated assets, IRA gifts, and property. Donating these can save you significant amounts on your taxes and **have your finances distributed into the Kingdom instead.***

It must seem a small thing to violate the command of the Lord to not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing when you sow money into God's Kingdom. Are they not as the Pharisee who blew a trumpet before him when he made a gift to the temple treasury? Morningstar is leading Christians into this same error.



Nehemiah Project at Morningstar

Matthew 6:5

“Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

Using the Holy Scriptures to come up with sales gimmicks like a "Nehemiah's Wall" is reprehensible. It is also deceptive. It leads the naive to think that giving money to Morningstar to build a massive hotel is akin to the Jews returning from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem. Morningstar may put your name on a plaque on a wall, or enter your name into their permanent register of donors, but in doing so they are merely using the carnal methods of the world to build a kingdom according to the principles of a fallen world.

Charisma magazine, in an article titled, *Leaders Commission Todd Bentley at "Lakeland Outpouring,"* stated that, "The special service was billed by leaders as one of the greatest moments in revival history." Peter Wagner, "presiding apostle" of the International Coalition of Apostles, was one of those who endorsed Bentley that evening, publicly stating,

“This commissioning represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world. With this in mind, I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd Bentley,

your power will increase, your authority will increase, your favor will increase, your influence will increase, your revelation will increase.”

You can view Peter Wagner speaking these words in any number of YouTube videos that portray this event. Yet, having endorsed Todd Bentley so clearly, I found Wagner’s words after Todd’s sin was exposed to be far from apostolic. In another YouTube video he states that he did not “lay hands” on Todd Bentley, that only three apostles present did, and so his involvement should not be viewed as a commissioning of Todd. I am reminded of Adam hiding behind Eve after having eaten the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden. Peter Wagner arranged the event. He had twelve other ICA members invited to stand with him, yet after it was exposed to be a tragic lapse in judgment he has sought to distance himself from responsibility in the matter.

Compare these two statements of Peter Wagner together.

*“**This commissioning** represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world. With this in mind, I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd Bentley, your power will increase, your authority will increase, your favor will increase, your influence will increase, your revelation will increase.”*

[Peter Wagner]

*“I want to make it clear that **I did not commission Todd** as some wrongly think. I didn’t lay on hands. I didn’t anoint with oil. In fact, I moved to the back and neither my wife Doris or I prayed or prophesied.”*

[Peter Wagner]

A YouTube video including these remarks can be found here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sCRk6rnw2w>

There is clearly a lack of integrity in Peter Wagner’s actions since Todd Bentley was exposed. At the same time he has admitted that what has been revealed about Todd Bentley’s sins so far is but “the tip of the iceberg” and there are far more serious things going on. I am sure some of these sins involve inappropriate use of funds donated to Fresh Fire Ministries, and I would not be surprised to learn that there was even homosexual sin present as Todd Bentley brought Paul Cain to Lakeland and allowed him on the podium to address the crowds. Paul Cain was removed from ministry by Mike Bickle after it became known that this elderly prophet was engaged in homosexual activity with young men.

Rick Joyner wrote of Paul Cain’s transgressions back in 2004:

In February 2004, we were made aware that Paul had become an alcoholic. In April 2004, we confronted Paul with evidence that he had been recently involved in homosexual activity. Paul admitted to these sinful practices and was placed under discipline, agreeing to a process of restoration which the three of us would oversee.

However, Paul has resisted this process and has continued in his sin. Therefore, after having

exhausted the first two steps of Matthew 18:15-17, we now have a responsibility to bring this before the church. Our sincere hope remains to see Paul restored...

Letter Signed By: Rick Joyner, Jack Deere, Mike Bickle

In a recent post from 2008 Rick Joyner wrote the following:

When Paul Cain appeared on the platform of the revival in Lakeland it caused quite a reaction, jamming my personal emails to the point where I thought for a while it might be impossible to answer them all. Some were disconcerted about Paul's appearance, others by some of the things he said, and others were simply asking if Paul had been restored yet.

The reason why Paul was invited to the Lakeland revival was that he had prophesied that "the last-day ministry" would begin in Florida. I have personally heard Paul say this many times over the years and questioned him about it in depth. I believe it is a true prophecy, and when I heard that Paul was saying that what was happening in Lakeland was the fulfillment of this prophecy, I was very interested to hear what he would say about it.

I also felt that Todd Bentley was right to honor Paul by bringing him to that meeting and letting him share the vision he has carried for so long...

[Source: Morningstar Ministries - Special Bulletin]

Is it right to honor a man who has brought shame to Christ by engaging in behavior that God describes as "an abomination"? It would be a different matter if Paul Cain had confessed, repented, and been restored, but Rick Joyner made these statements knowing that Paul Cain was still practicing homosexual behavior, and was now denying that he had ever participated in it. Rick Joyner stated these things in the same bulletin cited above...

The apostle Paul gives clear instructions in such a matter.

I Corinthians 5:9-13

I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, ***I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.*** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. ***Remove the wicked man from among yourselves!***

If we are to test men such as Peter Wagner and Rick Joyner who call themselves to be apostles, by what criteria should we test them? Should we not examine them to see if they are men of spiritual discernment, teaching things which are right to the body of Christ, and guarding both themselves and the flock against the encroachment of evil? On all accounts these men are falling short.

Rick Joyner has consistently misjudged Todd Bentley, giving him glowing endorsements, as indicated in the following words.

I have known Todd Bentley for about a decade, and he is a man of exceptional theological depth, revelatory gifting, and the leader of a large and growing multi-faceted ministry that has had a significant impact on many nations. I have been to Abbotsford, B.C. a few times to speak at Fresh Fire Conferences, and I always marvel at the substance and excellence of what Todd has been able to build in such a short period of time as well as the quality of people on his team.

I am saying all of this because there is much more to Todd Bentley and Fresh Fire Ministries than has yet been revealed through what is now happening in Lakeland. I know Todd as someone who can teach or preach with a rare depth and clarity, but Lakeland is not really about that, at least not yet. It is about an impartation of faith, power, and fire. Right now we, the body of Christ, need these more than we need more teaching and strategy...

They came to get me to sit on the platform, and it was interesting how the anointing seemed different there. It was still good, but different. Even so, I enjoyed seeing Todd and a number of other friends I had not seen in awhile. When Todd came over and put his arm around me, it was a hug, but I also felt that I kind of needed to hold him up. He is under the kind of anointing that does stagger you and actually makes you feel drunk, which is why they thought the disciples on the Day of Pentecost were drunk with wine. Under this kind of anointing, I knew Todd might not be able to do some of the in-depth teaching and preaching he is capable of, but I don't think that is really the purpose of Lakeland anyway...

Todd has an amazing depth, maturity, and wisdom for his age, but he is still young. He might say some things wrong occasionally and say or do things that are hard to understand. His tattoos are real hard for some people to take, but those tattoos seem to be the very thing that have attracted many, especially the emerging generation, to him and his message. I have heard numerous reports of people who have become almost addicted to watching the revival on God-TV because they were channel surfing and were so captivated by Todd's appearance that they could not stop watching. Then they started listening. Now they are on fire for God.

Even those who would never get a tattoo at least view him as a genuine person with no facades. *My opinion of Todd for the years I have known him is that he is one of the most genuine people I have ever known, still untainted by religion, but one of the greatest lovers of God and His truth...*

Todd has been sent to offend the religious spirit and to be an offense to the complacent, and thank the Lord it is working...

I am appalled at the statements of Rick Joyner pertaining to this man. Not only are they examples of bad judgment, but they are manifestations of unsound doctrine. To declare that Todd is a man of "exceptional theological depth" is a grotesque distortion of the truth. This is the man who introduced the church to the angel Emma, Winds of Change, Financial Blessing and other spirit beings that Christians were instructed to embrace and send forth on their bidding. This is a man who turned on the air conditioner at a church he was visiting when he had been instructed not to do so, for birds were nesting in the vents. When feathers began flying down on people he declared them to be feathers of angels. This is a man who practices all manner of lying and deception regarding physical healing, and who has covered his body with tattoos to such great excess that even worldly people

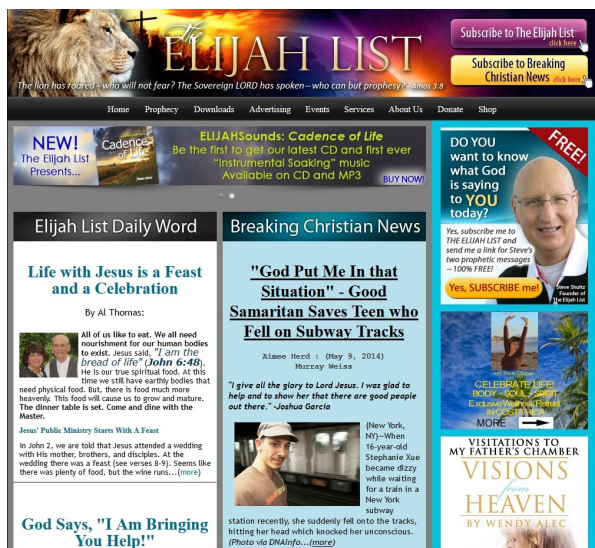
view him as bizarre.

Rick Joyner was right when he said there was much more to Todd Bentley than had been revealed. Todd is a deceiver, and even Peter Wagner has stated that Todd deceived them all. Yet Rick Joyner confidently asserts that Todd is "a genuine person without facades." Was he genuine when he was carrying on revival meetings when getting drunk and being unfaithful to his wife?

[End Excerpt]

Brothers and sisters, there was a great deception that took place aboard the Morning Star in the movie *Double Jeopardy*. Things were not as they appeared on the surface. Personal ambition and the love of money led Libby's husband to betray his wife and send her to prison for seven years. Even so, in the prophetic movement today there are men (and women) who are driven by selfish ambition and covetousness. You can recognize them by their great merchandising.

One can readily observe this emphasis on financial gain on nearly all of the websites that are hosted by "prophetic ministries." One of the most trafficked, and egregious transgressors in this regard, is the Elijah List. This website serves as a forum for a large number of men and women who promote themselves as prophets, or ministers with spiritual gifts. Every page of this website is loaded with advertisements for the myriad of products that are being sold.



It is indicative of the merchandising that takes place on this site that Steve Shultz, the founder of the Elijah List, has to add a large red tag above his photo advertising the fact that there is actually something "FREE!" be offered on this site. What you get free, however, is a subscription to The Elijah List newsletter that is peppered with products for sale and pleadings to donate money to the ministry.

Note that right under the site banner in the most prominent position on the page is a block devoted to products for sale. Below Steve's image is another advertisement, this one being for an "Exclusive Wellness Retreat in COSTA RICA." (Prices BEGIN at \$1,777, pre-paid.) I counted ten additional advertising blocks on the front page of this website, and this is not even its STORE page. The store page is subdivided by categories, which are further subdivided, because there is so much stuff being

marketed through this website. The visitor can purchase anything from the latest prophetic message on CD to “Sea of Galilee Body Butter.”

The Morningstar Church at Heritage International contains a Main Street as its centerpiece, complete with functioning stores, a café, theater, and restaurant. Jim Bakker’s Morningside shares the same theme. The websites of all of these ministries are marketplaces, tempting the Christian with promises of spiritual blessing, revelation, and impartation if only they will open their wallet and ante up.

We have looked at the words of the apostle Paul where he warned the church of the presence of “false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.” Yahshua gave a similar warning to His disciples.

Matthew 7:15-23

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'”

What is the fruit that you see among these men and women? Adultery. Lying. Homosexuality. Embezzlement. Fraud. Covetousness. Deceit. They may prophesy. They may perform miracles. They may even cast out demons, yet the Lord will say to these workers of lawlessness, “Depart from Me. I never knew you.”

People of God, these men and women are duplicitous. They are beautiful on the outside, even as the sailing boat the Morning Star appeared beautiful. Inside, however, there is deceit and corruption. Do not be enticed by the promise of intimacy. Do not suspend your critical faculties of discernment. Test all things closely. Will you gather grapes from a thorn bush? Will you harvest figs from thistle? Do not go to the ungodly and the unregenerate to find that which is HOLY.

To be continued...

Double Jeopardy - Deception and Bondage of the Bride of Christ - Part 3

Joseph Herrin (05-15-2014)



Having come to discern the duplicity, and the deception, that is present at Morningstar Ministries, the very name of the organization now strikes me as bearing some significance. It is fairly well known among Christians that the term Morning Star is used in various translations of the Bible as both a reference to Satan and to Christ. I am led to question which morning star that Morningstar Ministries is following. Yahweh was indicating to me those many years ago through the Movie *Double Jeopardy* that all was not as pure and righteous with Morningstar Ministries as appeared on the surface. I had no inkling at that time, however, how dark and evil things truly were.

Isaiah 14:12

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

NIV

Revelation 22:16

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

KJV

Though there is some debate over whether the original Hebrew manuscripts are properly translated as “morning star” in Isaiah 14:12, there is some justification for angels being referred to by this term. This expression is also used in the book of Job.

Job 38:4, 7

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

It does not strike me as inappropriate that Satan should be referred to by the term “morning star,” for he was a shining one, an angel of light, before his fall. Satan was not evil when Yahweh first created him. The description of Satan before his fall bears some resemblance to that of the firstborn Son of God.

Ezekiel 28:12, 15

“You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty... You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.”

Christ is described as “Wisdom” in the Bible. He is likewise blameless, being the spotless, Lamb of God. We observe a great divide, however, when we bear witness to the truth that Satan fell from the perfection of his original creation while Yahshua, the Son of God, has ever remained faithful. As Christians, we should all aspire to be as Yahshua. We should desire to walk in faithfulness and holiness, ever living to do the will of the Father. Sadly, this is frequently not what occurs. Many Christians begin well, but like Satan they corrupt their ways. In the Bible we are told that pride and conceit were major contributors to Satan’s fall.

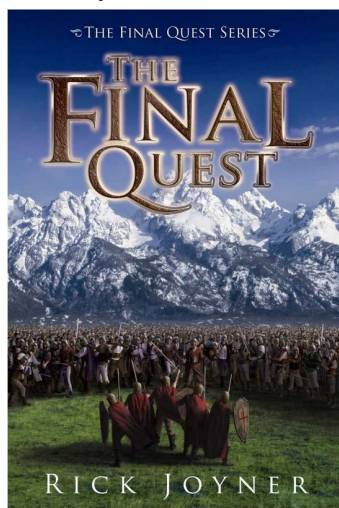
Ezekiel 28:17

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.”

I Timothy 3:6-7

[An overseer must not be] a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

Pride has been the downfall of many men and women. Pride renders a Christian susceptible to the deception of the enemy. Those who are proud do not readily accept correction, or consider the objections and warnings of others. A sense of spiritual superiority causes them to disdain the thoughts of those whom they view as being less spiritual, less intelligent, or of a lesser rank. I have found it interesting that Rick Joyner not only was aware of this danger from an early point in his ministry, but he wrote about it in what is perhaps his most popular book, *The Final Quest*.



Following is an excerpt from this book. It describes Christians as warriors in a battle against the forces of hell. Rick Joyner is writing as a participant in this battle, a perspective that he states came to him through a series of prophetic experiences.

The Deadly Trap

I then looked out over the carnage below and the slowly retreating demonic army. Behind me, more of the glorious warriors were constantly taking their places on the mountain. I knew that we were now strong enough to attack and destroy what was left of the enemy horde. "Not yet," said Wisdom. "Look over there."

I looked in the direction he was pointing, but had to shield my eyes from the glory emanating from my own armor to see anything. Then I caught a glimpse of some movement in a small valley. I could not make out what I was seeing because the glory shining from my armor made it difficult to see into the darkness. I asked Wisdom if there was something that I could cover my armor with so I could see. He then gave me a very plain mantle to put on.

"What is this?" I inquired, a little insulted by its drabness.

"Humility," said Wisdom. "You will not be able to see very well without it."

Reluctantly I put it on, and immediately I saw many things that I could not see before. I looked toward the valley and the movement I had seen. To my astonishment, there was an entire division of the enemy horde that was waiting to ambush anyone who ventured from the mountain.

"What army is that?" I asked, "and how did they escape the battle intact?"

"That is Pride," explained Wisdom. "It is the hardest enemy to see after you have been in the glory. Those who refuse to put on this cloak will suffer much at the hands of that most devious enemy."

As I looked back at the mountain, I saw many of the glorious warriors crossing the plain to attack the remnant of the enemy horde. None of them were wearing the cloaks of humility, and they had not seen the enemy that was ready to attack them from their rear. I started to run out to stop them, but Wisdom restrained me.

"You cannot stop this," he said. "Only the soldiers who wear this cloak will recognize your authority..."

The Power of Pride

I was pondering how I was learning as much by descending the mountain as I had by climbing it, when the noise from the battlefield drew my attention. By now, thousands of the mighty warriors had crossed the plain to attack the remnant of the enemy horde.

The enemy was fleeing in all directions, except for one division - Pride. Completely undetected, it

had marched right up to the rear of the advancing warriors and was about to release a hail of arrows. I then noticed that the mighty warriors had no armor on their backsides. They were totally exposed and vulnerable to what was about to hit them.

Wisdom remarked, "You have taught that there is no armor for the backside, which means you are vulnerable if you run from the enemy. However, you never saw how advancing in pride also makes you vulnerable."

I could only nod in acknowledgment, for it was too late to do anything. It was almost unbearable to watch, but Wisdom said that I must. I knew the kingdom of God was about to suffer a major defeat. Though I had felt sorrow before, I had never felt this kind of sorrow.

To my amazement, when the arrows of Pride struck the warriors they did not even notice. However, the enemy kept shooting. The warriors were bleeding and getting weaker fast, but they would not acknowledge it. Soon they were too weak to hold up their shields and swords; they cast them down, declaring that they no longer needed them. They started taking off their armor, saying it was not needed anymore either.

Then another enemy division appeared and moved up swiftly. It was called Strong Delusion. Its members released a hail of arrows and they all seemed to hit their marks. It only took a few of the demons of Delusion, who were all small and seemingly weak, to lead away this once great army of glorious warriors. They were taken to various prison camps, each named after a different doctrine of demons. I was astonished at how this great company of the righteous had been so easily defeated, and they still did not even know what had hit them.

I blurted out: "How could those who were so strong, who have been all the way to the top of the mountain, who have seen the Lord as they have, be so vulnerable?"

"Pride is always the hardest enemy to see, and it always sneaks up behind you," Wisdom lamented. "In some ways, those who have been to the greatest heights are in the greatest danger of falling. You must always remember in this life that you can fall at any time from any level."

"Take heed when you think you stand, lest you fall," I replied. "How awesome such Scriptures are to me now!"

"When you think you are the least vulnerable to falling is in fact when you are the most vulnerable. Most men fall immediately after a great victory," Wisdom lamented.

"How can we keep from being attacked like this?" I asked.

"Stay close to me, inquire of the Lord before making major decisions, and keep that mantle on. Then the enemy will not be able to easily blindside you as he did them."

I looked at the mantle. It looked plain and insignificant. I felt that it made me look more like a homeless person than a warrior. Wisdom responded as if I had been speaking out loud.

“The Lord is closer to the homeless than to kings. You only have true strength to the degree that you walk in the grace of God, and ‘He gives grace to the humble.’ No evil weapon can penetrate this mantle because nothing can overpower His grace. As long as you wear this mantle, you are safe from this kind of attack.”

[Rick Joyner, *The Final Quest*]

I believe I am correct in stating that what is recorded as a warning to Rick Joyner in these words that he penned nearly twenty years ago, is the very trap of Satan that Rick Joyner, other members of Morningstar, and numerous personalities of renown from the prophetic movement have fallen prey to. Strong Delusion has taken hold of these individuals and their ministries. They did not resist, or fight back. Their pride blinded them to their peril. To this hour they do not recognize that they have been taken captive by the adversary to do his will.

Yahweh often gives people warnings ahead of time of some peril or temptation that they will face. He has frequently done this with me. Our Father in heaven does not want His sons and daughters to fail. I can recount numerous times when the Father made known that I would face some specific trial, and He revealed to me what response was required of me to obtain His favor and approval. We do well when we heed these warnings. Indeed, these tests become opportunities for triumphing over the flesh, the world, and the spiritual forces of darkness. If we do not heed the warnings, however, we may fall catastrophically and become ensnared by the enemy, held captive to do his will.

Whatever one thinks about the validity of the prophetic experiences Rick Joyner describes in the book *The Final Quest*, there are Scriptural principles of the kingdom of God to be found in this writing. Yahweh does want His people to be clothed with humility. Pride does lead to destruction. It was the conceit of Satan that led to his downfall, and we must be ever vigilant lest we follow in his steps.

A profound revelation is set forth in the dialog between Rick Joyner and Wisdom. Rick Joyner is thinking to himself that the lowly appearance of the cloak of humility makes him appear “plain and insignificant.” The word “plain” denotes something that is common, lacking in any exceptional quality, ordinary. Similarly, the word “insignificant” communicates the idea of something having little, or no, importance or value. When Rick Joyner considered how he looked, his mind was drawn to think of a homeless person.

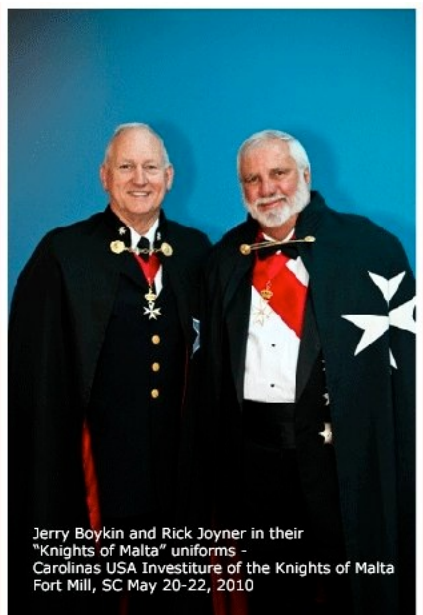
Having lived and worked at a homeless shelter for several years, and having friends who continue to labor among the homeless population, I can understand very well the lack of honor that is accorded to the homeless. When the Father first led me to the Macon Rescue Mission in 2004 I had been living out of my car and a small tent for the previous five months. I knew that Yahweh had many things to teach me there. One of the first lessons came to me as a rather rude shock.

While waiting in the entry lobby to speak to someone about staying at the Mission, I needed to use the bathroom. There was a men’s restroom that one could enter from the public lobby. The door was open so I went inside and made use of the facility. When I came out, an employee of the mission stopped me, and abruptly told me that the restrooms up front were ONLY for staff members and guests of the Mission. He told me sharply that there were bathrooms back in the men’s dormitory

for the homeless to use, and I was to make sure I used them from now on. At once I was made to feel as if I was despised, and in some degree contemptible. Despite the fact that there was a large sign outside the front of the Mission that said “JESUS CARES,” I found that many who serve the homeless actually view them with contempt.

I was to spend the next three years and three months at this mission, and I found that the businessmen and women, and members of the community who supported the mission frequently treated the homeless with contempt. The homeless truly appeared insignificant in their sight, having little importance or value. Supporting the mission was for many individuals in the community a way to appear benevolent. It fed the pride of many to entertain the thought that they were stooping to help those who were less honorable, or of lesser value, than themselves. In my time at the mission, I found that it was the rare individual who actually cared for the homeless and perceived them to be valuable.

Much can be discerned about the character of a minister or ministry by observing who they esteem, who they associate themselves with, and who they count as their friends and associates. Wisdom told Rick Joyner that “*The Lord is closer to the homeless than to kings.*” Who are the ones that occupy the seats of honor at a ministry? Is it those who have recognition and renown in this world? Or is it the humble, and those who are of no reputation? I have found Rick Joyner’s association with the Knights of Malta to be a very telling aspect of where his life has gone.



The photo above shows Rick Joyner and General Jerry Boykin, a leader of Morningstar’s Oak Initiative, in their Knights of Malta regalia. Much has been written and said about the evil origins and associations of the Knights of Malta, which are traceable back to the Knights Hospitaller. Many have linked them to the Knights Templars, to Freemasonry, and to Roman Catholicism. Such charges are worthy of investigation and deserving of a patient and humble answer from Rick Joyner and the other members of Morningstar Ministries that have joined this order. A patient and humble answer is not to be found, however. Instead, Rick Joyner’s defense of his membership in this elite society has been prideful, insulting, and an example of deception and distortion of the truth.

Looking at Rick Joyner in the garb of the Knights of Malta, one must ask whether there is any resemblance to the cloak of humility that he wrote about in *The Final Quest*. If God is closer to the homeless than to kings, then why is Rick Joyner seeking to join a fraternity of the elite of this world?



Queen Elizabeth Wearing the Maltese Cross of the Order of Saint John

You will not find the humble and lowly of the earth being invited to join the Knights of Malta. This is an elite organization of kings, queens, government and military leaders, well known religious leaders, etc.. It is doubtful that you will find a poor person, among their membership. It is globe-trotting movers and shakers that are invited to join the ranks of the Knights of Malta.



Rick Joyner - Front Row, Second from Right

More troubling still is the associations of the organization that Rick Joyner has united himself with. The Knights of Malta was originally formed as an order sanctioned by the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church nearly 900 years ago. Perhaps this explains Rick Joyner's embrace of popery. In 2005, Rick Joyner posted a Special Bulletin about the death of Pope John Paul II. The article is titled *A True Saint*. Following are some extracts from that Special Bulletin.

The passing of Pope John Paul II is a major event because we have all lost one of the most remarkable leaders of our time. I am not a papist and do not believe that any man on earth should

be called "the head of the church," which is the rightful place of Christ alone. However, I do not doubt that John Paul II was a man of God that all Christians should be thankful for and should rightly mourn. It was not his title, but his character that caused him to transcend the Roman Catholic Church and become a leader who blessed and advanced the whole church, and indeed the cause of Christianity itself. He was one of the greatest leaders of our time, and will be sorely missed...

Pope John Paul loved the Holy Spirit, and in an article which we printed in our Morning Star Journal (Volume 10, Number 4) he encouraged all Catholics to seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It was during his tenure that more than 100 million Catholics became Charismatics and were born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Pope John Paul II clung to the cross and tried to pray without ceasing...

I loved and admired Pope John Paul II. He was one of the greatest men of God of our time.

If you feel the same way, consider honoring him by reaching across some barriers the way that he did. Send condolences to the Catholic Churches in your area for the loss of their shepherd, while expressing appreciation for all that he did for the whole church, and indeed the world.

[Source: <http://www.morningstarministries.org/resources/special-bulletins/2005/true-saint>]

A recent article in The Telegraph written in the days leading up to Pope John Paul II being declared a saint that the faithful of the Roman Catholic Church can pray to, reported that an organization representing 18,000 individuals who were raped and sexually abused by priests during the reign of this Pope were protesting his being honored as a saint.

Pope John Paul II was 'no saint but a man who covered up sin'



Pope John Paul II should not be made a saint this weekend because of his abject failure to bring to justice sexually abusive priests and the bishops who covered up their crimes, victims of clerical sex abuse said today.

The late Polish pontiff could have prevented "thousands" of children from being raped by pedophile priests but instead chose to ignore the scandal in the interests of protecting the image of the Catholic Church, victims from three continents said on the eve of his canonization...

There is irrefutable documentary evidence to show that John Paul II refused to take action that would have protected children during his 27-year papacy...

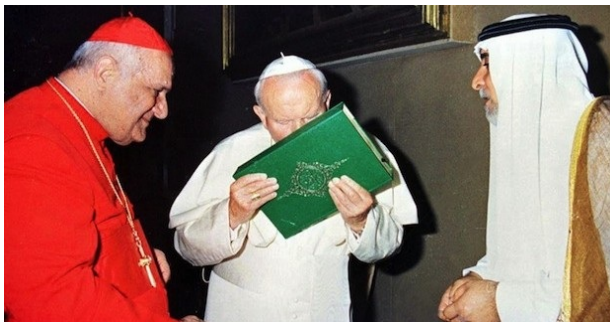
David D'Bonnabel, 53, from Austria, another victim of priestly sex abuse, said: "It rubs salt into an open wound to promote someone who enabled and protected sexual predators. The injuries last a life time."

In Austria, the Church has paid token compensation to 1,800 victims of sex abuse in return for their silence, and not a single priest has been defrocked or removed, he said.

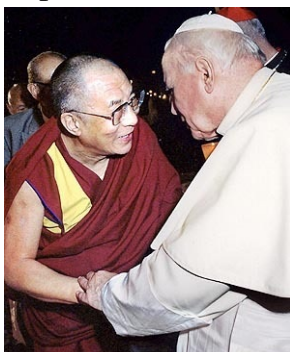
Nicky Davis, 50, from Australia, another member of SNAP and a former victim, said: "All of us here were abused because John Paul II chose not to act in the way that the Vatican claims he acted. We don't believe it's saintly behaviour to allow sex abuse to continue for a 27-year reign. He could have used his enormous power to save children but instead he decided to save the reputation of the Church."

[S o u r c e :
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/the-pope/10787986/Pope-John-Paul-II-was-no-saint-but-a-man-who-covered-up-sin.html>]

The actions of the Pope are strikingly reminiscent of Rick Joyner's own actions in embracing sexual predators and grossly immoral men such as Bob Jones, Jim Bakker, and Todd Bentley. None of these men fully owned up to their actions, nor were they held accountable for them. Does Yahweh share Rick Joyner's assessment of the Pope? This is a man who has sought to embrace leaders of every world religion.



Pope John Paul II Kissing the Koran



Pope Greeting the Buddhist Dalai Lama



Pope Greeting a Voodoo High Priest from Benin

Is this truly one of the greatest men of God of our time, or is Rick Joyner yielding himself to be a mouthpiece for Satan? The Bible states:

II Corinthians 6:14-18

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

I am quite certain that "Do not touch what is unclean" includes kissing the Koran and embracing the leaders of idolatrous and Satanic religions. Look again at the picture of Rick Joyner in his Knights of Malta apparel.



The man just to the left of him (third man from right) is Nicholas F. S. Papanicolaou. On the Morningstar website you will find a prominent link to The Oak Initiative. This is described as "a grassroots movement to Unite, Mobilize, Equip, and Activate Christians to be the salt and light they are called to be by engaging in the great issues of our time from a sound biblical worldview." The headquarters of The Oak Initiative is on the Morningstar campus in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Rick Joyner and General Jerry Boykin are both leaders of this organization. Both of these men are members of the Knights of Malta. On the leadership page for The Oak Initiative there is a listing for Nicholas Papanicolaou, who is a board member.

Nicholas was born in 1949 in Athens, Greece.

He was educated at Williston Academy, Easthampton, MA where he graduated cum laude in 1967. He then earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics at Harvard University from where he graduated with advanced placement in 1970, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Columbia University in 1972.

He was vice president of the Onassis Organization (one of the 13 families of the Illuminati bloodline) in New York in 1973-1975, and then joined his family business interests in shipping and other investments. In 1983 he became controlling shareholder and co-Chairman of Aston Martin Lagonda in the United Kingdom, maker of the famous Aston Martin and Lagonda motor cars. Under his watch, the factory was re-opened and the company was returned to profitability. It was subsequently being sold to Ford Motor Company.

Nicholas is president of Lion Finance SA, a family investment vehicle.

*He is also a co-Founder and co-Chairman of the World Public Forum "Dialogue of Civilizations." The WPF brings together each year on the island of Rhodes, Greece some 700 important officials and representatives from more than sixty countries for four days of open and frank deliberations on **cross-religious** and cross-cultural issues.*

*Representatives include Heads of State, Prime Ministers, **top religious leaders from all the major faiths**, and university professors and academicians. Past attendees have included the Presidents or Prime Ministers of Austria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Iran, Algeria, the Palestine Authority, India, Bangladesh, Russia, Yemen and government Ministers from Israel, France, Greece, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and others.*

He has served as president of the Athens Polo Club, and is a member of the American Bureau of Shipping.

[Source: <http://www.theoakinitiative.org/nicholas-papanicolaou>]

What are the religious views of Mr. Papanicolaou? Rick Joyner is certainly aware of them, for it is mentioned in the description above that this man is "Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the World Public Forum "Dialogue of Civilizations." In the following video. Mr. Papanicolaou describes in his own words what this organization's aims are. At the 51 second mark he speaks of the goals of the forum. He speaks of its religious diversity and the quest to find "common ground" among different religions. These meetings are held on the island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean, the former headquarters of the Knights of Malta.

<http://youtu.be/aubIJyQUjPo?t=51s>

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/aubIJyQUjPo?rel=0" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

What Rick Joyner should fully disclose is that Nicholas Papanicolaou is the **Grand Master** of the Knights Hospitallers of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights of Malta

Ecumenical Order. This is the same order that Rick Joyner received an investiture into. Rick Joyner has sworn allegiance to this order, and Mr. Papanicolaou is his Master. What does Rick Joyner have to say about all of this. On the Morningstar website he has posted a response to the concerns people have expressed regarding his membership. Following are some excerpts.

Rick Joyner - "Why I Joined the Knights of Malta"

<http://www.morningstarministries.org/about/questions-and-answers/knights-malta-rick-joyner>

*I was also shown that there would be a controversy around the OSJ (Order of Saint John) that would follow me, but that this too was a blessing from the Lord that would help to keep **paranoid people** away from us...*

Q. Is The OSJ connected to the Masons?

*No. Neither are there any secret vows or rituals in the OSJ. **The OSJ is a true Christian order**, and the vows for knighthood are commitments to be servants of Christ and no other god, as well as to Christian truth and principles...*

*Some have also concluded that [Freemasonry and the Knights of Malta] are related because the head of each is called a **Grand Master**. These are simply titles that were left over from the Middle Ages, and such guilt by random association is a symptom of paranoia which may be an even greater danger in the future than any wayward order. Should Christians give up their title as priests to the Lord because there are satanic priests? We don't throw away our real money because someone finds a counterfeit, neither should we give up **our vocabulary** just because the enemy decides to use it.*

Let me interject something here. Rick Joyner is manifesting the character traits and habits of one who is a deceiver. He begins by vilifying those who would criticize, or call into question, his actions in aligning himself with this organization. He continues to insult and demonize those who challenge his actions throughout this post. Doing so has a chilling effect upon the quest to arrive at the truth of this matter. Rather than responding in a patient and humble manner, his attitude is haughty, and antagonistic. People are at once warned that if they press too hard on this issue they will be rejected as being paranoid, or worse. This is NOT the manner in which a minister of God is to answer the sincere objections of fellow believers.

II Timothy 2:24-25

And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth...

Secondly, Rick Joyner employs false logic and deceitful arguments in defense of his actions. This is revealed in his statement that the Order of Saint John "*is a true Christian order.*" Brothers and sisters, there is no such thing as a true Christian order. You will not find Christ or His apostles instituting Christian orders. They are a fabrication of the Roman Catholic Church.

Additionally, in giving a defense of the Knights of Malta having a leader known as a **Grand Master**,

Rick Joyner gives a deceitful argument about the church giving up “*their vocabulary*” simply because the enemy chooses to use it. The title of “Grand Master” is NOT part of the Christian’s vocabulary. In fact, the very opposite is true.

Matthew 23:9-12

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. **Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.** But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

KJV

Not only has Rick Joyner adopted another as his master, but this man is declared to be his Grand Master. This expression infers that there is no higher master. Rick Joyner continues with the following words.

Q. Am I trying to start an elite group of Christians?

Absolutely. I will not apologize for the fact that I am on a quest to find Christians who will rise above the lukewarm and fearful to be true knights of the cross, true nobility in the earth that will not compromise the biblical standards for morality, integrity, and commitment to sound biblical truth. I do believe that this is what the Lord intends for all of His people to be, but the fact is such are becoming increasingly rare.

Will this be an "exclusive" club? Absolutely not. *It will always be wide open to all who aspire to live for the Lord and not themselves, who are committed to fight the good fight of faith with all of the passion and zeal that our King deserves.*

Q. Do I think that we need orders in Christianity?

Ideally no. I think that simply being a member of the body of Christ is the greatest honor that we can ever have on this earth. However, because of the present and historic weaknesses of the church in general, they have served a great purpose in creating spiritual advances, and will again do so for at least the near future.

*Just as Count Zinzendorf, the true father of modern missions, created the Order of the Mustard Seed, which touched and inspired men like John Wesley to release a spiritual fire in the earth that created the First Great Awakening in America and Europe, I think that the church is in desperate need of groups who will join together to press beyond the state of modern Christianity as it is generally found in most of the world. **Call these "elitist" groups if you want, but we need them to call all Christians to higher standards of faith and life.** I make no apologies for my plans to start one (which I will explain later), and to assist the OSJ to accomplish its mandate. **Such a thing will only be offensive to the lukewarm and the fearful, which in the midst of our present distress, I do not believe we have the time to care about offending.***

I will break in here once again as these words of Rick Joyner’s demand an answer. Pride is quite

evident in these words. Rick Joyner continues to denigrate those who have sincere and legitimate objections to Christians, and church leaders in particular, joining elitist organizations whose goals are suspect and where loyalty and obedience is demanded of them. Although Rick Joyner has said there are no “secret vows” that he had to take, he did have to speak a vow and it was spoken in a closed meeting. Rick Joyner has now described those who object to his actions as “paranoid,” “lukewarm,” and “fearful.” These reproaches are unjustified, and they will not stand before the court of heaven.

That the Knights of Malta is, and will continue to be, an “exclusive club” is a certainty. Rick Joyner has misspoken by saying that all who aspire to live for the Lord will be welcome. If you do not share the ecumenical views of this organization; if you call into question the beliefs and actions of its members, you will surely find that you are not welcome.

One must also ask, “What ‘spiritual advances’ have been created by this organization, and on what basis has Mr. Joyner concluded that the church ‘needs’ such organizations to call all Christians to higher standards of faith and life?” Is this not the role of the church? Is this not why Christ has appointed ministers to the body? Shall we replace those roles and responsibilities instituted by Christ and His apostles with patterns that derive from inferior sources? In the next post I will have much more to speak about Count Zinzendorf and the legacy he has left to Morningstar and the prophetic movement. Rick Joyner continues with the following words.

For several years I have considered starting a special fellowship for those who will rise up to become true Christian knights of the Spirit. A year ago I was given a clear mandate from the Lord to do this, which He also showed me was given many years ago but I had not understood it as such. It is to be a fellowship of those who would walk in a manner worthy of their calling, never retreating before the enemies of the cross, or compromising their principles or integrity, intent on one mission - following the King, fighting His battles, and standing resolutely for His truth.

As a part of this program we are also called to start a similar fellowship for children and youth. I appreciate programs like Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, but the church is in need of something that greatly surpasses these programs in preparing the coming generation for their purpose. What we are now starting is a program that takes children from eight years old and plants sound doctrine deep in their hearts, while raising them up to be true knights of the Spirit who will live their entire lives as such. If they are alone in a foreign land, they will conduct themselves as such - always ready to defend the truth, the poor, and the oppressed, representing our King in a manner worthy of His soldiers.

Recently I was given a little book of sermons by John G. Lake, one of the great Christian leaders of modern times. Lake not only had one of the most effective ministries in history, he seemed to be one of those rare souls who walked in a manner worthy of his calling to the end, never falling to the pride or other worldly seductions that trip up so many. He wrote shortly before he died in 1935:

"I am getting ready in my soul, not to preach the old message with the old fire, but the new message with the new fire - not only to ask men to be good and go to heaven when they die, but to be God-like in character, nature, substance, and being. God is priming our souls. He is going to send forth the

*living waters and call by experience the new order of **Knights of the Morning Star** into being and action." (Spiritual Hunger and Other Sermons by John G. Lake, page 18. Published by Christ For The Nations, Inc.)*

When I saw this I did take it as a prophecy whose time had come. I am looking for those who will devote themselves to true spiritual chivalry and nobility who will not only speak the truth, but will live it...

*I do appreciate people's questions about it, though I do confess to not wanting to waste time with those who I feel are in the grip of invalid spiritual fears and paranoia. **I do not expect everyone to agree with us, and do believe that just as almost all of Europe considered the OSJ "archaic relics from the past" until they rose up and saved Europe, we do not expect to be understood or appreciated by much of the church today.***

[End Excerpt]

This last statement is especially troubling. Notice how Rick Joyner has adopted an “us” and “them” mentality here. “**We** do not expect to be understood or appreciated by much of **the church** today.” The church has now become the adversary of the elite members of the Knights of Malta and the inner circle of those at Morningstar. It is one thing to point out problems among the body of Christ and call men and women to repentance as a member of this same body. It is altogether different to align oneself with another organization that has a head that is someone other than Christ, and which speaks vows of loyalty to seek the glory of a manmade order rather than to God.

The Vow that Rick Joyner took, along with all other members of the Knights of Malta, is posted on the official website of the order. Among the words in the vow are the following.

*I promise to be faithful and loyal to Christ **and** to be guided by the ideals of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem: **to do everything in my power to contribute to its Glory, Protection, Prosperity, Support and Utility: to combat everything prejudicial to its well-being...***

[Source: <http://theknightshospitallers.org/vows>]

A great problem with this vow is that it goes beyond the first nine words. To be faithful and loyal to Christ AND to swear allegiance to another order, is contradictory to the principles of Yahweh’s kingdom. Rick Joyner has pledged to seek “its” glory. The word “its” reveals that Christ is NOT the subject being referred to. The vow requires men and women of the order to seek “its” glory and prosperity and “to combat everything prejudicial to its well-being.” To embrace such a vow, a man or woman has to embrace a prejudice in favor of this order. Everything that is critical of the order must be opposed, even if there is validity to the criticism. Rick Joyner has adopted this attitude of prejudice in favor of the order, a prejudice that is manifested in his reproaches and insults toward those who oppose it.

Sadly, the very thing that Rick Joyner wrote about in *The Final Quest* has befallen him. He took off the plain and insignificant garment of humility and became blinded by pride. He did not see the enemy coming up behind him, nor does he realize even now that he has been taken captive by Strong Delusion to do the will of Satan.

Double Jeopardy - Deception and Bondage of the Bride of Christ - Part 4

Joseph Herrin (05- 17-2014)

“God is raising up a modern day group of Moravians.”

<http://youtu.be/62dDdCHZ5nk>

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/62dDdCHZ5nk?rel=0" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

I encourage you to begin this post by watching the 5 minute video above. It is not put out by Morningstar Ministries. Rather it is produced by The Harbour Church out of Florida. It is advertising a summer long event that was held in Moravian Falls, North Carolina last year. The images in the video of the worship services with people dancing, lying on the floor, and laughing, are similar to what one might see at a Morningstar church meeting.

The video begins by giving a brief history of “The Moravians,” a group of men and women who professed faith in Christ. They were Protestants, and many of them were forced to flee from Moravia in the Czech republic due to Catholic persecution. A group of them were invited to settle on the lands of Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf. The year was 1722. Several hundred of these Moravian Protestants formed a commune there that they called Herrnhut (Lord’s watch).

The young man speaking at the beginning of the video repeats a common testimony that is heard about the Moravian believers. He states that the Moravians “literally launched modern day missions. They are also responsible for what we know today as the 24/7 prayer movement. They started a prayer movement (meeting) that lasted for 100 years.” Although these Protestants trace their beginnings back to the 15th century in Moravia, it was the group who settled on the land of Count Zinzendorf that has garnered the most attention, and which concerns this study. Count Zinzendorf was born in the year 1700, a member of the European nobility, and very wealthy. Some describe him as “the rich young ruler who said ‘Yes.’”



The Light of God Illuminating Zinzendorf

(There are Kabbalistic elements to this painting if you know what to look for)

It is quite pertinent to this present study to identify clearly who Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians were. Rick Joyner and Morningstar Ministries, Mike Bickle and the International House of Prayer, and many of the prophets and other modern ministers/ministries, testify that they are building upon the foundation laid by Zinzendorf's Moravians. Rick Joyner lives in Moravian Falls, North Carolina. The land around Moravian Falls was purchased by Count Zinzendorf in the 1740s. He moved there himself for a time, and established a religious community there. Morningstar Ministries has conference and retreat facilities at Moravian Falls. They had acquired significant parcels of land, to develop them, building homes, and inviting supporters of Morningstar Ministries to relocate there, which a number of people have done.

Although Morningstar's largest church and facility is located in Rock Hill, South Carolina, on the former site of Jim Bakker's Heritage USA, it is appropriate to state that the spiritual center of Morningstar Ministries is at Moravian Falls. Rick Joyner has spoken about this, and the manner in which he was led to this area. His account is filled with testimonies of prophetic signs and wonders. It reveals the profound influence of "prophet" Bob Jones. I invite you to watch the following video, observing how persuasive the word of a single individual can be in directing the course of an international ministry that impacts people worldwide. Bear in mind that Satan has his prophets that can speak with remarkable accuracy, even as Yahweh has His prophets.

Acts 16:16-18

And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave-girl having a spirit of divination (literally "python" spirit) met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortunetelling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." And she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

Rick Joyner Speaks of Moravian Heritage (Commercials Included)

<http://www.morningstartv.com/prophetic-perspective-current-events/count-zinzendorf-and-history-moravian-falls-north-carolina>

When one considers that Zinzendorf's Moravians are credited with beginning a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week prayer meeting that continued for 100 years, it is easy to perceive a link to Mike Bickle's International House of Prayer whose ministry centerpiece is 24/7 prayer and praise music. Mike Bickle and IHOP have also made it publicly known that they are building upon the work and spirit of the Moravians. One of the communal living centers they have established for their interns at the Kansas City IHOP is named Herrnhut Apartments. This is an intentional reference to Zinzendorf's Moravian commune in Germany.

<http://www.ihopkc.org/visit/housing/month-to-month/>

The IHOP Kansas City website provides the following historical information on Count Zinzendorf.

The Moravians and Count Zinzendorf

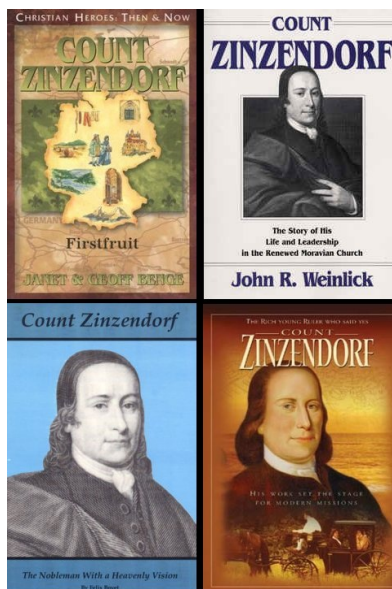
In 1727, Count Zinzendorf, a young and wealthy German nobleman, committed his estate in Germany to twenty-four-hour-a-day prayer ministry. He renamed his estate Herrnhut, which means “the watch of the Lord.” About 300 persecuted believers moved from Bohemia to Zinzendorf’s estate, forming the Herrnhut community. At that time, Zinzendorf gave up his court position to lead this new ministry.

They committed to pray in hourly shifts around the clock, all day and night, every day, taking inspiration from Leviticus 6:13, “The fire must be kept burning; it must not go out.” This prayer meeting continued non-stop for the next hundred years. From the prayer room at Herrnhut came a missionary zeal that has hardly been surpassed in Protestant history. By 1776, over two hundred missionaries had been sent out from this small community at Herrnhut. These were the first Protestant intercessory missionaries.

Zinzendorf became the leader of the first Protestant missionary movement in history. He sent out missionaries, two by two, to the unreached people groups of the earth. As they were sent out, the prayer furnace back home in Herrnhut covered them in prayer. The first Protestant missionary movement married the prayer aspect of the Great Commission with evangelism. Count Zinzendorf saw prayer and missions as inseparable.

[Source: <http://www.ihopkc.org/intercessorymissionaries/>]

There are numerous biographies available on Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians. They almost universally present him to the body of Christ as a deeply committed Christian with unusual missionary zeal. He is described as a great champion of Christianity, and an inspiration for other believers to emulate. What, after all, could be wrong with being devoted to prayer and missions?



Sadly, there are times when Christian biographers paint a false portrait of an individual and his beliefs. In the book *Dragon Flood* I demonstrated how this has been done by Christian and secular

authors who have written biographies of America's founding fathers. Some have described men such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin as devout Christians. The truth is far different.

Because these prominent men and ministries I have named have embraced Count Zinzendorf with such fervent admiration, seeking to emulate his works, and expand his teachings, it is important to know accurately the history of this man and the Moravians he led. As one discovers the hidden identity (duplicity again) of this man, it will be observed how the beliefs, actions, and spirit of Zinzendorf are truly being replicated at IHOP, Morningstar, and among other prophetic ministries of this hour.

Nicolas Ludwig von Zinzendorf was influenced by the spirituality of Europe in the time in which he lived. Zinzendorf was contemporary with men like Emanuel Swedenborg, and William Blake, both of whom developed followings of their own. One thing each of these men shared in common was a devotion to the teachings of Kabbala. Kabbala is an ancient form of Jewish mysticism that combines the Old Testament of the Bible with occult practices that originate in Babylon. Each of these men (Zinzendorf included), also embraced sexual practices that Yahweh in the Bible describes as unholy, unrighteous, or sinful. Although each of these individuals made frequent reference to the Bible, none of them could be described as Biblical literalists, or orthodox in their views. An example of this is Zinzendorf's portrayal of the Holy Spirit as female, and his lifelong reference to the Holy Spirit as "Mother."

I could not speak about it [the Holy Spirit], since I did not know how I should define it. I simply believed that she is the third person of the Godhead, but I could not say how this was properly so. Instead I thought of her abstractly. ... The Holy Spirit had known me well, but I did not know her before the year 1738. That is why I carefully avoided entering in the matter until the Mother Office of the Holy Spirit had been so clearly opened up for me.

[Source: <http://zinzendorf.com/pages/index.php?id=holy-spirit-as-mother>]

Despite the fact that all three members of the godhead are spoken of throughout Scriptures in the masculine tense, it did not trouble Zinzendorf to adopt a view that was contrary to a literalist interpretation of the Bible. Zinzendorf championed a view that is readily observed among the prophetic movement today whereby Biblical correctness and sound doctrine are de-emphasized, and emotions and experience are elevated. Whatever belief serves to bolster one's experience, one's happiness, is just fine, while attention to doctrinal correctness is minimized.

A modern day expert on the Moravians and their beliefs gave a speech at the Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. During the speech he stated that one of their five major focal points is Simplicity, which he defined in the following manner.

Simplicity is a focus on the essentials of faith and ***a lack of interest in the niceties of doctrinal definition***. Shawe quotes Zinzendorf's remark that The Apostles say: 'We believe we have salvation through the grace of Jesus Christ....' If I can only teach a person that catechism I have made him a divinity scholar for all time (Shawe, 1977, p. 9)

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian_Church#Spirit_of_the_Moravian_Church]

What is meant by “a lack of interest in the niceties of doctrinal definition” is that faithfulness to the teachings of the Bible is not considered to be of any great importance. Unity, and an avoidance of conflict, is given higher regard than truth, or Scriptural accuracy. Zinzendorf would not have welcomed a critical examination of the Biblical soundness of his beliefs. He stressed unity among mankind, and he sought to find common ground for Catholics, Jews (the non-Messianic variety), and diverse denominations to join together. It is not surprising that groups like IHOP and Morningstar describe themselves as bridge builders who exist outside of denominational structures, reaching across all denominations to bring forth unity by focusing on spiritual experience rather than Biblical doctrine.

Zinzendorf was born into great wealth. His family had immense land holdings that were located throughout Europe. It was requisite of young aristocrats to be trained in a variety of viewpoints, and Zinzendorf’s education evidently exposed him to Rosicrucian and Kabbalistic teachings. These influences caused him to see the Bible as a very flexible writing that contains the seed of many mystical truths that only the initiate can perceive. It would not seem strange to such an one to arrive at some very unorthodox interpretations of the Bible. Kabbala is well known to set forth teachings and principles that lead to behavior and beliefs that are diametrically opposite of the literal meaning of Biblical passages.

In the book *Politics and the Occult*, author Gary Lachman (not a Christian) writes about Zinzendorf’s “grand tour,” a year long sabbatical where young aristocrats are to visit the various great cities of Europe in order to gain experience and knowledge of the world.

Zinzendorf had a kind of mystical experience during his Grand Tour, then a de rigeur “gap year” for all young aristocrats. In a museum in Dusseldorf, Zinzendorf saw a painting by the Baroque artist Domenico Feti, showing Christ with the crown of thorns on the way to the crucifixion. Entitled “Ecce Homo” (Behold the Man), its inscription read: “This I have done for you - now what will you do for me?”... This was a fully humanized Christ, and Zinzendorf could almost feel his (Christ’s) fleshly nature. It was the exact opposite of the belief, often attributed to the Gnostics and known as Docetism, that Christ’s mortal body and crucifixion were a kind of illusion, that he was wholly spiritual and not mortal at all. On the contrary, for Zinzendorf, only through a deep grasp of and participation in Christ’s humanity could we join, literally, in his mystical body.

For Zinzendorf this mystical-human body of Christ included not only the wounds he suffered during his passion but also his sexuality. It may seem odd to us, and it certainly seemed scandalous to some of Zinzendorf’s contemporaries, but during what became known among the Moravians as the “Sifting Time” - referring to a period of egalitarianism (all classes of men were treated equal), communal living, esoteric practices, and sexual antinomianism (lawlessness) - Zinzendorf preached that deep meditation on Christ’s sexual organs, as well as his wounds, would lead to a mystical experience. Yet “meditation” may be too sedate a term for the kind of worship the Moravians in London, and elsewhere in Europe, practiced, seeing that it involved activities we would usually associate with Tantra (Eastern religious belief that sexual experience can be used to unite a person with the deity) and other forms of sacred sexuality. As one commentator remarked, in Zinzendorf’s peculiar form of worship “all the senses must be mobilized, the whole body must participate,” an admonition that Zinzendorf’s congregation certainly followed.

SEXUAL METAPHYSICS

By the time Zinzendorf established the Fetter Lane mission (in London), he was convinced that the mysticism of the Jewish cabala - the esoteric reading of the Jewish holy books - could bring Jews and Christians as well as Catholics and Protestants together. His belief that followers of different faiths could unite in a common piety chimed in many ways with Masonic notions of universal brotherhood and a common belief in a Supreme Being, and it certainly resonated with the Rosicrucian ethos. His epiphany in Dusseldorf concerning Christ's carnal nature seemed to prime him for cabalistic notions of what we can call "sexual metaphysics..."

As in spiritual alchemy, for the cabala, in sexual union, the male and female overcome the rifts of the fallen world and achieve an ecstasy that echoes the original unity of being... God himself has sex, the cabalists believe, in the cosmic lovemaking he enjoys with his Shekinah, his female emanation. Zinzendorf Christianized this cabalistic holy marriage and declared that the Holy Spirit was feminine, the Mother of Christ...

HOLY SINNING

One antinomian work was both a criticism of some of Swedenborg's ideas and also a handbook for "holy sinning": Blake's early prose poem "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell." The title alone suggests a reversal of mainstream morality, and its "Proverbs of Hell" offer "dangerous" maxims like, "The road of excess leads to a palace of wisdom" and "If the fool would persist in his folly he would become wise," as well as "Sooner murder an infant in its cradle that nurse unacted desires." The problem with this is that it's not always easy to know whether you're going "beyond good and evil" as a saint or as a sinner, an argument that the orthodox make against the pitfalls of "enthusiasm" and the followers of mystical spirituality. If "anything goes," then the most questionable practices can be excused as expressions of a more profound spirituality that adherents to the safe path of righteousness simply fear.

Zinzendorf's followers certainly took the message to heart, literally, and his new "Herzenreligion" (religion of the heart) emphasized the importance of a "heartfelt" regeneration over obedience to rigid moral standards... In what may appear to us, and did appear to many of Zinzendorf's detractors, as a revolting form of spiritual sadomasochism (or the equivalent, as the term had yet to arise), Zinzendorf taught his followers to visualize Christ's wound, from the infamous spear of Longinus, as a kind of vagina and the spear itself as a kind of phallus whose union made possible spiritual regeneration. Coupled with his own fully male sexuality, the "side hole," as Christ's wound came to be called, in effect transformed him into an androgynous being, an earthly manifestation of the cabalistic cosmic man, Adam Kadmon, who enjoyed the primal unity of the sexes that the cabalists, and in a different way, the spiritual alchemists, desired.

Among other practices, which included mentally kissing and licking the "side hole" in order to receive the revivifying blood, Zinzendorf urged his followers to visualize Christ's wound as a womb and themselves as children, safe within it, but their peculiar form of erotospirituality also took less bizarre, if not less scandalous, forms. At the Fetter Lane Chapel, the Moravians spoke openly about their sex lives and were advised by Zinzendorf and his agents on how to improve it, how the women

could achieve ecstasy more easily and satisfactorily, and how the men could perform their spiritual labors with greater perseverance. The meetings, often known as "love feasts," seem to have included couples making love in view of the other parishioners, and the singing, dancing, and general joyous exultation of the senses - necessary in order to fully appreciate the human nature of Christ - may have ended in a communal unification of the opposites.

[End Excerpt]

Such claims about Count Zinzendorf, and at least a portion of his Moravian followers, are truly scandalous. Yet there is much more that could be shared. When Zinzendorf was in his late teen years, and engaged in his studies at Halle Academy, he formed a secret society with some fellow students that they named "The Order of the Mustard Seed." Gary Lachman writes:

The idea behind the order was that its members, all of whom were nobles destined for important positions in society, would secretly use their influence to spread Christ's message. All shared a profound sense of brotherhood with their fellow men and took as their motto "No one lives for himself," which they had inscribed on the rings they wore as a sign of their commitment. In later years when Zinzendorf reactivated his youthful order, he brought into the fold the archbishops of Canterbury and Paris, as well as Christian VI, King of Denmark. This later version of the order was linked to both Freemasonry and the Rosicrucians.

The parallels between these accounts of Zinzendorf and the men whose ministries honor him today are striking. In the previous post I wrote of Rick Joyner joining an order that has links to Freemasonry, and who claim as their goal the advancement and defense of Christianity. Even as Zinzendorf and his "brothers" from the order wore special rings to signify their league with one another, Rick Joyner, General Jerry Boykin, and their fellow Knights of Malta wear special pins on their clothes to denote their affiliation.

The Freemasons claim Count Zinzendorf as one of their own. On the website for the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, there is the following entry:

The German title is Der Orden vom Senfkorn. This Association, whose members also called themselves "The Fraternity of Moravian Brothers of the Order of Religious Freemasons," was one of the first innovations introduced into German Freemasonry. It was instituted in the year 1739. Its mysteries were founded on that passage in the fourth chapter of Saint Mark's Gospel in which Christ compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard-seed. The Brethren wore a ring, on which was inscribed Keiner son uns lebt ihm selber, meaning in English, No one of us lives for himself. The jewel of the Order was a cross of gold surmounted by a mustard plant in full bloom, with the motto, Quod Suit ante nihil, this Latin meaning What was before nothing. It was suspended from a green ribbon. The professed object of the Association was, through the instrumentality of Freemasonry, to extend the kingdom of Christ over the world. It has long been obsolete (see Zinzendorf, Count son, Nicolaus Ludwig).

[Source: <http://encyclopediaoffreemasonry.com/m/mustard-seed-order-of/>]

In the year 1868 J.B. Lippincott and Co. Published the book *Masonic Biography and Dictionary: Comprising the History of Ancient Masonry, Antiquity of Masonry, Written and Unwritten Law,*

Derivation and Definition of Masonic Terms, Biographies of Eminent Masons, Statistics, List of All Lodges in the United States, Etc. The book contains an entry for Count Zinzendorf in which the following statements can be found.

Count of Zinzendorf and Pattendorf, a descendant of noble family of Austria, founder of the Moravian sect, born in Dresden, Saxony, May 26th, 1700; Died at Herrnhut, May 9th, 1760. In 1741 he came to the United States and commenced preaching at Germantown. At Shekomeco he established the first Indian Moravian congregation in America. His entire life was marked and brilliant. He modified Swedenborgian rites of Freemasonry; in 1737 he promulgated the Rite of Zinzendorf in Germany.

Directly below this, being the very last entry in this section of the book, is a listing for “Zinzendorf Rite.” This 146 year old book is available online at Google Books.

Another old book, though not quite as ancient, is *Occult Theocracy* by Lady Queenborough, Edith Starr Miller, published in 1933. This book is available online as a pdf file. Following is an extract from the section on the Moravians.

The Moravians came to England in 1724, brought by Count Zinzendorf. The following extract from the work of an Anglican Bishop, written in 1751, reveals that they were not particularly appreciated in that country as a force for good!

“Of what dangerous Consequence the Moravian System is to Government and Civil Society, appears by their progressive Multiplicity of Prevarications, Lies, Frauds, Cheats, and juggling Impostures (Greatly detrimental to Princes and State, as well as ruinous to private persons) which have so plainly been proved by Mr. Rimius, and others, particularly in ‘The History of the Moravians, very lately published, from the public Acts of Budingen, and other Authentic Vouchers.’ Of this Nature are their devouring the whole substance of any wealthy Convert, and declaring that the Society may say to a young rich Brother ‘Either give up all that thou hast, or get thee gone.’ — Sending away any of the Society to the remotest Parts of the World, at a Minute’s Warning, by the Authority of the Saviour, who will have it done Post-haste :’ Whereby any, though his Majesty’s Subjects, whom they suspect, or that dislike their Proceedings, or, for prudential Reasons, must be married up, or may discover any of their Iniquities, are instantly sent into Banishment, and condemned to Transportation ; not for any Crime, but for their Virtue and Duty, Which is more than all the Authority of Great Britain can do, for any Crime, without an open and legal Trial, Making Marriages void, though before contracted, unless the carnal Cohabitation has been performed in the Presence of the Elders. — Seducing Men’s Wives and Daughters, and then keeping them by Force, or sending them out of the Way ; and allowing no Power of Earth to reclaim them, though the Parents beg it on their Knee. Taking away the natural Authority of the Parents, and making their Children disobey and renounce them under Pretence of obeying the Saviour, the Father that created them :’ thereby making the Fifth Commandment of no Effect. — Sometimes bribing, and sometimes threatening States, as Occasion serves, and denouncing Argumenta Regum, if they are opposed; and telling Princes, that such or such a Place in their Dominions, was founded by the Saviour for his Theocracy; which he won’t fail to maintain.’ — These Things have been proved upon the Moravians, both as to Doctrine and Practice, by divers Instances. And that in Fact they claim an Independency

on Government appears from the 'Letter to the Regency of Budingen, from the Count (Zinzendorf) and his Brethren, wherein it is said, in plain Terms, ' That all the Sovereigns on Earth must consent to the Theocracy in the Moravian Brotherhood, or have no Brethren in their Dominions. ' I need not add, that Theocracy signifies an immediate Government by God, which of Course excludeth all Civil Authority. "

The Moravian dogma was Spiritism which generally means Black Magic. As for their moral code, it can be summarized in the few following words of Count Zinzendorf in a dialogue with Mr. Wesley. "We reject all Self Denial, we trample it under Foot. We Believers do what we please, and no more." Claiming to be free from all law by their Marriage with Christ, they refuse to be bound by any law at all: either of the Old Testament or the New. To bring all Sects under his sway, Roman Catholics, Socinians, Fanaticks, Chiliasts, Anabaptists etc., Count Zinzendorf made a new translation of the New Testament... "This was the practice of almost all the Gnostic Heretics, in order to deceive, and draw disciples. Nor did they make any Scruple of Omissions, Expungings, or any Corruptions that might serve their Purpose..."

Missionaries were sent abroad, everything being done by the Saviour's Injunction... "Heaven, for them, is to consist in their being metamorphosed into Female Angels, for a carnal Enjoyment of Christ in his human Nature, in the eternal Bedchamber... "Where in the Scriptures do you find panegyrical Hymns in Honour of your Phallus? asks Lavington. For what follows we refer the reader to page 140 of the Bishop's book. Count Zinzendorf is said to have been the head of the Rose Croix from 1744 to 1749. He was on intimate terms with John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Of all its names, that of "The Order of Religious Freemasons" is the most significant today. It should also be remembered that the head of this order was also the head of the "Esoteric Rosicrucians" of the time!
[Source: <http://www.whale.to/c/occult-theocracy.pdf>]

Even assuming that some of these charges manifest bias due to religious, political, economic, or other interests, and that some of the critics may be unfaithful in their accounts, there is a harmony of claims that appear in repeated statements from a variety of witnesses. Among these claims is that Zinzendorf was a member of certain secret orders, either the Rosicrucians, Freemasons, or both; that Zinzendorf and his Moravian followers had embraced some deviant doctrines befouled with the unclean merging of human sexuality and mysticism that bears a striking similarity to Kabbalistic teachings.

Additionally, there are the similarities to the charges against Zinzendorf's Moravians and complaints frequently raised against IHOP and Morningstar today. Charges of cult-like behavior; isolation from family members; spiritual elitism; doctrinal heresy; financial fraud; covetousness; and sexual misconduct are common to both the Moravians of the 1700s and IHOP, Morningstar, and other prophetic groups that pay homage to Zinzendorf and the Moravians.

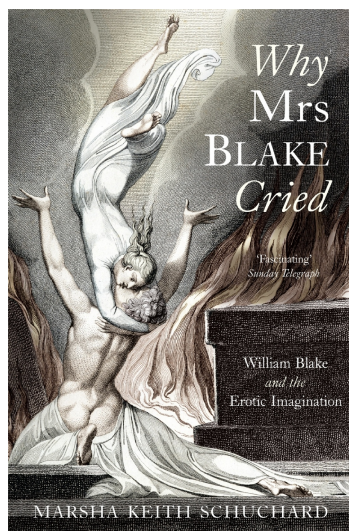
As a person begins to dig deeper into the life of Count Zinzendorf, and to consider the many accounts of the conduct of the Moravians from sources close to their time, it becomes evident that they were not the selfless champions of Christianity that they are declared to be by their present day

admirers. One of the reasons I am inclined to believe these charges is that I see the very same pattern in the lives of the men and ministries that pay verbal homage to Zinzendorf and the Moravians today. Do we not see Rick Joyner and other members of Morningstar Ministries joining elite orders that have links back to Freemasonry, the Knights Templars, and other secret societies? Even as Zinzendorf began his own order, Rick Joyner has created a new order at Morningstar which he has dubbed the Knights of the Cross (KOC).

<http://www.morningstarministries.org/ministries/future-leaders/knights-cross>

(Quite interestingly, these are the same initials as the Roman Catholic “Knights of Columbus.”)

One of the most disturbing accounts of Zinzendorf and his kabbalistic and sexual form of spirituality is found in the book *Why Mrs. Blake Cried* by Marsha Schuchard.



Although the book is primarily focused upon William Blake, it contains information on a number of his contemporaries, including Count Zinzendorf.

In the 1740's and '50's, "Rabbi" Zinzendorf (as he was then called) directed a mission to the Jews in London, in which mutual Kabbalistic studies served as a bridge between religions. At the same time, he organized his followers into a hierarchical secret society that functioned as an offshoot of "irregular" or "illuminist" Freemasonry. According to James Hutton, an English Moravian who became a lifelong friend of Richard Cosway, the public society held open meetings in the Fetter Lane Chapel, while the elite interior order (the "Pilgrim Church") met secretly, lived communally, and practised Kabbalistic rituals.

It has been mentioned several times that Zinzendorf started a chapel on Fetter Lane in London. This is a very interesting detail, for the word “Fetter” is defined as “a chain or shackle placed on the feet or ankles. Fetters - anything that confines or restrains.” The subtitle of this series is “Deception and **Bondage** of the Bride of Christ.” This Bondage was signified in the movie *Double Jeopardy* by the character Libby being deceived aboard the Morningstar resulting in a seven year prison sentence. The roots of the deception and bondage we see today in these ministries were formed a long time ago.

This present post is attempting to show that this is an ancient scheme of Satan that has been resurrected in the prophetic movement of this present hour.

Marsha Schuchard continues in her book:

Henry Rimius, a Prussian visitor to the London Moravians, charged that their "clinging together" was a euphemism for communal sex. In a sensational exposé that received wide publicity in London, Rimius described the Moravians as a nonsectarian, subversive secret society, whose leaders "are gradually sapping the foundation of civil government in any country they settle in, and establishing an empire within an empire." While the higher initiates practise "gnostic obscenities," the neophytes are left in ignorance of the ritualistic orgies. It is perhaps relevant that Crabb Robinson characterized Blake's philosophy as consistently Gnostic.

Attendants at the public services in Fetter Lane were certainly aware of the theory, if not the practice, of Zinzendorf's Kabbalistic sexual agenda. In public sermons, the Count affirmed that "a person regenerated enjoys a great Liberty," because "Christ can make the most villainous act to be a virtue and the most exalted moral virtue to be vice." Though the depravation caused by the Fall gave the "hideous name Pudendum" (literally "parts to be ashamed of") to the genitals, the Saviour has changed it "into Verendum" (to be regarded with awe or reverence). Moreover, "what was chastized by Circumcision in the Time of the Law, is restored again to its first Essence and flourishing State."

Because the genital organs of both sexes are "the most honourable of the whole body," he exhorted the wives, when they get sight of the male member to honour that "precious sign by which they resemble Christ." The female vulva is "that little Model of a Chapel of God," and husbands must daily worship there. When Blake later sketched "a naked woman whose genitals have been transformed into an altar or chapel, with an erect penis forming a kind of holy statue at the center," he seemed to give vivid expression to Zinzendorffian sexual religion. The Count further chastised his fellow-males that they "do not perform and labour enough for their Wives, there is still too much remissness." He exalted marital intercourse as "the most perfect Copy of God," noting that "Our Sex is an Employment, an Office," with Jesus acting as the "Spouse of all the Sisters and the Husbands as his Procurators." Thus, even marital "procuring" within the society was a divine act. Though Hutton tried to defend the English Moravians from Rimius's charges, he admitted that the foreign members enticed the more radical locals into their erotic experiments.

[End Excerpt]

Anyone familiar with Mike Bickle and IHOP will recognize a similarity of theme as they romanticize the relationship of Christ and the church. The interns are instructed to spend much time in meditation in the prayer rooms, and the environment is one that appeals to the emotions as music groups are assigned time slots to make sure there is praise and worship being offered up to Christ 24/7. This type of romantic fixation upon Christ as the dewy eyed husband of the church is nowhere present in the Gospels or the writings of the apostles. When you combine this romantic fixation, with the emotional stimulation of the IHOP and Morningstar environments, and throw into this mix a large number of young adults, many of whom are away from home for the first time in their lives, it is a perfect recipe for sexual temptation.

Rolling Stone Magazine recounted a twisted and disturbing tale of sexual deviancy among one of the group homes associated with the Kansas City IHOP. Among the revelations was homosexuality among a number of the young men in the home, wife swapping, and egregious forms of deception and manipulation. For those who have the time to read the lengthy account, I recommend it, as what is revealed is surely not the anomaly that IHOP and Mike Bickle would portray it to be as they seek to distance themselves from this sordid tale that ended with one young woman dead, and a young man from the same home she lived in confessing to having murdered her at the suggestion of the woman's husband.

Love and Death in the House of Prayer (Rolling Stone Magazine)

<http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/news/love-and-death-in-the-house-of-prayer-20140121>

The things that Zinzendorf was teaching about Christ, relating His "side hole" to a woman's vagina and encouraging members to visualize themselves kissing it, or licking it, is truly profane. Conflating sexual intimacy and spiritual union with Christ is a sure path to transgression. Should Christians not beware then when major ministries with a worldwide influence pay homage to Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians? When these same individuals move to properties formerly occupied by the Moravians, and build ministry centers there, and adorn their properties with names related to this cult-like and, to a large degree, apostate group, you can be certain that there is a spirit at work and it is NOT the Holy Spirit.

I encourage the reader of this post to consider the gross immorality that has been exposed among leaders of the prophetic movement: Paul Cain, Bob Jones, Todd Bentley, Jim and Tammy Bakker, etc., and understand that this is but the tip of the iceberg. Yahweh is truly warning His people, even as He warned me fourteen years ago, that all is not as it seems with these ministries. Strong Delusion has gripped the leadership and they in turn have brought the people into bondage. Those entrusted with the shepherding of the people have fleeced them instead. They have drugged their unsuspecting followers and cast them into spiritual slumber. When they awake they will stumble about in the fog searching for answers, wondering how they became separated from the Son of God.

May Yahweh be merciful.

P.S. Although I could post many more writings in this series, for the corruption, deception, and darkness among the prophetic movement is seemingly endless, I anticipate posting only one more writing to wrap up this series. Please pray for Yahweh's Holy Spirit to guide me, and to share those things that would benefit those who have need of this information.

Double Jeopardy - Deception and Bondage of the Bride of Christ - Part 5

Joseph Herrin (05-21-2014)



The Invitation of Christ

There is an undeniable appeal inherent within the prophetic movement today. Even as the movie *Double Jeopardy* opened with an image of the main character admiring the beauty and grace of the sailboat Morning Star upon the waters of the Puget Sound, I found myself greatly drawn to the reports of spiritual life and community that was being manifested at Morningstar ministries fifteen years ago. I greatly desired intimacy with the Lord, and I wanted to be a partaker of His life and Spirit. If there was an anointing of the Holy Spirit to be experienced in a society of spiritually minded, sincere disciples of Christ, I was willing to go wherever it was to be found.

Looking back to an even earlier time in my life, I can testify that if the International House of Prayer had been around when I was just out of high school, I would undoubtedly have felt a strong pull to be a part of the life there. To go and live in a community of earnest seekers of Christ; to be able to devote all my hours to prayer, worship, and study of the Scriptures; to be among other young men and women who were zealous for Christ, would have been an allure that would have been hard to resist.

People greatly desire a sense of family, of community, of belonging to a group of like-minded individuals. Humanity is by nature a social creation. As people look at videos of the worship services at Morningstar and IHOP, they observe people that seem to not only be enjoying themselves, but who constitute a community of individuals experiencing a transcendent society where spiritual life binds together the members of the body of Christ. What spiritually minded individual would not desire to be part of such a community?

That there are large numbers of people who feel this drawing to be a part of what they perceive to be Christian ministries that are filled with spiritual life is evidenced by the fact that both Morningstar and IHOP have dedicated resources to help individuals who want to relocate in order to be close to the spiritual utopia they perceive to exist at these places.

<http://www.morningstarministries.org/print/279>
<http://www.ihopkc.org/visit/moving-kc/>

Jim Bakker has traditionally appealed to an older group of believers, and he continues to do so. At his new ministry center in Branson, Missouri the Morningside property features condominiums that open right onto Grace Street and the studio for Jim Bakker's daily broadcast.

The screenshot shows the website for 'THE JIM BAKKER SHOW'. The header is blue with the show's name in yellow and white. Navigation links include Home, Watch, Prayer, About Us, Morningside, News, and LoveGifts. A search bar is on the right. Below the header, there's a large image of a modern kitchen and living area with the text 'Condo Rentals' overlaid. To the right of this image is a smaller image of a couple with the text 'Partner with US'. Below these are buttons for 'PRAYER CALL 417-779-9000', 'SUBMIT REQUEST ONLINE', 'UPCOMING EVENTS', and 'MORNINGSIDE NEWS'. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Morningside > Condo Rentals'.

Just below the image you see above there is the following statement.

We would love for you to visit us at Morningside and attend a live taping of the Jim Bakker Show (Tuesday through Thursday at 10:30 am). You can stay right here on beautiful Grace Street and choose from a studio, one-bedroom or two-bedroom luxury condominium overlooking the Jim Bakker Show, or the beautiful countryside of the Ozark Mountains. The Jim Bakker Show ministry does not own the condos, but many are owned by Ministry Partners. You may call direct to 479-228-2257 or 417-779-2370 and we will see to it that you find just the right condo for your stay.

While you are here, visit the Tabernacle, Grace Chapel, the Master's Media Television Program, and even the Wednesday Night Bible Studies!

We also have church services on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 pm, prayer meetings, and other Bible studies throughout the week.

We have a General Store, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for your shopping convenience with food items and Christian gifts. There is also the Builder's Club Shoppe, our Partner Welcome Center, the Morningside Salon & Spa, – plus the Fireside Cafe that is open from 7am to 7pm every day!

Come visit us ... you may not want to leave! In fact, many people are moving into the homes and duplexes while others are renting apartments and condos. Please call 479-228-2257 or 417-779-2370 to book your stay today!

[Source: <http://jimbakkershow.com/morningside/condo-rentals/>]

I won't spend much time here remarking again about the gross commercialization that is observed among these prophetic ministries. The casual reader may be convinced that Jim Bakker has repented of his covetous ways when they read that the condos being advertised are not owned directly by his

ministry. The truth is, nothing pertaining to the Morningside Ministry is owned by Jim Bakker, and the reason is pecuniary. Jim Bakker still owes the IRS millions of dollars. If the property in Branson was in his name, the IRS would place a lien against it. To avoid this, everything is registered in the name of “ministry partners.”

The image and statement from Jim Bakker’s website reveal the focus upon fleecing the flock of Christ. There is a link in the image for “Love Gifts,” another one for “Donate,” and an image of Jim Bakker and his wife that says “Partner with US.” The partnership is, of course, a financial one. If you can afford it, Jim Bakker’s property offers much to attract the worldly Christian. You can have a sense of belonging to a spiritual community complete with church services, Bible study and prayer meetings. At the same time you can enjoy fellowship with other members as you visit one another’s “luxury” condominiums, shop at the ministries stores, relax at the Morningside Spa and Salon, or enjoy a meal together at the ministry’s Fireside Café.

Although IHOP and Morningstar are somewhat less conspicuous in advertising “the good life,” the promise of a Christian utopia is evident at all of these ministries. Of course, Christians can find spas, salons, shops, and restaurants, anywhere in America. The exceptional thing offered at each of these ministries is *spiritual life* to go along with the comforts and pleasures this world affords. The leaders of these ministries are truly the ones the apostle Paul was speaking about when he wrote of men “who suppose that godliness is a means of gain” (I Timothy 6:5).

On the webpage of Morningstar Ministries Heritage International Hotel and Conference Center, there is the following description of the amenities offered.

Welcome to Heritage Christian Conference Center

When you visit the Heritage Christian Conference Center, our goal is to serve the King’s household with all of the dignity and respect that His people deserve. As you stay with us in our conference rooms or host your event in our conference facility, the goal is for you to be as comfortable as possible, while being refreshed and renewed spiritually. Located just south of Charlotte North Carolina, Heritage Christian Conference Center offers true international hospitality. We have lakeside walking trails, a fitness room, prayer room, indoor Main Street, free Wi-Fi, picnic grove, bookstore and other shops, security, and an amazing café!!

At the top of the page is a link to area attractions.



The screenshot shows the website for the Heritage International Ministries Conference Center. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, Meetings & Events, Accommodations, Weddings, Receptions/HQ, Conferences, and Attractions. Below the navigation bar are two large images: a golfer on a green and a view of mountains. Under the images is a section titled "Attractions" with a subtext: "Below are just a few of the many attractions that are nearby The Heritage Conference Center. Click the desired logo to learn more about each attraction." Below this text is a grid of nine attraction logos: Billy Graham Library, Carondek, Discovery Place, NarcoVay Productions, US National Whitewater Center, Regent Park Golf Club, Leroy Springs Golf, Carolina Panthers NFL, Charlotte Roboats NBA, Blue Ridge Mountains, and Biltmore.

The images on the page cycle through photos of golf courses, entertainment parks, football games, and other leisure activities. Again, it can be said that these type of experiences and entertainment venues can be found anywhere in America, but the selling point that makes these particular locations exceptionally attractive is that all of this comes with a promise of the deeper spiritual life. The Christian disciple can be comforted with the knowledge that they are serving the Lord and participating in a genuine move of God as they join with the leaders and community at Morningstar. If you think that such a description of what they are offering is over the top, consider the words of Rick Joyner on the webpage for their Ministry Partners.

MorningStar Publications and Ministries was built on the devotion to raise up an army of those who hear the prophetic word of the Lord and obey Him. As a ministry, we have had a part in teaching and training thousands who have authentic prophetic gifts from God.

The most powerful spiritual force since the first century is now mobilizing. We are now looking at the greatest potential impact for the gospel that we have ever seen. We need partners who will join with us to help raise up and send out those who have the potential to be the most high-impact ministries in church history.

We invite you to join with us to help equip the body of Christ through our schools, conferences, television shows, and publications. Your contributions will be used to help train and equip all ages in their prophetic gifting. You can become a MorningStar Partner for a regular contribution of any amount. We only ask that you contribute to the ministry on a regular basis, whether it is once a month or once a year.

*As a MorningStar Partner, I will be sending you a monthly newsletter filled with updates on the ministry and reports on how **your investment in the kingdom** is being spent. In these updates I will be giving you personal and prophetic insights, reports, and stories about members of our leadership team, and the reasons behind what we are doing. You also have the opportunity to connect with us and each other online in our Partners Area and here at H.I.M. in our Partners Hospitality Suite, which you can visit at any conference.*

Thank you for helping us equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

<http://www.morningstarministries.org/ministries/partners/morningstar-partners#.U3unwfldV8F>

Who would not want to join with those who “hear the prophetic word of the Lord, and obey Him”? What spiritually minded person would not desire to join a community of fellow believers who can lay claim to being “*The most powerful spiritual force since the first century*”? Phrases like “*greatest potential impact for the gospel that we have ever seen,*” and “*the most high-impact ministries in church history,*” are part of the sales pitch for people to partner with Morningstar. The same grandiose description of life at Morningstar serves as a powerful attraction to the Christian who wants to be part of what God is doing on the earth in this generation. Since Rick Joyner assures partners that their financial gifts are an “*investment in the kingdom,*” many who believe this self-promotion desire to move closer to Morningstar’s campus so they can be at the center of kingdom activity.

(Interestingly, Rick Joyner did not specify whose “kingdom” they were building. The phrase “*your investment in the kingdom*” is rather nebulous. He did not say “kingdom of God,” or “kingdom of heaven.” Truly, this work is neither. Does any discerning Christian truly believe that Jim Bakker laid the foundation of a great kingdom work of Yahweh as he sought to build a Christian Disneyland complete with its own castle, and that Morningstar is now bringing Yahweh’s kingdom vision to maturity?)



The King’s Castle at PTL

As I shared at the beginning of this series, I was observing things at Morningstar from afar 15 years ago, and it looked very attractive to me. I was ready to climb aboard the good ship Morningstar, but Yahweh had other plans. Just prior to this He had challenged me to lay down my life and agree to go wherever He directed and to do whatever He asked of me. After a period of some weeks in which I wrestled mightily with this surrender of my will to His own, I relented and confessed to Yahweh that I would follow Him. I believe this decision played a key role in my being delivered from the deception and bondage of Morningstar and other similar ministries. Because I agreed to go wherever Yahweh directed, and I was actively seeking His will, He was faithful to direct me to the path He had chosen for me. That path led back to Georgia.

If you want to read about all that has transpired in my life since 1999 when I laid my will on the altar and consented to follow Yahshua wherever He would direct me, you can find my experiences set forth in the book *Evidence of Things Unseen*. Yahweh truly had a private academy for my personal spiritual development. There was no building, no facilities, and no human teachers to direct my course. There was only the Holy Spirit, and the experiences of life that He led me through.

The path Yahweh directed me down was an afflicted path. It did not include salons, spas, golf courses, luxury condos, and entertainment parks. The path appointed to me was a humble one. Rather than having my name put on a wall of donors, as is the experience of Morningstar’s partners, and being given perks and recognition, I found myself reproached, reviled, and rejected by church, ministers, family, and friends. The path the Father led me down included facing many fears over a prolonged period of time, while daily wrestling to not shrink back from the course before me. My heavenly Father appointed to me to experience financial leanness, to dispose of the collection of material possessions garnered over a lifetime, until I was reduced to little more than the clothes on

my back. I was in peril of false brethren, and was twice cast into jail at the hands of other professing believers. I experienced the departure of my wife and son, the condemnation of parents, and brother and sisters, and could testify the following with Paul.

I Corinthians 4:11-13

To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;... when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

I did not recognize it at the time, but a large part of the allure of Morningstar was that it offered the anointing of God and the promise of spiritual life without the suffering of the disciple's cross. The neglect of the proclamation of the disciple's cross is not unique to Morningstar, or other prophetic ministries. The church at large has for the most part abandoned the preaching of the cost of discipleship set forth by Yahshua and His apostles. Because I had been raised in the Christian religious system of America, I did not see discipleship as defined by Christ modeled before me. I grew up observing a materially obsessed church's substitute for discipleship. It was a model that eschewed suffering while avoiding a radical departure from societal norms.

What passes for Christianity today is a white-washed version of secularism. A person is led to believe that they can have the house in the suburbs, a two car garage, and a secure and stable material lifestyle, while fulfilling all of the requirements of Christian discipleship as they attend their local church and participate in its programs. Churchianity has replaced Christianity. Devotion to a local church has eclipsed a fully surrendered life to the leading of Christ.

To think that I could move to North Carolina and join in the Morningstar community there; that I could be mentored in the employment of spiritual gifts, and become all Yahweh wanted me to be through the programs and life of a local fellowship of like-minded believers, was an illusion. Yahshua's path to spiritual maturity lies along a radically different road.

Luke 14:25-35

Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his possessions. Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

It strikes me as symbolic that Jim Bakker began to build the Heritage USA high-rise hotel (a tower), and was not able to complete it. He testified that it was within 90 days of having the first phase of the tower opened when everything fell apart for him in 1987. The hotel construction ceased at once, and the project languished, with the building falling into decay. It was a fitting fulfillment of the words of Christ that this man began to build, and was unable to finish, inviting the ridicule of those who observed.

The path that Christ invites men and women to walk is radically different from that course set forth by the churches today. Christ's invitation always involves self-denial and an abandonment of the rule of one's life to God. To be Christ's disciple a person must agree to go wherever God directs, and do whatever He commands them to do. Yahshua has warned all who consider being His disciples that the way is afflicted. It will involve separation from the people we love the most. It even requires that we must hate our own life, for to follow Christ is to choose to seek Yahweh's will over our own soul's desires.

Fifteen years ago Yahweh brought me to a fork in the road. The destination I was seeking was the life of God. There was a broad way that looked promising. The journey down that highway looked fairly predictable, and offered all the amenities of life while delivering spiritual experiences that allured with their promise of fulfillment. I could sail aboard the Morningstar down this way, and those directing the vessel promised me that it was God's ship, on God's mission, and would lead to reward in God's kingdom.

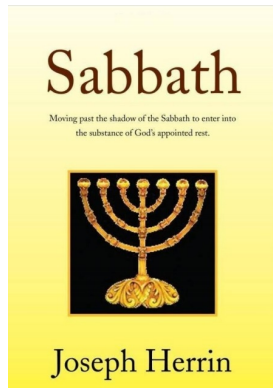
There was another path that also was before my feet. This path was narrow. It was obviously rarely traveled. The trail quickly took a turn and disappeared from sight so that there was no way to know what experiences it would lead to. Though the Spirit of Christ informed me that this was the path of His choosing, another voice was clamoring out to beware for there was danger, reproaches, rejection, persecution, loneliness, and various forms of suffering to be encountered if I embarked on this road.

It is little wonder that so many youth, men, and women are allured today by the images set forth by IHOP, Morningstar, and similar ministries. It is very attractive to think of spending one's life in the fellowship of other believers, experiencing endless hours of praise and worship, and sitting in meditative reflection upon a romantic image of the Son of God as the Bridegroom of the church. When this is coupled with a promise of a spiritual impartation, the development of spiritual gifts under the watchful eyes of caring shepherds, and that it will lead ultimately to eternal life in the kingdom of God, it is a dream come true.

There is a problem, however. The way offered by these prophetic ministries is not The Way of Christ. Since surrendering to follow a different path, taking only the Spirit of Christ as my guide, the apparent divergence of God's way and man's way has become increasingly obvious to me. As I journeyed with the Spirit I began to discern how the entire church has fallen into apostasy, having rejected the only invitation that the Son of God ever gave, which is to "Come, take up YOUR CROSS, and follow Me."

Along the way, the Father began having me share the truths He was disclosing to me. One of the first

lessons was that the true substance of Sabbath rest is to cease from our own works and our own ways in order that we might be directed wholly by the Spirit of Christ throughout the course of our life. The disciple of Christ cannot be led by their soul. They have to die to their own thoughts, decisions, and ways, and submit to the rule of Yahweh. This message was set forth in the book *Sabbath*.

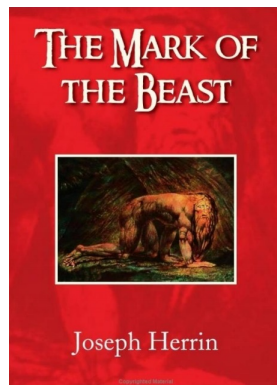


The Father also began showing me the depth to which the beast nature rules over mankind, and how it is manifested in the body of Christ. A pursuit of a comfortable life in this world is a mark of the beast nature. This is why Christ used two beasts to illustrate the difference between the path His disciples would have to follow, and the path that the religious system of this world offers.

Matthew 8:19-20

And a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Yahshua said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

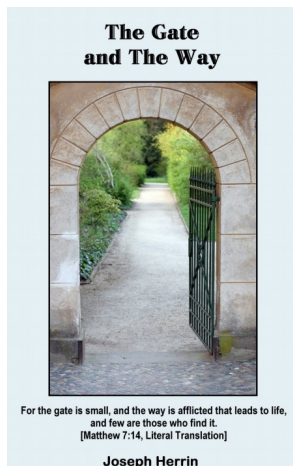
Christ was in essence saying to this man, "I do not demand of My Father that He provide Me with a house, or a comfortable life. I am content with whatever He chooses for Me in this life." Those who would be Christ's disciples must similarly be content with whatever experiences the Father chooses for them. We cannot come to God with a list of demands which must be met before we consent to follow Him. We cannot say, "If you will give me a steady job, a home, a wife, a family, a local church, then I will devote myself to your service." Yahshua will reject all such prerequisites. He simply says, "Follow Me." Christians have been bought with a price. We are no longer our own. These truths were set forth in the writing *The Mark of the Beast*.



Who would not choose a life of meditation, worship, and study in an environment such as that

offered by the International House of Prayer, or Morningstar, with their endless stream of conferences, worship services, and schools of spiritual learning? If these things can truly offer the same end result as a life of surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit (with the cross and suffering and all that it entails), the flesh and soul of man will certainly be attracted to the easier, more comfortable path.

As I have proceeded down the path appointed to me by Christ, He has continued to instruct me by His Spirit. He has had me share with those who have ears to hear that “God’s ways are not man’s ways,” and “There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof is death.” He has directed me to set forth His path to spiritual life and conformity to the image of Christ. You will find this message in books like *The Gate and The Way*.



How did men like Jim Bakker, Rick Joyner, and Mike Bickle get so far afield from The Way, that afflicted path that Christ said leads to life, and which few men ever find? How is it that they have neglected the cost of discipleship and the necessity to bear one’s cross? What led them to believe that there was another way that leads to the same destination, while eschewing the complete surrender of one’s life to Christ?

The fault does not lie wholly with these men, they have simply continued what previous generations began. Even as Rick Joyner came behind Jim Bakker to complete the hotel and conference center he had begun, these men and their ministries have simply taken the next step down the path that the American church has been on for generations. The church in America, as well as much of the world, departed long ago from the preaching of the cross. It is noteworthy to point out that this is a subject that was addressed in Rick Joyner’s book *The Final Quest*. Yahweh has been speaking to these men, but His words were snatched away by the adversary. In *The Final Quest*, Rick Joyner writes of having a conversation with the apostle Paul.

The Ministry and the Message

Then he continued, “There are two things we attained in our time that were lost very quickly by the church. They have not yet been recovered, but you must recover them.”

“What are they?” I inquired, feeling that what he was about to say was more than just an addendum

to what had already been shared with me.

*“You must recover the **ministry** and the **message**,” he said emphatically.*

I looked at the Lord, and He nodded His affirmation, adding, “It is right that Paul should say this to you. Until this time he has been the most faithful with both of these.”

“Please explain,” I implored Paul.

“All right,” he replied. “Except for a few places in the world where there are great persecutions or difficulties, we can hardly recognize either the ministry or the message that is being preached today. Therefore, the church is now but a phantom of what it was even in our time, and we were far from all we were called to be. When we served, being in ministry was the greatest sacrifice that one could make, and this reflected the message of the greatest sacrifice that was made - the cross.

“The cross is the power of God, and it is the center of all we are called to live by. You now have so little power to transform the minds and hearts of believers because you do not live or preach the cross. Therefore, we have difficulty seeing much difference between the church and the heathen. That is not the gospel or the salvation we were entrusted with. You must return to the cross.”

[Rick Joyner, The Final Quest]

Brothers and sisters, what is being spoken about here is NOT the cross of Christ. It is the disciple's cross. All who would be Christ's disciples must take up THEIR CROSS and follow Him. There is a measure of suffering that we must all drink. This aspect of discipleship has been rejected by the church, and it must be recovered. In *The Final Quest*, Rick Joyner goes on to describe a message that the Lord communicated to him after he had spoken to Paul.

“There is also another trap for those who come to know more of My anointing and power than others. They are often distracted by looking at themselves. As I was saying before you talked to Paul, My servants must become blind so that they can see. I let you talk to him then because he is one of My best examples of this. It was because of My grace that I allowed him to persecute My church. When he saw My light, he understood that his own reasoning had led him into direct conflict with the very truth he claimed to be serving.

“Your reasoning will always do that. It will lead you to do that which is exactly contrary to My will. Greater anointing brings greater danger of this happening to you, if you do not learn what Paul did. If you do not take up your cross every day, laying down all that you are and all that you have before it, you will fall because of the authority and power that I will give you. Until you learn to do things for the sake of the gospel, the more influence you have, the greater the danger of this you will face.

“Sometimes My anointed ones are deceived into thinking that because I give them a little supernatural knowledge or power, their ways must therefore be My ways and everything they think must be what I think. This is a great deception, and many have stumbled because of it.”

[End Excerpt]

Lest some should think that my heart toward men like Rick Joyner is antagonistic, I will tell you that after I surrendered to following the path that Yahshua had chosen for me, and the errors of Rick Joyner and Morningstar began to become more clear to my understanding, I began to travail in prayer for Rick Joyner. The messages he shared in *The Final Quest* were in harmony with the testimony of the Spirit of Christ. We must put on the garment of humility. The church must recover the message of the disciple's cross. There is a danger of anointed men falling from any height.

I was grieved when I considered that there were multitudes of sincere men and women seeking to experience authentic Christianity who were falling to the deception at Morningstar. They desired to enter into the fulness of spiritual life on this earth. Like Libby in the movie *Double Jeopardy*, and like myself fifteen years ago, they viewed Morningstar as a Spirit led and empowered ministry that was very attractive. Yet, there had been a falling away from truth. Ambition and pride had opened a door for deceiving spirits to enter and bring with them Strong Delusion. I prayed fervently on numerous occasions that Yahweh might lead Rick Joyner back to truth that he might not lead Christ's flock astray into bondage and deception.

Brothers and sisters, the Bible tells us that strong delusion will be present among the body of Christ in the last days before His return. Paul tells us that Christ will in no way return until after the apostasy has first taken place. The apostasy is a great falling away from truth. We are told that the last days of the church will be marked by false anointed ones (christs), and that if possible even the elect would be deceived by the signs and wonders being performed. Paul informed Timothy that in the last days men in the church would turn aside to myths and fables, and would no longer endure sound doctrine. The preaching of the disciple's cross, and the cost of discipleship, is sound doctrine.

Our best defense against deception is to embrace the cross. The person who has died to self, who is not driven by ambition, led on by covetousness, or a desire for ease and comfort, will find that their soul is not easily enticed by the promises of the good life advertised by these ministries that are building kingdoms of men. Deception is successful because it has some hook that men fall prey unto. If you refuse the suffering of the cross, being desirous of living out your days comfortably as a Christian, there is a hook with your name on it.

Philippians 1:29-30

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

I Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? Therefore,

let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

If you are unwilling to be a partaker in the sufferings of Christ, to be content with whatever life experience Yahweh chooses for you, to endure reproaches, rejection, and hardship, the great deceiver will dangle some tantalizing promise of spiritual life before you that avoids carrying your cross. It may look something like Morningstar, Morningside, or IHOP.

It is high time for all Christians to count the cost of being a disciple of Christ. It is time to surrender your life to go wherever God directs you, and to do whatever He asks you to do. If your goal in life is anything less than knowing the will of God for your life, and doing it, you may very well become one of a great multitude who make up the deceived church in bondage.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.