

"But [we] have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully" (II Cor. 4:2).

Dishonesty's Hidden Things

Embracing These Important Points

DECEIT IN TITHING

DECEIT IN VIRTUES

DECEIT IN MODERN TRANSLATIONS, and

DECEIT IN EVANGELISM

Dishonesty's Hidden Things as expounded in this booklet could well be the most necessary and sobering piece of literature to come into your hands in the past decade. It has a vital message for every Christian alive; and you are requested to read it on your knees, asking God the Holy Spirit for eyesalve to see and a heart to obey the light it contains.

DISHONESTY'S HIDDEN THINGS

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CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS! WE ARE IN A SERIOUS CONDITION SPIRITUALLY WHEN WE THINK IT IS OF PRIME NECESSITY TO FIRST OF ALL GET BY BEFORE MEN: I REFER TO THE PITFALL; OF TAKING THE INTERPRETATION OF OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD BY THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TO OUR MINISTRY, WHAT MEN THINK AND FEEL AND SAY ABOUT US, AND NEVER REALLY SEEKING GOD FOR A DIVINE SCRUTINY OF OUR WORKS AND OUR WAYS.

Dishonesty's Hidden Things

“But [we] have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God” (II Cor. 4:2).

If it were possible, in one way or another the truth of this meditation would affect every Christian who ever lived. It deals generally with an area of the life which is shied away from today, the hidden man 'of the heart: the unseen, powerful realities of the inner man, secret workings and doings in the soul, reasons for a man being what he, is—not what he seems to be to others, but what he actually is before God in truth.

Notice first,

The Presence, the Reality, of These HIDDEN THINGS

Paul declares that they, the apostles of Christ, have renounced definite things—“the hidden things of dishonesty”: the dark business of walking hypocritically and of handling the truth of God in a deceitful way. He has rejected, turned away from, the entire wicked system of dishonesty which others would study and use! The awful fact is too plain for words: there is a complete set of evil tools and methods well within reach of the man of God. He may use these if he so chooses, and he *will* utilize them unless he

refuses them. They are real; they are deadly; they are destructive. They are there insistent enough to be rejected, on the one hand; and therefore tempting enough to be employed, on the other hand. Deny the grim existence and militant intent of dishonesty's hidden things and your entire ministry for Christ will suffer the irreparable blight of God's displeasure.

Consider, too, that

**Paul renounced THE HIDDEN THINGS OF
DISHONESTY**

Many a reputable religious man has been searched by God as to his own bad motives and corroded methods and forthwith has felt justified merely in looking the other way. To him, ignoring the effects of duplicity in his life is ample enough dealing with it. On the other hand, another such man may be regular at raising a public outcry against false doctrine, going into debt, immorality among the hippies, or corruption in the local government offices, feeling that this visible commotion is sufficient fuss to make, sufficient evangelical dust to cast into the air (able to be seen both far and near), and which must be interpreted by all his supporters as the sure-fire evidence of his sincerity and devotion to Christ. (The Christian community's demand for doctrinal purity or the odd pulpit scathing of the open sins of society mean more to the standing or falling of some preachers than the majority of us realize.)

But hold! Paul talks about renouncing "the *hidden* things of dishonesty." He deals with the, subtle, unseen, sly ways and means of achieving one's own ends, while making it appear to all that you are genuine. Do not mistake me. Paul could decry public sin in a public way, but in our text here in II Corinthians he is not advocating that public demonstration against sin is the only sin against which to demonstrate! Paul's fundamental doctrines were pure on the outside, but he does not therefore use them as a canopy under which to

do as he pleases on the inside. Hidden things of dishonesty are not the outward things of orthodoxy. Paul says that he renounced the hidden things.

And we should back up and note a foregoing truth just here; namely, that

Paul RENOUNCED the Hidden Things of Dishonesty

Recognizing the presence of an inner evil leaven is not the same as renouncing it. And to renounce any outward evil might require only a kind of public condemnation of it, something spoken or something written on popular religious demand. But all such maneuvering is insufficient; it will not pass for the genuine article when dealing with “*the hidden things* of dishonesty,” with “walking in craftiness,” or with “handling the word of God deceitfully.”

Basically this shadiness is not outward but inward. Religious deceit is an art practiced in the drawing room of the inner soul, under the scrutiny and control of personal monopoly. To renounce such things, therefore, is first to have been approached by them on the secret strata of self-profit, self-interest and self-love and *there* to have disowned them.

With no difficulty whatever you can always identify the man who has fought and won the victory over inner deceit. His public denunciations of sin have in them that unmistakable sting of Divine hatred, the holy venom of Divine vengeance; while he who has renounced nothing in secret and who merely makes the odd public outcry against sin cannot thoroughly disguise his real motives for so doing (which are convention, custom, tradition): it would make him look bad not to raise his voice. One man loathes the inner approaches of dishonesty and renounces evil there; the other man has a public image to think about, a reputation to protect, and he is expected to make periodic stabs at sin in public, so he very zealously renounces it *there*. One man acts when inner purity demands it; the other, when public

pressure demands it.

We are dealing now with one of the eternal laws of truth, and it is this: that which I will not privately renounce as evil I must privately employ as good; repudiate or utilize. That which made the atonement necessary is not neutral, and if it is treated so—if it is not refused, condemned and had done with—it will worm its way finally into your hand as a tool against the Eternal Christ Himself. Drive out the Philistines or be driven out by them! One of the immutable laws of the spiritual life is that you must fight and overcome your Lord's foes or rest content to be overcome by those very foes, finally being enslaved by them—nay, verily, enlisted by them to promote the very evil which you refused in God's might to renounce and destroy.

Without a doubt, the most indulged in sin today by religious men is the flat refusal to renounce the hidden things of dishonesty. And to a man, all those of the cloth in high places who are using righteousness as a cloak for a covetous heart are but the wining victims of their own reluctance to align themselves against the hidden things of dishonesty.

In addition, now, notice what Paul is renouncing in these hidden things of dishonesty: NOT WALKING IN CRAFTINESS, NOR HANDLING THE WORD OF GOD DECEITFULLY

“Walking . . . Handling”: These are not just items to the Apostle Paul, not just isolated actions. An entire lifetime of growth and maturity is involved in his private renunciations; which, if avoided, could have developed and ripened the man into a cleverly disguised agent of the devil himself. Imagine the study, the dark self-schooling which goes into “walking in craftiness,” in successfully handling deceitfully the very Word of God itself.

Paul is not now talking about the newcomer in a pulpit gown, no recent seminary graduate or Bible school student.

Such green horns on the religious scene are in a real sense a big joke when it comes to practiced deceit. They are about as subtle as a rhino walking on eggs. Their mistakes and maneuvers are clumsy and glaring. The subtlety of the religious amateur is anything but subtle.

But give that cocky and brainy student a few years to memorize his notes and enlarge his library. Give that seminary-trained politician a term or two in a pastorate or two, a few years at fencing with the truth, and he will evolve fast enough into the expert breed of these snakes of whom Paul speaks in our text. Slowly but surely they manifest a wisdom which is too clever to be human, albeit too inconsistent to be Divine.

“Not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully”—

*From the walk remove the limp
So he'll not stumble;
To the hand commit the skill
That will not fumble:
'Tis the science of a brain
That fuses time and cunning.*

The sagacity of this demonic wisdom can teach a man how publicly to walk in craftiness and not get caught, how to dress up neatly on the outside so as to appear well groomed spiritually on the inside. Just listen to these piercing words of Paul. He has renounced the art of “handling the word of God deceitfully”—handling deceitfully that which was given man by God to deal with man’s deceit!

We are not now discussing a knife-wielding killer or a drunkard in the gutter, nor yet the outlandishness of a bandit with a tommy gun robbing a bank. No, we are talking, no less, about the educated preacher who actually knows how to use the Scriptures themselves in a sly and deceitful manner! Oh, it is not so shocking really when once you grasp the principle of it: a man either grows with his tools of grace and favour with God for God’s glory, or else he matures in

this base acumen of using the sacred text for his own glory. And I repeat again that it is no mere novice who knows how to employ with real effect the pure and holy Word of God in order to gain his own selfish ends. I wonder if the import of Paul's words have really gripped us yet? Do we see and read correctly the exact low-down science—“*handling the word of God deceitfully*”—which Paul has renounced as beneath the very name and nature of the one called Christian?

The Scriptures speak of fearful sights in the last days. Part of these sights in this hour is that which makes the blood of many of us run cold. I refer to many so-called good, evangelical preachers and leaders who are so deceitful with the Holy Word of God as to be utterly and unbelievably fantastic, How they can attain their goals and maintain their positions by a studied, consistent misapplication of the sacred text! They could never say of themselves what Paul said in I Thessalonians 2:5, 6: “For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.”

Now there are almost as many kinds of religious deceit as there are people, added to this fact, that there are about as many different shades to deceit as there are Bible verses! So no one will ever treat this subject in an exhaustive manner; however, we can bring it into sharper focus for greater profit. Below are several areas where we should be on guard these days against spiritual sharpies who are not interested in “you” nearly as much as in “yours”, who have not yet renounced the hidden things of dishonesty. (See II Cor. 12:14).

1. Deceit in Tithing

One of the very first things taught to young converts is tithing. And one can tell that this is a subtle evil because it is also the very last thing taught to the aged saints as well: this frothy and popular appeal for their wills, bequeaths and old age investments. There are multitudes of preachers who would be satisfied fully with their believers if only they would support them financially for a lifetime: such preachers would never really insist on any other virtue than “the grace of giving.” Perhaps more than on any other line today there are more Scriptures used under false colours to pry open pocketbooks than for any other single reason.

“The truth that’s used with bad intent
Beats any lie you can invent” (Chambers).

Never give a red penny to the religious shyster who expounds to you on what the Bible says about tithing and who then conveniently provides you with a list of his own projects to challenge your faithfulness to God! Such men invariably leave you with the only choice in the following two conclusions: 1) God will prosper you according to how you support His work; 2) You must answer to Him on the Judgment Day for not giving tithes and offerings to “the work of God.”—“Will the ushers please come forward. We will now take up the offering.”

Just remember that the silver-tongued fraud who uses God’s truth as a lever under you or as a sword over you in order to accelerate his own work is no Heaven-anointed man. He is not necessarily a fraud merely for preaching about tithing; but if his emphasis is on wills, bequeaths, offerings, gifts and pledges—your Dead Sea possessions—and that verily you will be smiled or frowned upon by Heaven for giving to or withholding from *his* projects, then look out and doze not off in the process! Such preachers are walking in craftiness. They are handling the Word of God deceit fully by using the common laws of worldly

psychology. They will hurt you, stunt you, spoil you and mislead you into all error.

I have seen whole Christian communities utterly sterilized to future reception and manifestation of the Graces of the Spirit merely by the local spiritual leadership emphasizing “money for missions,” or “annuities for anyone,” or “give and grow.” But under such witchery and sleight of truth the people grow only in the fallacy of faith that the tithing, the giving, the loaning of their money to a community religious project is all that really matters in the Christian life, all that God really requires as stewardship, all the duty that is involved in discipleship.

*Must thou kneel upon my wallet,
Interceding for my soul?
Wilt thou preach that dedication
Or by text, or implication
Is an offering to thee given?
Ah, deceitful, crafty worker!
Fie upon thee! Fie upon thee!*

In passing we should also watch out for the other extreme in psychology as well, which *never* takes up an offering—and you had better know it! “We do not *sell* this material”; “You can’t *buy* this magazine”; “This literature is as free as God’s Grace”; “We live by *faith*”; “We do not solicit for funds”; “We never mention our financial needs”; “We make our requests known *only* to God”—etc., etc.

Now notice carefully that while the Bible does not sanction nor encourage Christians to trumpet their needs all over Christendom for tithes and offerings, neither does it tell us to trumpet the fact that “We are Biblical and therefore we do not trumpet our needs!” Many religious grafters never made half the fuss to snare your will when you die that some do over their so-called “faith” works. By all means stand clear of the prominent man who tries to make you feel extra spiritual if you’ll tithe to his work; but be on triple guard for the sharpie with the opposite psychology, the man who keeps you constantly informed that he *never* appeals for your funds,

“therefore this work is worthy of your prayers. Write and tell us that you are faithfully praying for us”!

2. Deceit In Virtues

A little earlier I quoted those peerless words of Brother Oswald Chambers. Every Christian should ask God the Holy Spirit to write them upon his own heart with a pen of iron and with the point of a diamond.

*“The truth that’s used with bad intent
Beats any lie you can invent.”*

The wide open sins of the unsaved are not what grieves our Master nearly so much as “the hidden things of dishonestly”: “handling the Word of God deceitfully,” applying His truth in a direction and for a purpose not intended by the Holy Spirit. In other words—

What I preach may sound like seraph
Until *why* I speak betrays me!

But let me cite an up-to-date example. Recently there came to hand a Christian magazine. For years its editors have managed to dodge the glaring and practical issues in neo-orthodoxy, new evangelicalism and ecumenism. For reputational and financial reasons they have simply refused to take a forthright stand against the ecumenical movement and those their contemporaries at home and abroad who are promoting it, plainly choosing to play politics for the sake of public favour.

The pastors and foreign missionaries who are disciples of these educators lack the vital convictions of finality in God’s authority as invested in His Holy Word: they have been trained in a school that is jealous for its own image among those who support it, so they are directly infected with the school’s political mood, that if you want public support you must conform to public tastes: you must give the public what *they want* if you ever expect to get from them what *you need*.

As mentioned above, their official magazine just came to hand. For this month its theme was “Gentleness.” Many truthful and good things were said in it about “Thy gentleness hath made me great,” and “the meekness and gentleness of Christ.” Numerous and factual were the quotations from famous authors, on the subject. In the realm of rebuking, correcting, handling and “attacking” others, there was an especially strong emphasis.

Now on the surface it is doubtful that too many would suspect that such a fine article about David, Jesus and others, could be erroneous in any way or that it was written for any other purpose than the immediate implication of the exposition, “Gentleness.” But such is not the case—never the case—when dealing with those whose skill is mature in “handling the word of God deceitfully.”

Notice these penetrating words by the great Martin Luther: “If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God *except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking*, then I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Him! Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battle front besides is merely flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”

It is not wrong to talk about the meekness and gentleness of Christ just as long as such fine exposition is not in reality “flight and disgrace,” a mere cover-up, a clever maneuver to attract attention to a section at the battle front where Jesus and Satan are not in combat: a maneuver which makes you look deep and mature and active for God, but alas! something which proves only your compromising and disloyal heart. Today the important point of battle, where the real fight is the hottest, is over the final authority of the Scriptures in *all* points of faith and practice, God’s authority is being punned away, translated away, sung away and just plain discussed and voted away. This happens to be the focal

point in the battle where Christ and Satan are locked in combat. Evil seducers who defile, devitalize and dilute the Sacred Word are waxing worse and worse. And anything but spirituality is proved about the religious man who will look the other way at this crucial time and piously emphasize “the meekness and gentleness of Christ.”

It is true that David said, “Thy gentleness hath made me great,” but when there was an ugly Goliath around defying God’s authority, David did not toss to him perfumed balls of cotton batten—ever so gently—trying to make out to all Israel that this, and only this, was the Divinely appointed method of standing in the gap for God. In fact, such suave exposition on the gentleness of Christ serves not only as a deceitful protection for religious opportunists in high places, but it also sets a precedence, a bent standard by implication, inferring that anyone who gets worked up and shouts, “Is there not a cause?” and who does any thundering and lightning on the subtle neo-orthodox, new evangelicalism, ecumenical issue is immature, harsh, rash, unloving, not great, not gentle like Jesus was, and like we are.

The above-mentioned editors of the aforementioned magazine have been rebuked by many from many angles and on many occasions. They know the issues involved. They have been pleaded with privately and challenged openly to come out and fight together with Christ where He is now warring against the powers of darkness in this wide open and shameful matter of new evangelicalism—those who are promoting this dreadful programme of watering down the final authority of the Risen Christ as invested in the Scriptures. But will they do it? No, they affirm that they are not judges of God’s other “stewards”; they are gentle; they are meek; they have the “great” approach which is always careful and sweet and mild in dealing with everything and everybody. They are “great” like David because they do not reply or react to the many Shimei-type “attacks” made upon them, (“attacks” being the many rebukes and rebuttals which others are burdened enough to give them, in what appears,

alas! to be vain and wasted attempts to arouse them from their neutrality and divorce them from this unbiblical jealousy which they hold for their own public image.)

In the days of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, such men as the above-mentioned editors, standing shoulder to shoulder and pooling their politics, would have said to King Nebuchadnezzar: "We are *very* careful to answer thee in this matter, O King, and do not want to question anyone's sincere devotions." And forthwith the king would have surely felt compelled to call upon them for the prayers of dedication! And as for being cast headlong into any burning fiery furnace for their loyalty to any Divine standards, such men as these would rather have been seen as the special guests at the dedication feast for the idol, ninety feet high, made of gold!

And in Mordecai's day if the author of the above-mentioned "Gentleness" had been called upon to stand straight and oppose the wicked Haman, he would rather, with his neutral policies, have led the untaught crowd in honouring him, expounding the supreme spiritual merits of this noble act of love and devotion to God and country. Nay, more—because such walking in craftiness never halts just there, in his next week's editorial in "The Overcoming Christian," he would have handled the Word of God so deceitfully as to enflame public opinion against anyone opposing Haman (thereby rebuking his own sophistries by implication), so that it would be imperative for the public to build the scaffold for him, relieving Mr. Haman of the work and trouble involved in doing it.

Or if John the Baptist had been of this same opportune, versatile spirit, the Lord Jesus would have been obliged to make these words about him: "He shall be great in the sight of the Lord, because my gentleness hath made him great. And what went ye out into the wilderness for to see? Yes, a reed, shaken with the wind—pliable, soft, tender, unassuming and unoffensive. But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Of course you did! Soft

garments for the gentle spirited! Behold, such men are in kings' palaces, so gentle, mature, acceptable and diplomatic are they! And have you never read that word, 'Seest thou a man gentle in his dealings, he shall stand before kings'? Behold! even now the greatest prophet born among men is at this very moment the special guest speaker at the annual prayer breakfast of King Herod the Great. In such demand is, he and so cooperative with everyone!"

"It is a myth, perpetrated by those with a persecution complex, that John the Baptist lies chained in Herod's dungeon, awaiting execution for any faithfulness of his to my statutes. Only and always I have advocated to my servants the maturity of gentleness when handling the truth, over and above the fanatical-type dogmatism on absolutes versus opinions. John is great. And why so? Verily, there is but one reason for every man, one grace which is everything—my *gentleness* hath made him great.

"Indeed, and if you will hear it and learn, you will observe my own methods with grafters, hypocrites and corrupters of My Father's truth, that I myself cleanse my own temples, not in the zeal of the Lord of Hosts as some erroneously suppose, and not with the angry and insistent use of any scourge of small cords—but only with the meekness, winsomeness and persuasiveness of a life which is all on the altar for God."

And if this spirit of ultra-neutrality were in the Apostle Paul, there would have been no Paul. But let us hear him speak under its plush anointing just once, Galatians 2:4 and 5, when standing up against the Judaizers for the truth's sake: "To whom we gave place by subjection, yea, after the first few moments of discussion to avoid any divisive controversy. (We shrank from having the public call us ranters: invariably they misunderstand the forceful type, but they respond and are more receptive to love and gentleness.) Thus we yielded in the meekness and gentleness of Christ, that the truth of the Gospel might be preached among you—

Preached by all of the Lord's servants, thus guaranteeing a wider scope and a more general acceptance among you, seasoned by the mature convictions of not only us, but also of many others, on whom our Heavenly Father has certainly not commissioned us to pass judgment."

Beloved people of God, beware of this sly deceit in virtues, a Bible exposition which is nothing else but "flight and disgrace" when matched up in appropriateness with the crying needs of this hour in Christendom. Honestly, is it a time to talk about a harmless gentleness as a virtue in our ranks today and yet be claiming to train "disciplined soldiers for Christ"? Soldiers are armed, dedicated and militant. They fight and overcome, not stand and smile and yield. Friends of the Lord, in this grim hour of Church history when a man wants to appear great because gentle, or a Christian training center wants to appear ideal and right because docile and neutral, then we must sift and analyze—*but very sternly!* "Thy gentleness hath made me great" when quoted by such a man must mean, "Religious politics hath made me prominent," or "neo-orthodox sympathy and cunning hath made me respectable," or "human tact and new evangelical suave hath evolved me into the most pleasing of public voices to listen to," or (and this one gets really close to the exact nature of the snake), "sinful silence hath made me frighteningly conspicuous to those who really love our Lord Jesus in *sincerity* and not just in word" (See Eph. 6:24).

*'Tis not the sin of untried, stumbling youth—
Deceiving, walking in the light,,
A-handling grace and glory as
The very voice of truth.
To hide with holy virtue secret vice,
Is but to spread a dunghill o'er
With heaps of sparkling snow,
Pronouncing all as nice.*

*But God doth know; one day the world will know:
The dunghill shall be seen
Beneath His with'ring gaze,
Beneath your melting snow.*

Remember that we are talking about “walking in craftiness,” and “handling the word of God deceitfully”—the hidden things of dishonesty; not the wide open act of putting darkness for light and light for darkness, but more exactly, the art of putting grey for white, and vice versa, And moreover, not only the subtle calling of shades by the wrong name, but also the expert ability of proving the case, of convincing others that it is so. Actually he is not so dangerous to the Church who merely calls a grey white, but he is truly the man to watch out for who by handling the Word of God deceitfully can actually prove his shady point!

Consider now a third area:

3. Deceit In Translations

We are dealing with the hidden things of dishonesty, walking in craftiness and handling the Word of God deceitfully. From the beginning Satan has always attacked and downgraded Heaven’s authority in earth, attacks of deception which always vary with the age, the country and the extent of Divine enlightenment in any people. And there is no realm in all the world more subtly beset with practiced deceit and with more far-reaching results than in this matter of translating the Scriptures themselves—yea, the very programme which modern Christendom promotes with its highest enthusiasm and greatest zeal as the greatest good; namely, all of its new and novel translations of the Bible.

Few of us any more in Protestantism are free enough from the tentacles of big religious sales promotion to see any connection between the present plague of spiritual dearth and our two dozen “exciting,” “new,” “illuminating,” “amplified” translations of the Scriptures. During the past thirty years big things have transpired in Church degradation and Bible translation. Just one little question will put the finger squarely on both the subtle mind behind all of our new renditions of Scripture and also on the dark purpose fulfilled in the Church by them. Notice it carefully and then

notice it prayerfully.

One of the great slogans in Protestantism is this, “We believe the Bible to be inspired of God as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.” But just ask the modern-day Christian or preacher this question: “Which Bible is inspired as God’s final authority in all matters of faith and practice?” Immediately you will be struck dumb by the answer given; that is, dumb if indeed you have any God-given burden or concern left in you! All of these new and novel translations today have given the Christian such a variety of readings on the Sacred Text that they have completely destroyed his confidence in their inspired infallibility. With his new translations, the modern Christian feels that any and all of God’s Word is inspired, *providing it can inspire him*; but to accept the truth that the whole Bible is equally “God breathed,” final and eternally authoritative for him to live and die by, as something that will judge him. in the Last Day . . . well, such thinking is not to be found within him.

In these important matters is there anyone in today’s world more neutral than her present Christian? Neutral in a world which is anything but neutral! He has armfuls of bright new translations, which have done something for him not originally promised him but fully intended by the deceiver: they have left him trembling in doubt regarding the one thing about which you would suppose he now could be the most adamant; namely, the absolute finality of every word of God in the Bible; not that the Bible just contains the Word of God but that the Bible *is* the Word of God.

As well as Bible authority and inspiration, there is another major area where the modern Christian comes off the shameful loser: Bible illumination, or interpretation. When wanting new light and meaning for the Scriptures he has not been encouraged to obey God and seek Divine help, but rather has been taken in by attractive sales hooks and promises which he believes about the new translations. Here

is how they talked, and their entire subtle platform of approach was—and still is—that now the believer needs God for nothing on illumination in a Bible so clearly translated: “the Scriptures made plain”; “easy to understand in the language of today”; “everyday speech—you can now unlock the Scriptures’ hidden meaning.”

But alas! With all of our new translations and many promises of better illumination, we have received only *variation*, well-worded differences, not illumination at all. Modern-day Christendom is the blindest generation of all, the most ignorant of God’s nature, the most neutral in the field, the most wandering of any flock; and yet during the past thirty years we have been blessed, supposedly, with over two dozen new and helpful translations of the Holy Scriptures, editions which have been scholarly designed to enflame faith and set a-going the dying fires of revival!

However, there has been masterful deception in our translations. What has happened and what will continue to happen among us on a much greater scale unless the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to a great repentance and unless we return again to Him as the giver and therefore the sole interpreter of His own blessed Word? Our brainy translators and Bible sellers have promised us more light on the Scriptures, but they have succeeded in destroying our faith in the very One who gave them! Can there be anything more subtle and alarming than that? The appeal of increased understanding, but the gift of a darkened eye! The attraction of a stronger faith, but the awful possession of a lost confidence!

You gave my mind a tickle;
You took my heart in hand.
You changed my faith to fancy,
Rewording His command.
You promised to illumine
The Sacred Text to me;
To translate all my darkness
To light, that I might see.

But now I have forebodings
From Bibles thick and thin.
My dogmatism's vanished
On Christ and man and sin.
The Scriptures *were* inspired
From surface to the core,
But translators have taught me
That such is true no more.

Their variations plenty
Have caused me to suspect
That there is no insistence
Of God's we should protect
Of some inerrant breathing,
Of some inerrant word:
"The Bible is *inspired*?"
That premise is absurd!

And yet I know I'm lying;
My heart tells me I'm wrong:
The birds have ceased their singing
The Hallelujah song.
My life is dull and barren;
My faith is dead as stone—
My twenty-seven Bibles
Have left me all alone.

Their Greek and Hebrew meanings
Are masterful and fine;
And each refers, if faintly,
To some inspired line.
But somehow in the process
Of granting "more" to me,
They rather wreck my fibre
Of confidence in Thee.

O God, wilt Thou not help me—
The same from age to age?
Deliver me from Bibles
Which have no sacred page;
Which rob me of the Person,
That steal my Lord away.
The joy of Thy salvation
Restore to me, I pray.

Give back to me the Spirit,
Himself His truth to show;
The Spirit Who has promised
That none on earth can know
The things God hath inspired,
Nor can the wisest see
Without His revelation
On *His* monopoly.

And then I shall be lightened:
The Truth Himself will speak.
Translations be forgotten
With all their novel Greek;
The doubts and fears and wonder
About the Sacred Word
Shall die away forever
And never more be heard.

When facing the subtle deceit in all of our new and simplified translations, we Christians need to revamp the truth of II Timothy 3:7 to read like this: “Having a form of Divine inspiration, but denying the final authority thereof, from such turn away.” And some will say, “Yes, and which Bible is it that we shall turn to as the genuine, God-breathed Scriptures? They are all different, and yet all claim to be God’s Word?”

This question is highly indicative of those who are strangers to God’s inspired truth. He who does not know what is erroneous invariably confesses the Opposite to his shame; namely, he knows nothing final and therefore he possesses no straight edge, nothing conclusive by which to judge it. Only the man who knows the Truth Himself knows what is a counterfeit of Him. If he does not know Him, then he must in his ignorance stand with Pilate face to face with the Way, the Truth and the Life and in all human blindness ask, “What is truth?” The question of “Which Bible?” is not at all difficult to those who know the God who wrote it: He Himself said, “Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” (John 18:37).

“Which Bible of the many generations and scores of

languages throughout the history of Christianity is the God-breathed, inspired authoritative one?" Have we all had access just to one text? Must we all know original languages (regardless of our race, generation or status in life) or be among the underprivileged and the castoffs in knowledge of the Divine revelation? I trow not! Is it settled among the arguing and vying scholars of today as to which is the trustworthy Bible? I'll tell you truthfully that we do have a problem here, but it will not be solved either by research, argument, reason or higher education—and yet it is easily solved:

Which translation is jealous, for the authority of the Risen Christ, the Living Word, as His authority is revealed in all of His Written Word? Which holy rendition has met the keenest needs and the deepest cries of the human soul? Which one has supplied the obedient heart with that holy insistence that it be ruled over and dictated to on all matters only by the God-man from eternity? Which copy of the Scriptures fans your faith, convicts your soul and seizes on your spirit, leaving you oft alone in the awful arena of worship, dumb before the whole universe, groaning, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"? There is your Bible which is inspired throughout. That and only that translation is the one which God is preserving from those who walk in craftiness and handle His Word deceitfully; is watching over in holy supervision and supernatural power.

Which translation places the truth strictly beyond the grasp of your *natural* abilities, locking out your little mind completely and sending you away with a host of dead words but no pulsating meaning for them? Which Bible is it that absolutely refuses you the permission of being a law unto yourself in determining what is and what is not God's authoritative, inspired Word? Have you ever yet read the text (in German, Japanese, Latin or English or any other language) which sought to bring you to the Judgment Bar of

God and which utterly forbade you to bring, it to the judgment bar of your own puny intellect, your own silly criticisms? Well, that one is inspired of the Holy Ghost. Take it by faith, because you will surely reject it on every other line if you don't! That genuine text will yield nothing to curiosity, research or speculation. The inspiration of it is not only gladly accepted by faith, but also zealously demanded only by hearts which the Spirit of inspiration has touched; and it is coldly rejected by the brand of unbelief which is secretly advocated and mysteriously stimulated by a Bible which is produced by some brainy scholar apart from the Spirit's supervision, and which therefore is slanted only for the curious, unsanctified intellect. Hear this well if you can: in some Bibles there are things purposely hidden by God from the wise and the prudent; which in other Bibles are strong by implication, that God was in error when He said, "Even so the things of God knoweth *no* man, but the Spirit of God."

Invariably you can tell the real Bible from the false by a particular undertow in the spirit of the translation. In the entire warp and woof of its message the true copy of the text is clarion on, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth"; while the false one is just as permeated with although slyly and not nearly so open and bold, with, "By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority?" Mark it well: the true Spirit of inspiration is so successful at preserving the authority of Jesus that His people, the sheep of His pasture, insist upon living by every word that proceeds out of His mouth. And the spirit which handles His Word deceitfully, walking about in the choicest, the most delicate, schooled craftiness, seeks to terminate, side-track and destroy our Master's authority in a way so that men will still read the Bible, but with the kind of reservations which give them the inner licence to decide for themselves which parts of it are absolute and which, obsolete!

Perhaps most of us do not realize it yet, but all that is required to destroy the value of the Scriptures is not proving

on India paper that Jesus' father was a Roman soldier, or that Jesus Himself was a deceived zealot, or that in reality he was a clever devil, in disguise—nothing like that at all! All that is required to accomplish Satan's aims is simply and subtly to create in men a no-confidence mood in the veracity of Bible authority: suspicion about the premise that our present Bible is not the product of God's inspiration, *and that no one really knows or can prove which one is—especially by the confusion and controversies raised over which one was the closest to the original!* That, and essentially only that, is all that Satan is out to do with our many new versions today—in various innocent looking words and phrases to imply by subtle innuendo that “Living Letters” is now displacing the dead ones you have been reading; that this latest “Translation in Modern Speech” has it all over on anything with older styles in it.

*Absolutes are not discerned
Nor made by implication;
Nor subtle innuendo talk
The gauge for inspiration!*

Now God inspired His original word to mankind; and among even our good Bible scholars of the present there is much discussion and book making over which of the ancient texts are the authentic copies. Surely we need to thank God for every scholar who is jealous for God's authority in His Word and not concerned that the public appreciate, as he does, his ability in ancient linguistic mysteries. These men count their ministry a literal fulfillment of that word, earnestly contending “for the faith, once delivered to the saints”—contending on the strata of Bible scholarship and translation. God's true people have always appreciated, and to greater or lesser degrees have profited from, the faithful struggle in this field. However, before believing God, the ignorant farmer woman in the backwoods was not first convinced by hard-worded thesis of the authenticity of the original texts on which her particular translation was based. And the mountains of scholarly evidence on paper never yet

added one spiritual cubit to the clinging, satisfied soul who has tasted and seen that the Lord is good, trusted His word and become a partaker of His Divine nature.

After some twenty-five years as a Christian, I myself finally received several books as gifts on this issue, "Which Bible?" The contents of these volumes must have been good, but the good contents nonetheless nauseated me not a little; and to my simple faith in God's inspired Word they were anything but reserving the best wine until now! The earnest Bible scholar is contending rather for an ancient text than for the "faith once delivered to the saints." He sees the logical establishment of the text as basic to the Christian's faith. And truly the Divinely inspired original, plus the preservation of this holy inspiration over and in and through God's Word in succeeding ages is the basis of the Christian's faith; but by marshalling historical evidence and scholarly proofs so as to establish this foundational fact to the mind and intellect of anyone is not to establish the inspiration of the Scriptures, original or otherwise, *to a man's faith*. That which can be explained to a person by one man can be stolen away from him by the explanation of another. We yield precious vantage ground to the enemy when we allow ourselves to be equipped and educated to argument in the D.D. world: and this is the grave peril which looms on the horizon for most believers in this hour. Whenever God's men have sought to preserve faith's valuables by forcing their definition and analysis to rest down fundamentally upon the footing of scholarly controversy over tangibles, they have lost every time, and so has the Church.

Over and above this fact, the careful research and professional rhetoric of many good scholars seems to be a great waste when applied to the tens of thousands of false shepherds and deceitful workers abroad in the textual criticism field who have been taken captive by the devil at their will: they want to be where they are and to remain where they are. Retrieving them from their errors or convicting them of evil by historical evidence and data is as

hopeless as pleading with a typhoon to be reasonable. Only a great melting or a smashing blow from the Holy Spirit Himself will profit this, multitude of poor fools; and such is never achieved—I said *never* achieved—by crossing swords with them and fencing bravely with conflicting information and high-sounding linguistical prattle. In any field, especially among contemporaries, “Knowledge puffeth up,” noticeably true in textual criticism. (Often you know not whether a good scholar is out to make himself a high pedestal for peering down on his comrades or whether he really seeks to be helpful with a pure motive!) And when ,saucy or sarcastic, this brand of knowledge has more the tendency to sting to death those who are disciplined by it rather than lifting a man up and restoring for him the years that the locusts have eaten. Hearken, thou dedicated student of the Inspired Word:

*The world of sharpened wits and words,
Where men with minds
Fight men with minds,
Is record none
To which God points
As Heaven’s voice and final proof
That He has kept
His Word unspoiled.*

God’s way is that we declare His biblical authority and demonstrate it personally in our lives, not try to prove it in the holiest of word wars. “*In the beginning God*”—He merely declares Himself in the Scriptures to all, but He seeks to debate Himself with none. The scholar’s routes in arriving at his proofs are too often propositional, too often natural and rationalistic, and therefore not only not commanded in the Scriptures which he seeks to protect, but also quite useless in the hands of the average saint who is already—sometimes long since—convinced by the Bible’s way, faith. A Bible which the unsanctified mind can’t get into, nor the sanctified mind get out of—which can neither be penetrated by one nor plumbed by the other—can be clarified by logic to neither.

To those with true faith in God's Word, this long drawn-out and miserably involved course on original languages has no point whatever. In the world, among sinners and saints, we must contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. But it is by simple faith and obedience: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me . . . And a stranger will they not follow" (John 10:27, 5). While many today seek purely from scholarly footings to prove the authenticity of His voice, the Scriptures themselves neither advocate nor encourage us to base our faith in this process. In every generation God's forgotten proofs that *His Bible* is inspired throughout have always been the *living epistles*, which are known and read of all men; those whose everyday, present lives radiate the glory, loyalty, joy and victory of the conquering Christ; the exuberance and eternal rest of being known simply as this: "I, the prisoner of this man Christ Jesus, whom you reject, beseech you in His stead to be reconciled to God." And this kind of argument, this fruit of faith and obedience to God's Word knows more about the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures than any Bible scholar alive who dares to trust mainly to historical data for his evidence.

Under God's own supervision, His original inspiration of His own original Word has continued to this day over every translation of the Scriptures made by men of God who have been jealous for His supreme authority. And just here is where the average Christian profits from the excellent work of Divinely supervised and zealous scholars: not from the present lawyer-like arguments of many that they were accurate "because we can prove it," but rather the Christian profits from their present holy, inspired translations (in many languages) which *alone*, in the Spirit's hands, produces and nourishes the genuine Christ-one.

If it is one thing we need to get straight and keep straight on it is this: without consultation with man God has personally taken upon Himself the matter of inspiring and preserving His own inerrant revelation. And in the natural

for even good men of God to attempt explanations for its preservation, deep-seated harm to many believers present and future will result.

I am no enemy of these good men. Some of them are earnest, dedicated thinkers*; some are conceited and opinionated braggarts or bluffers with big words—but still possessing faith; and still others are caustic smart alecks with tongues full of wit and biting sarcasm against all whom their historical evidence condemns. They are weak men because they use the weak weapons of satire and ridicule. But even though I am not their enemy I will still make a prophecy against them—which I could wish would never come true! It is rooted and grounded in this principle of pinning men's faith and confidence in historical, tangible evidence of the past, and not in the omniscience of the eternal, invisible God of the Bible. If all they can give Christendom as evidence in Divine inspiration on certain texts is that which can be argued with the pen and proven on paper, then alas! all their cold, book-taught efforts to defend the Scriptures will by the year 2000 have but gone towards vigorous encouragement of the very evils against which they now so adamantly and, to a great degree, so admirably stand.

One of the unwritten and yet major laws of life in Christ Jesus is this: no man can express and explain on paper the finality of the valuable things. Only God has done this in the Inspired Text. If you or I attempt it, we will invariably destroy something in faith's fibre which, to be faith, demands the miraculous intervention and supply of the Spirit Himself; and the infallibility of God's eternal Word *through the ages of time* falls into this bracket. "The just shall live by faith"; it is man's effort to convince man with reason. "For whatsoever is not of faith is *sin*" (Rom. 14:23): the big reason is that the best of human logic tampers with the image, the likeness of

*The reference here is to such men of my acquaintance as David Otis Fuller, author of *Which Bible?* and to Edward F. Hills, author of *Believing Bible Study*.

Christ, which God has already perfected in a life solely by and through the faith of His own Blessed Son.

It is high time to put away our pens and scholarly foolscap when seeking to reduce into common the historically proven methods and ways of how God Almighty has exalted His own Word far above His name. I feel sorry for you, fellow believer, if you need this kind of bolstering and insist upon this kind of foundation for inspiration in the Scriptures. But to me it is identical to taking a Holy Land tour in 1971 to see Jesus' empty tomb that one might thereby be more fully convinced that He *did* rise from the dead.

God Himself in ways not explainable by man (nor to man) has personally preserved His own authority in every jot and tittle of His own Word. It is part and parcel of the life of faith for every true believer to accept this tremendous fact that way. As he believes that God inspired His original Word, so he believes that God has faithfully preserved that Word until this very moment. To the believer the point is not open for discussion or argument on any humanistic level. The truth of inspiration is up neither for revision nor suggestion. And no outside proof that God is faithful here is worth even remotely as much to the saint as is the inner conviction, the personal proof that "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psa. 119:105). The horror is that he can lose this inner witness if he fastens onto outward tangibles. Know ye not that the greatest miracle in the universe is God's preservation of His own Inspired Word? And evil religious men can more easily speak against it with new translations than godly men can account for it by historical research.

Just how God's Word can be so conclusive to the saint is still one of the most closely guarded secrets of the universe, in spite of any twenty-seven of the most brainy and elucidating "amplified" translations of modern times, translations which have assumed, on the sly, to take upon themselves the delicate job, yea, the Divinely forbidden task

of guidance and illumination in the things of Almighty God. But the same anointing which is given the true child of God at salvation abides upon the Bible which is inspired of God throughout; and only a deliberate transgressor can be deceived about it. “The wisdom from above is first *pure*” (James 3:17). If you cannot revolt by faith against the deceitful Bible which portrays the final authority of Christ as an option to your faith, *then why can't you?* “Wisdom is justified of her *children*” (Matt. 11:19). And one of the signs anymore that those are actually God’s children who claim to be is that they see this thing by faith: they have been born again of the incorruptible Word of God, that lives and abides forever. “My sheep hear my voice . . . and they follow me.”

Just here we need to consider in the life of the true saint the two areas whence he can be sure that he is indeed meditating day and night in God’s Word and not in something else. These two helpful and very practical areas in our lives are they which reveal to ourselves whether or not we are not only reading the right translation of God’s Word but also obeying it. As in the Scriptures themselves these areas are authority and illumination, so they are with the Christian: notice first,

Authority

In relation to myself, my personal walk with the authoritative Christ of the Scriptures must be with the tread of a conqueror. must be a constant partaker of *His* victory over self and sin. The true grace of God within me enables me to maintain a militant and progressive walk with God in the light, giving both myself and others the clear knowledge that Someone on the inside is speaking with authority and not as the scribes.

True, some inner problem may suddenly arise giving me momentary trouble, but not for long, not for keeps. Why? Because correct Bible authority has taught me how to bring every thought in chains to the obedience of Jesus Christ. Sin

shall not have dominion over the Christian who is working out the kind of Bible authority that God the Holy Ghost has worked into him, which essentially is the overmastering authority of Jesus Christ as revealed in His written Word. “Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace”—peace! He will tolerate no civil war within, no tongue which rises up to question or censure his King, no thought which would dare run contrary to the inspired Word of God.

Illumination

Correct illumination on the inspired text, not human simplification of it, nets the Christian a penetrating insight into all truth. To put it simply, he knows the crystal clear difference between heaven and earth. Some sinner, or even some saint, may pop a new question to him on a current issue which seems to confuse his vision temporarily, but the blur will not last. He has all the answers to the riddles of mankind, even the current riddles on Viet Nam, Okinawa, the Middle East, or any Cuban Crisis which can arise. This illumination gives *no* man the slightest excuse for thinking he has a unique inner or outer problem which the Inspired Record cannot touch—nor for giving others the licence for thinking the same. Even the weird questions which may evolve from hippyism’s newest sect, these too can the Christian take and answer conclusively and finally, not only with his Divine illumination on the Scriptures, but with the Biblical “form of sound words,” which refuses even to lower the solutions he gives to the popular “blow-your-mind” thinking of the moral vacuum.

The Bible-taught Christian has 20-20 vision. In other words he is not deceived about anything major in this life or the next. He does not mix the belongings of Caesar with those of Christ. His eyes are wide open both to the world he is living *in* and the world he is living *for*. In other words, he could write a five-thousand-word essay on the dangerous differences between Democracy and Righteousness *and in no*

wise mix them. By Divine insight he sympathizes with God's point of view, not man's; he could preach a godly warning against sinful Sodom before it is destroyed; and he would not be caught waxing eloquent on eternal values and the evils of his democratic licentiousness *only after it had gone up in smoke.*

By faith, not history, he forsakes Egypt *now*; it is *by faith* not by historical facts after they are behind him, that he is not conformed to this world, but is transformed by the renewing of his mind, as he believes and obeys God's inspired word *now*. The Bible-taught believer with Bible illumination loves not the world, neither the things that are in the world. Instead, he has imbibed, he has been granted, the very illumination of the Scriptures with which to see in this life; and with his periscope of faith in God's Inspired Word you simply cannot fool him or confuse him with the cleverest mixture of words! regarding man's perishing world and the glories and wonders of the next.

The man with the inspired Book in his hand and its inspired contents in his heart believes and obeys his way into the ever-brightening arena of Divine illumination on the inside and perception on the outside. He has a holy answer for the problems of men because he is at the only source for them—the Holy Spirit Inspired Word of God—where there is no guesswork involved. He recoils from the weak neutralism which permeates modern Bible translations—the shame of giving anyone (sinner or saint) the slightest grounds for even thinking that they might have a problem for which the authoritative Scriptures have no answer. He loathes the subtle thought of being a man-made tool or instrument that in any way helps to foster doubt in men's minds that God has not preserved a revelation of Himself that is final, trustworthy and eternally authoritative.

We are dealing with the matter of “walking in craftiness” and “handling the word of God deceitfully,” specifically in regards to our many new translations of the Scriptures. The

very need for their existence at all bespeaks a terrible condition both in the people who demanded them in the first place, and also in the fading spiritual leadership which has produced them, thereby moulding for evil tens of thousands of future religious leaders. The entire drift in new translations is the fruit of masterful deception which creates “no confidence” in God’s Inspired Word, and it speaks for multitudes who are unified by the deadly mood which says, “We will not have this man to reign over us!”

On the whole, Christendom wants Christ only as a Saviour from some future punishment, “in case there really is one”! But they reject Him as a monarch to be obeyed now, as well as the sole judge of their destiny, which in reality they themselves are determining each day by the way they allow this God-man from eternity to dictate to, control, master and conquer them. The telltale and disastrous result of church folk refusing Christ in this capacity has been the feverish production of God’s Word by a whole company of the Hophni-Phineas type—a word subtly translated by clever and logical minds, but nonetheless coloured with deft and demonic strokes for one single, murderous aim: to destroy confidence in the Author of the Bible, God Himself. With his own odd set of high-toned accouterments and smoke screens, Satan has achieved his goal of creating confusion and doubt on all religious levels—suspicion regarding the soundness, the reliability and the finality of the Inspired Word of God. For example: several days ago I received a large announcement on a new Bible just out, reading: The translation you can Believe in. Indeed!

But some still will say, “Very well, but in your condemnation of these so-called false Bibles you have not yet told us which one in the midst of all is the *inspired* text.” Perhaps only to some I have made myself clear enough already on this point, but if not yet to all, then I shall close this section with several added clues whereby the truly honest but confused person can easily discover this precious translation:

1. Consult Principle

To the obedient, worshipping heart there is in God's Word a great and active field known as, spiritual logic. In this field one is held fast by the following truth: God the Holy Spirit is no fomenter of civil war within His own Word. He is not secretly busy at cultivating mistrust in Himself by deliberately confusing those who claim God as their Father via the new birth.

Crowds of church people today are saying of Him in essence: "How long dost thou make us to doubt?" This general attitude regarding the Spirit's person and work and loving interest in men reveals the sinister fact that the Scriptures in modern speech, which the public so highly lauds, have been handled deceitfully. Spiritual logic says so. And no spiritual soul will be deceived about it.

Next, in searching for *the* translation of God's Word:

2. Consult the Past

Which translation of God's Word has proved itself authentic in every way and still is stamped with God's smile and power throughout? Which one has God signally blessed in the reviving of minions, in the changing of national destinies, in the delicate and yet tremendous work of mastering and convicting souls and turning them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God? Struggle not with the Bible which God used in 300 A.D. nor with the one He directed and preserved for the believers and used in a mighty way in 1200 A.D. But start with a more modern time, a translation which affects you but which reaches back three or four centuries and has been a flawless and polished tool in God's hands all this time. "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer, 6:16). Many of God's people are in great peril today simply because they have lost their

holy sense of danger—they no longer believe Col. 2:8 when they read their bright new Bibles: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

Something else in the past which we can consult is the Christian martyr. Which text poured hot off his lips as he died for the testimony of Jesus? Which Bible did he quote in his forsaken hour, when friends failed and foes assailed? Listen well to it. Mark it. That word to him was more precious than his necessary food. It was a fire in his bones, a thrill to his soul, a balm to his spirit, a guide post to his destiny. And why? Clearly, it was the Inspired Text. It should be good enough for you to live by if it was good enough for a martyr of Jesus to die by!

3. Consult Christian

Pry open the heart of a real saint of God and you will find something there of utmost value to him or her. Hear it: “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” This treasure was hidden there solely on the basis of the immutable truth which we have been emphasizing herein again and again: namely, the supreme authority of the Man Christ Jesus as He is revealed *only* in the Holy Spirit Inspired Text. The heart of a saint is simply full of this authoritative Word: he *lives* by everyone of these words as they have proceeded—and *do* proceed—out of the Father’s mouth. In plain scriptural language, our Lord has communicated His words, and “*they* are spirit, and *they* are life.” By Holy Spirit illumination this Christian sees the value of God’s life-giving truth and subsequently hides it away in his heart.

Check carefully how much of any new translation has been hidden away in Christians’ hearts? Oh, plenty of these popular versions are read and all are often quoted from in pulpits. But honestly now—and *exactly*, now—how many of their up-dated words (supposedly better for modern man)

are more precious than gold? How many are so authoritative, so final, so despotic with Divine finality that men hide them in their needy hearts that they might not sin against the Inspirer of them? Come on now, and face it squarely: how many of these words are so jam-packed and brimming over with Divine illumination and pulsating life that men seize upon them, steal away in secret and inscribe them deep upon the fleshly tables of the heart? “Deep calleth unto deep.” Why not check it out? It is a sure-fire method of finding: out which translation is inspired. “Thy words were found and I did eat them” . . . oh, the joy and inner rejoicing! (It is well known that many of today’s preachers have inscribed lots of “new” words in their sermon notes, but usually this is only that they might peacock-pose as educated correctors of the Inspired Text which their higher critical scholarship has long since taught them to reject as erroneous. But one should not confuse visible ink and religious words in a notebook written by a deceptive hand with the Words of Life, in invisible ink on the heart, mysteriously inscribed with nails from Calvary and dipped in the Blood of the Lamb of God, who will one day yet judge the world in righteousness.)

Mark it well: while some can quote God’s Word and provide you with living proof of its authority, yet many more are unable to do so, in spite of a host of “helpful” versions. Was there ever a greater deception than this, that a mortal could think that by merely updating the text to modern speech he could thereby gain the Divine interpretation, regardless? Astronaut language—it has been proven conclusively in our time that these new translations which are subtly pilfered of God’s authority and illumination have given men only a cheap kind of churchy opiate. They have allowed a man to be religious but granted him something else into the grim bargain: his right to himself, *reserved to himself alone*, with very little of his life, or nothing at all, actually brought in chains to the obedience of the final Authority from eternity, the Man Christ Jesus.

Now if after you have taken the above three steps and

are still not helped toward finding the right, the inspired translation; if after you have consulted principle, the past and Christian people you are still not moved deeply to make a huge bonfire out of all your false versions, then I have one final clue for you in your search:

4. Consult Religious Prejudice

In order to learn correctly when confronting religious prejudice, a man must have an exceptionally honest heart by the Holy Ghost or he will learn nothing of value; but if he believes that those things which are highly esteemed among men are actually an abomination in the sight of God, then he is bound to learn plenty. His task is to go out into the highways and byways of Protestantism to discover *the* inspired translation: it is somewhere among the more than two dozen modern versions whose main-line deception has been to dissolve faith in any final, conclusive, trustworthy copy of the Sacred Text. So in consulting religious prejudice the inquiring soul should do the following or something quite close to it:

a. Talk to many different pastors of all denominations, maybe twenty or thirty, to find out which modern translation has “helped” them the most. And while visiting and talking, note down the name of the Bible translation which is most often criticized, slandered, maligned and degraded to the lowest validity according to higher critical scholarship. Take special note from this strata of religious prejudice which translation is hated, which one is despised in favour of the more modern versions.

b. The inquiring soul should then confer with at least a hundred church-goers who “get much” out of the new translations—who are “inspired” by them; and again he should draw each of these people out as to which version is the most useless to them, making careful note of it—the one which they have discarded through neglect as the least inspired of them all.

c. Knowing very clearly now the translation most hotly despised by modern religious man, the seeking soul should quickly turn back in the pages of history about sixty years, just for his own enlightenment, in order to discover the exact reasons, the first insistent leanings of our brainy times away from the hated version toward a newer, “more reliable” one. And by taking stock of our present spiritual condition as laid over against the flood of new and more “reliable” texts (all constructed to enhance our spiritual state!) he will better know for himself the way to interpret the unseen fibre of the word *reliable*. And if he does not yet see that because of the Spirit of Jesus, His Holy Word as Himself is alike despised and rejected of men, then he should be asking God hourly for eyesalve that he might see and quit guessing! He who was numbered with the transgressors has an inspired account of Himself which is no better equated in the eyes of the self-governed.

d. Having come this far in the face of religious prejudice, the earnest soul is now ready to stop accumulating facts and begin acting on them: he should scan back three or four centuries and then up quickly again to the present, holding in his vision this most hated and avoided of all the translations; how despised not only it has always been by many, but also how maligned were those evangelists who dared to preach and live by its Divine inspiration; this hated version which God has signally blessed, yea, singly blessed throughout modern times as it is in truth, the very Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. At least in this context we are fully justified in turning Luke 16:15b around to say: “that which is highly esteemed in the sight of God is an abomination unto all men who refuse His kingship.”

To the honest and sincere heart this author now has a piece of the finest advice ever given freely by one person to another: the real truth seeker should take a copy of this God-breathed *written* Word and go forth without the camp unto the God-sent, God-anointed Living Word, bearing His reproach . . . seeking, His favour, enjoying His love, reveling

in His lordship, sharing His everlasting life, and ceasing from man whose breath is in his nostrils, along with all of his poisonous self-breathed scriptures! And when you read Matthew 5:18 and 19, you will know that our Lord means what he says, regardless: “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” And when you read Revelation 22:18 and 19, you will know that our Lord means what He says, regardless: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Without the camp with Jesus—we should not feel lonely or unique either, because a multitude of faithful ones were in His company before us, including the apostle Paul, who had to meet this very deceit in translations two thousand years ago. He said this: “For we are not as *many*, which corrupt the word of God” (II Cor. 2:17). These Greek, philosopher-type religionists were at it even in the First Century, walking in craftiness and handling the Word of God deceitfully.

But suffer just a little more regarding this deceit in the Twentieth Century, about a translation yet to be published which will attack and discredit yet more viciously the authenticity of God’s own Holy Word. Modern songs are a clear indication of what will soon be demanded in the Bible of the future. Its text will be one which goes clean over the hill, forsaking even the holding fast of “the *form* of sound words”: and forsooth, will sink itself into the bottomless bog of low lingo used by mad, immoral lepers. This translation

will provide the know-how to make a spook to “speak, as of the oracles of God.” It will teach you to “vamp off Jesus” (cast yourself upon the Lord); it will “blow your mind” (quicken your spirit); it will portray Jesus as the “cool” shepherd who “gets through” and understands; you can be “in” with Him (“accepted in the Beloved.”); it will teach men in a thousand verses and a thousand odd ways how to “dig” this and “dig” that about the mysteries of God; and the foreword to it will be written by some worldly wiseman with the spiritual perception of Psychologist Clyde Narramore. Moreover, the publisher who is first to dump this hoax edition onto the newsstands will become rich overnight; and the forest fire acclamation of this nightmare on India paper, this new best-seller, will quickly determine “God’s will” that other and “better” popular versions appear as well.

Certainly it will claim Divine inspiration because it will “inspire” many. It will also be lauded for allowing certain sinners to be taken out of Egypt by it, but as for taking Egypt out of these sinners *through* it, well, I pray thee, lend me for a moment your most sober and sympathetic ears: The dogma is growing stronger by the day that our simplified translations provide the only way to reach the languishing young people; that the deeper they sink, the more we must modify the means to reach them. The whole ungodly system points now to the full scale necessity of jumping headlong into quicksand in order to reach the helpless victim sinking there; but what about retrieving him after you have reached him? And what will you clean him up with in the event you do retrieve him after a fashion? After you reduce God’s mysteries to fit a fallen understanding, how will you seat that rescued one at Jesus’ feet, clothed, shaven and in his right mind? Do we not even *think* about these things any more?

With a vengeance never seen before from the Greek philosopher’s pen, this hippy’s Bible will shackle future generations to a form, of godliness which will not only deny the power thereof, but which will also spoil and pollute men so completely as to immunize them for ever more, against

the transforming powers of Heaven's holy speech—which is always with Grace, seasoned with healing, preserving salt.

I tell you in Christ's stead that all those who received not the love of God's inspired truth when they had opportunity shall be sent a strong delusion, that they should actually believe the saccharin lies foisted off onto their spirits by clever, witty devils, who are even now walking about in craftiness and handling God's Word deceitfully. (God have mercy! In the coming days of "cool" scriptures the saints must pray fervently that the earth open her mouth wide and swallow up this flood which the dragon will cast out of his mouth after the woman! See Revelation 12:15, 16.)

Yes, on the religious horizon there is bound to appear—too soon—a hippy type Bible which will openly blaspheme the *Person* of Jesus Christ Himself. And the only thing required to sanctify it to the silly public will be two little words stamped in gold letters on the cover: "Holy Bible." But until this shameful day arrives, we as God's people must be on strict guard against that which is paving the way to it—namely, a much more cloaked and sinister deceit in all of our "modern speech" versions. These are succeeding at undermining assurance in the *authority of Christ* as revealed in His Holy Word: but the coming editions of "the scriptures" will openly attack *His person* by use of these very "scriptures"; that is, today by craftiness and deceit Satan misleads many because as yet he still holds loosely the shell, the outward "*form of sound words,*" while secretly killing the life, the kernel; later when his hippy rendition appears, he will be bent upon destroying even the protective shell as it were, that outward courtesy and decency which is automatically preserved by just "*the form of sound words*" itself Thus will our mortal foe seek to remove from even the vocabulary of the saints in the household of God the last traces of prudence, piety and even formalistic discretion!*

*In his strong remarks about hippies, the author is dealing with them as the fruit of failure, the child of evangelical carelessness. The root cause of hippyism is with its smug parents, those prominent Christians in any

“Hath God said . . . ?”
“Hath God said . . . ?”
“Hath God said . . . ?”

Deceit in translations—it is as old as the hills, as changeable as the weather and as ruinous as termites in timber. But thank God for His own Holy Word and that on its authority there is a remedy, a perfect safeguard for you and me personally where it affects God’s will for our own lives and our contacts with fellow men. And that remedy?

*Renounce these hidden things—
Deceit and guile are clear no traits of His!
Take forth precious things from vile;
Mix not mercy in with mischief.
Why this urging craft to claim thee
On that day, as one who gave it
Cradle room to live and prosper,
Instead of digging cemetery spot
For it in which to die?*

4. Deceit In Evangelism

Handling God’s Word deceitfully in the translation field invariably sends its evil fruit out and over the walls of inspiration and sound Bible doctrine; there it is consumed by both sinner and saint. This is the ultimate in the Deceiver’s mind—deceit in evangelism and Bible teaching; the active sowing of a wrong seed—not by ugly atheists, but rather by men held in religious repute for knowing God, the God who gave us only the right seed.

Those of God’s people who are only partially taught of society who have talked of heaven to their children but who have, nevertheless, failed to convince them from their new translations that there really is such a place, Thus the future hippy is schooled in dead religion but taught only how to live for and fit into this world’s system. Righteousness short-circuited by dead orthodoxy’s new translations will produce hippies by the multitude in any land—and of course hated, despised and expelled most zealously by the very hypocritical religious crust of church-goers which fathered and mothered them! Hippyism, the whipping boy for New Evangelicalism.

the Holy Spirit from the Sacred Text know at least this much about the nature of evil: it is contagious and leaven-like, growing, permeating, polluting and cruelly destructive. Evil is desperately dedicated to the business of outguessing, outsmarting and outflanking the ever-unfolding manifestation of God's revelation of truth in this world. To this end Satan is constantly changing his tunic and altering his facials. Matching the times of truth with error, keeping abreast of the Divine unveiling of righteousness, is major strategy with him. And if Satan should fail to anticipate Heaven's next move, then he will quickly counterfeit it with his own matching product.

It is the utmost spiritual nonsense even to imagine that the ancient products of those who corrupted God's Word in Paul's day just fizzled out and died a natural death when their deceitful authors passed on. Backed up against this reason alone it is great folly for certain good men, schooled in Biblical criticism and quoting Greek even to think that they can piece together historical data and with these many fragments construct trustworthy signposts for the Christian which will assuredly point him on the righteous course across the changing sands of time. Not that our present good Bible scholars mean to forward error or to help our Lord's enemies—far from it! However, they fall into the error of matching down a clever spiritual foe only with what is available to them on history's uninspired and fading paper; and since some of this is strongly opinionated and seasoned freely with human heat and assumption, the whole platform makes a very shaky foundation for Bible faith—faith which demands absolutes or will accept nothing; faith which believes in order to understand.

*Believing still is seeing;
And Braille is for the blind.*

Therefore, to those of us who fight with weapons which are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, pointing our faith back to historical data is much like offering bows and arrows to allied troops in Viet

Nam's jungles and saying to them: "The enemy is in there. Go and get 'em." Many of us feel about the same way, arming ourselves with scholar-honed weapons (Saul's armour on David) after we have been born and reared for many years in the arsenal of spiritual logic. The good scholar might offer you a good weapon, but at best it is good enough only to win a word war over some corrupt Bible critic; not a weapon with which to win a spiritual battle against Satan and his ever-maturing wiles, one of which is deceit in evangelism.

About a thousand-page book in fine type would be required to contain even half of the material pertinent to this subject, while we are limited to looking only at three or four of its foundational principles.

Prominent in evangelism today is a voice which cries again and again, "The Bible says," "The Bible says," "The Bible says." But this voice neither believes nor does it live by the authority of that Bible. This voice of the world's No. 1 evangelist is influencing the Gospel effort around the world, and of course the life of the Church everywhere. He is speaking certain truths about God's Word, but openly and plainly he is not submitted to the authority of it. He does not believe in the finality of Christ's authority as revealed in the Bible he quotes, and therefore he is mastered by human wisdom, not by Holy Spirit illumination on the Sacred Text.

Fused together the above means this: there is an unscriptural and yet much-lauded voice in Christendom which is posing as a man truly sent of God, and he is setting a pattern at home and abroad to be heard and followed, a precedent in evangelistic methods and fruit gathering—which powerfully affects *for evil* the pure testimony of Christ present and future. This prominent voice has helped to invent and promote the greatest, most vexing problem that has ever engulfed so many Christians at anyone time since Church History began.

First notice that Deceit in Evangelism

A. HOLDS NO SCRUPLES ABOUT WHO PREACHES THE GOSPEL.

It has never been a Bible emphasis that just anyone can be a voice to teach or preach God's Word; that just anyone who elects preaching as a vocation is thereby eligible to speak for Heaven in earth, regardless. God's human mouthpieces have always been chosen and processed by Him.

The ministers of the Lord are marked by the following trait: vessels unto honour, sanctified and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work. The sons of Levi—those who spoke for God to men—were purified and wholly submitted to the authority of the God who anointed and commissioned them. All through Holy Writ the emphasis for those being sent of God is on cleanliness—clean because wholly submitted to the Authority of the Word preached. The emphasis all the way through is on being trained by God and controlled by God and therefore put into the ministry because accounted faithful by *Him*. In short, purity in the preacher is the sign that he has been in total subjection to the authority which he represents. And if anyone shifts this principle, then the voice which proclaims "The Bible says," must lose the "thus saith *the Lord*" in his soul; his teaching then is minus authority and like unto the scribes.

But deceit in evangelism reveals a grave peril at this first and major point. Thirty different times in a sermon it can thunder, "The Bible says," but there is still no imperative emphasis on its own personal obedience and submission to the Author of that Bible. Hence the voice who speaks truth can reserve the sole right of interpreting it, robbing the truth itself of the sole right to final authority contained within itself. Like the demons of old whom Jesus confronted, even so deceit in evangelism today will stand and cry, "I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." But even though they spoke the truth *about* Jesus yet He suffered them not to

speaking *for* Him, not to talk of Him in their words, because His word carried no authority in their hearts.

In Jesus' thinking the preaching of truth about Him could not be divorced from total commitment to Him. Were not his fiercest denunciations of the Pharisees for the precise reason that they talked like His obedient subjects on occasion but actually and only for the purpose of sitting in judgment over Him? Looking behind the religious rhetoric of the Pharisees, did not the Lord Jesus encourage the people to hear their words and obey? Adding, however, that in no wise should they pattern their lives after these fine orators in long gowns, because "they say and do not." They preached the truth in such a way as to allow it no final right over them. They enslaved the very truth which was designed to capture them. In other words, for reasons other than because of a love for it, men can speak the truth. Jesus forbade this. In "speaking the truth *in love*" the preacher of truth must have a threefold love: a love for its Author, a love for it, and a love for those who are touched by it. If this vital relationship to God's interests is lacking in the evangel, he will have wrong motives, wrong methods and wrong results.

For profitable enlargement upon this fact, consider now the demon-possessed girl at Philippi in Paul's day. In the streets she had followed Paul and his group for some time, crying out, "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation." The horror of these words is that this demon-controlled girl was speaking the absolute truth—as true as that voice you hear today which quotes texts and cries, "The Bible says," "The Bible says." Remember again these immortal words by Chambers:

*"The truth that's used with bad intent
Beats any lie you can invent."*

Paul and his company were in very deed "the servants of the most high God," and they were in Philippi for the very reason she had declared: to show unto men the way of

salvation.

Had Paul been permeated with today's deceit in evangelism, instead of curing this demented soul he would have said, "Praise the Lord! Our first convert in Philippi! God is using this new witness to advertise our work and spread His truth. Who are we to forbid *anyone* from preaching God's truth. Let's cooperate with her and encourage her to continue in the Name of the Lord. God is working."

But wait! The mighty Paul was more than just a public voice himself. He spoke elsewhere of his Master saying, "Whose I am, and Whom I serve." To him dedication preceded demonstration. Control came before confession. Paul was the prisoner of Christ before he preached Him. And so in Philippi this new evangel for truth did not gladden him nor did he say, "Praise the Lord," but rather, "God forbid!" "Paul being *grieved*" acted accordingly. What this diviner said was true, but who she was disqualified her from being a voice of truth to which anyone should listen. Someone in Philippi who was speaking the truth should be forbidden to continue doing so. Let us notice why.

In Acts 16:16-22 we have the full account of this affair of the demon-possessed girl: she was a powerful voice in that town, a soothsayer who was under the control of a group of men who were using her strange gifts to realize great money. Through demonic insight and power she could satisfactorily divine in the affairs of men for a fine price. This lucrative business had grown up over a period of time so that this young woman was established far and wide in men's minds as a real voice on unknown mysteries, someone with extraordinary ability on the hidden matters of men. (Thence she knew that Paul and his company were men of God, and she was freely and correctly giving advance information on them.) The small syndicate which owned her provided her with inquiring clients, utilizing her strange insights for company profit withal.

This, no less, was the girl who had been following Paul's

group and crying, “These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.” And the question naturally presents itself, Why not let her continue? She speaks the truth. She has a good message.

While it was true that her message was good, yet the fact remains (a fact to which we seem wilfully blind today) *she did not have a good master*. Not only was she not submitted to the Good Master of her message, but she was also under the direct employ and control of the Evil One. And the satanic control which held sway over her had no sympathy whatever for the truth she spoke.

The whole evil plan was to allow the Gospel message to be preached, aided by temporary satanic alignment, in such a way as to force the final interpretation of it to rest totally with an authority so foul, prominent and feared in that area that the whole program of God, including both message and messengers, could eventually be wrecked at will. If that had happened, a true and abiding Gospel witness in that region could never have been realized. A Gospel witness blasted—and all credit for its failure could have been laid squarely at the doors of undiscerning preachers who saw no connection whatever between what “the Bible says” and the heart condition of the alien evangel quoting from it; undiscerning preachers blind guides, the likes of which are with us in abundance today, who would have seen no connection whatever between a person who gives out that she is the great power of God, and a heart that is not right in the sight of God—and therefore unqualified to have either part or lot in the matter of evangelism.

*Behold, a sower went to sow
A seed,
With dark intent to grow
A weed—
Whose root would rapidly invent
The harvest of his vile intent.*

Paul was grieved at this short-circuit of righteousness in

Philippi. He could see a temporary agent for truth becoming the future instrument for its total destruction. Under such auspices he could see a life-giving Gospel preached today, only to be run off into the ditch of error tomorrow; a Gospel text quoted correctly on the street but misinterpreted and misapplied to the heart of the receiver; a Gospel received and believed today but nonetheless terminated and repudiated next week. The present, glowing and successful; but the future, dismal and smashed; crowds now, chaos later. The grieved and far-seeing apostle forthwith rebuked this girl, cast out the evil spirit which controlled her, and thereby not only preserved his own Gospel cause, but also by the Holy Spirit teaching the entire Church for ages to come an elementary and yet deeply profound lesson: only the prisoners of Christ are the fit preachers of Him.

Need we apply this Pauline wisdom to our languishing times? Dare we *not*, when deceit in evangelism has so clearly demanded it of us! It has no scruples about who preaches the Gospel just as long as someone—anyone—does it. With eyes full dosed it would sacrifice the ultimate for the immediate, calling that God's will. In the sight of the public, deceit in evangelism will give the cloak of righteousness to a modernist preacher, a man who repudiates the miraculous in the Scriptures and who openly despises the authority of God's inspired Word. This same deceit will back-pat a liberal pastor or an ecumenical leader, offering to them the right hand of fellowship, openly recommending them to all men as voices for truth and fountains of life-giving water—and that before vast audiences. In reality, however, these men despise and repudiate our Lord's authority as the Holy Spirit has recorded it in the Inspired Text. This same deceit stresses cooperation with Catholic priests and cardinals, calling the, "brothers in Christ," men to look up to and follow in the ways of truth; men whose authority, whose master, is a satanic and despotic system called The Church of Rome, headed by the pope on earth and supposedly by Mary in the heavenlies; a deadly and blasphemous system which has

stolen our Lord's authority as it has been Divinely preserved in the Inspired Scriptures.

*Deceit behind the sacred desk
Is but the curse
Which follows hard on heels of toleration
For the seeds,
The subtle seeds of thought,
Which whispered first in tones of silk,
"Hath God said?"*

Deceit in evangelism today is sympathetic towards the whole set of the religious sanhedrin, a whole system of wily workers who are walking in craftiness and producing and distributing the entire brood of present-day Scripture translations. These products are morocco-bound and gilt-edged by the master of guile himself in order to rob the Lord Jesus of His final authority in the Inspired Book. Therefore (and I emphasize *therefore*), this deceit in evangelism has no scruples about who is permitted to preach the Gospel. Moreover, it will go out of its way to encourage our Lord's enemies to feign themselves as just men, mouthpieces for God, pretending allegiance to Christ in order to gain public recommendation and wide recognition as servants of the most high God.

Strange as it may seem, our Twentieth Century deceit in evangelism is not out in the streets crying after Paul and his preachers; but is manifest in quite the opposite manner: the modern self-styled Paul—if you please and if you can imagine it—is rather following hard behind the entire set of divining frauds as it were, the religious crust in the world today who are directly under foreign control, zealously crying after them these grievous words: "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation." Nay, verily, the "Paul" of the present even cooperates with, and is actually sponsored by those whom he should be rebuking, denouncing and forbidding to teach in the Name of the Lord.

And yet this Twentieth Century deceit in evangelism can

be heard loud and clear on radio and T.V. boldly declaring, “The Bible says,” “The Bible says.” “Cast thyself down! [‘The Bible says,] He shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.” We of this generation should not be orated into thinking that just because a voice can quote a text correctly that it has at heart the authority and honour of the One Who inspired it.

Let us hear what the Bible indeed says, especially about deceit in evangelism, from Proverbs 24:24 and 25: “He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him: But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.”

And, “The Bible says,” “The Bible says’ this, too, in Malachi 2:17: “Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?”

“The Bible says,” “The Bible says” something else too about deceit in evangelism, in Proverbs 28:4 and 10: “They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them. Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.”

And notice in Proverbs 17:15 where “The Bible says,” “The Bible says,” “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.” And one more “Bible says” for all those who lightly take God’s Word in their mouths: “Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties” (Psa, 141:4). Oh, that all those who preach God’s Gospel could honestly claim companionship with all those who fear Him and be friends only of those that *keep* His precepts; “a lover of good

men,” who respect and revere His supreme authority in His precepts. (See Psa. 119:63; Titus 1:8). “I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.” “But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate.”

*Why claim ye Me as Lord by lip today,
Rejecting Me as Lord of what I say?*

Deceit in evangelism has no scruples about who preaches God’s truth; and can neither imagine the evil that will accrue therefrom nor correctly evaluate and deal with it when once it invades the scene. This deceit will not grieve at the awful breaches of righteousness in the world, but on the contrary takes pleasure in widening and deepening them.

“Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. . . for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God” (Jeremiah 23:9, 22, 36b).

We are discussing the matter of walking in craftiness and handling God’s Word deceitfully as pertaining to evangelism. Let us continue with our next point in great sobriety and sadness, noting that:

B. DECEIT IN EVANGELISM HAS NO DIVINE INTEREST IN, OR CONCERN FOR, THE TRUE PEOPLE OF GOD.

As stated previously, to encourage and allow the Gospel to be preached by unsanctified lips (undedicated, unconquered hearts) is to be guilty of an incalculable crime in this life—namely, the crime of committing the interpretation of the sacred message into hostile hands: the

reins of control, the results of the message preached, the outworking of the Gospel—all are handed over to a power outlandish to Heaven and in opposition to the Author of the Gospel Himself. Read it and digest it well: evangelical deceit of today has no scruples about who preaches the Gospel message and therefore hands the new believers over to an evil system which is in an ever-deepening state of intolerance toward the authority and pre-eminence of our Lord Jesus, as they are revealed only in the Inspired Word.

Mark it clearly: one of the prime burdens of the New Testament is the purity, edification and peerless testimony of the Church in this world and her systematic preparation for the next; her control by her Head, the Lord Jesus. *Deceit in evangelism is not only just unconcerned about it after a neutral fashion either, but is also set to oppose and destroy this “Body of Christ:” this most glorious creation of all the ages.*

Jesus forbade many to speak of Him because they neither knew Him nor were they submitted to Him. As a startling matter of fact, our Lord commanded almost as many to keep silent about Him as He commissioned to speak for Him. But those whom He did train and send out to represent Him were not tempered to hold to the following rule: Get the Gospel out by any man and by any means and then forget about it! Rather, His chosen men were indoctrinated in this principle: Preach the Gospel by those who are God-chosen, being extremely careful to channel the results. Preach the truth, yes, but *disciple* all nations to the one authority, *the Christ of the Scriptures*. Keep the Gospel going and developing, is the focus of Heaven; not just get the Gospel out for an immediate acceptance, and then scuttle it. Growth and perfection of the image of Christ in the saint is in God’s, programme for the Gospel; not just the rebirth of a lost sinner into the family of God. Period. And then stagnation and death.

Deceit in evangelism is shortsighted when it comes to viewing the Christian. It simply does not share any of God’s

long-range intentions and plans for him. Notice its sly process: tamper with the *authority of Christ* in the Inspired Text and thus licence anyone as a voice for truth; and then tamper with *the life of Christ* in the believer by channeling him away into hostile hands and thus successfully killing off anyone who might be a potential living proof that Jesus Christ is really the resurrection and the life (the Judge of the quick and the dead) as He clearly states in His Inspired Word. Deceit In evangelism gets Its ungodly scruples from handling the Word deceitfully; it gets its ministry by devitalizing and destroying the glorious Church, which our Lord is perfecting, that is without spot nor wrinkle nor any such thing.

But what about Paul, the man so mightily used of the Holy Ghost because he had renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, being in full subjection to the authority of Christ as revealed in the Scriptures; this man whose scruples were pure and whose joy was full only as he prayed for and saw the authoritative Christ of the Inspired Word formed in God's people? Look now at what he says about terminating the Gospel in men's lives by unfriendly hands as soon as it has been preached to them by unsanctified lips. In Galatians 2:5 the Apostle Paul is writing about certain unanointed Judaizers in the Church of Jerusalem who disputed with him and others, seeking to downgrade the authority and life of Christ in His people, "to whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour, that the truth of the Gospel might *continue* with you." And not only that the truth of the Gospel might continue, but that it "might continue *with you*," the believers. It was never in Paul's mind just to glibly preach Christ and get the Gospel out to sinners by any means, but contrariwise, to contend for this Gospel and keep it going *among the saints* by righteous means. The Christ of His Inspired Word must be formed in His people by the Spirit of His Inspired Word; and neither the Gospel nor the burden for its continuation can be shared by those who handle the Word of God deceitfully in their preaching and who throttle God's

interests in their teaching.

And who is he who can honestly say that we are not plagued in the present with false preachers and false teachers? More and more we are being strangled by unfriendly hands: the Gospel is forbidden to *continue* among the believers and therefore the life of Christ is being throttled in the Church. Hostile and deceitful workers are seeking to terminate God's living witnesses in this world just as they have greatly succeeded in many places at silencing His authoritative voice in His Holy Word. By its very evil nature deceit in evangelism must carryover into the Church in the form of strangling and wolfing.

The Master once faced a certain disciple of His and said, "Lovest thou me more than these?"

And he replied, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee."

Three times over Jesus said in effect, "If ye love me, keep my commandments"—"Feed my lambs; feed my sheep; feed my sheep": that is, feed and nurture and care for my people if indeed you are submitted to my authority and armed with my interests in them. Moreover, Peter did not interpret these commands to feed His sheep as meaning, "Employ *anyone* to preach the Gospel, and then send the converts off to the modernist, liberal, Catholic and apostate churches who sponsor you in the campaign, there to have them stunted and stifled and ruined and disillusioned and conditioned and driven by frustration to the darkness of hippyism."

"But the Gospel is being *preached* and souls are being *saved* in these campaigns!"

Paul said that he fought for the continuance of the Gospel among the Christians, not just its preaching among sinners.

"But souls are *saved*."

Babies were born in Jerusalem, too, in the days of the

Babylonian siege, but they had their heads smashed against boulders by wicked hands.

And some are insistent with loud voices to say, “Is *God* a sinner, then, for saving souls under the ministries of these men?”

Why labour to justify the wicked in their ways by piling into the scales of deceit the fact that God saves souls wherever and whenever He can?

“Is *God* the sinner then?”

No more, I would think, than any legal mother would be a sinner for giving birth to her baby. I may be a little dense in some things, but it seems to me from the Inspired Word of God that the “sinner” in all this might be those wicked ones who smash the babies’ heads on the rocks of false teachings, “deceitful workers,” of whom Paul wrote, who despise our Lord’s authority in His Inspired Word, subsequently aiming to terminate His life in all those born again of Him.

It is becoming very hard to deal conclusively with evil today, to spot and pinpoint and bring light to bear upon its ever-changing tactics. The dearer the error and the longer it has beclouded men’s thinking, the more difficult it is to correct—always. And the one we are trying to get hold of here is deceit in evangelism.

The fact remains that Spirit-taught men fight for the continuation of the Gospel among believers, while those who savor not the things that be of God but have personal plans and ambitions are outwardly zealous only that the Gospel be preached to sinners. Thus birth becomes death.

*Beginning is an ending
On this side of the Cross.*

Deceit in evangelism is not concerned about Christ’s interests in His people. It has long since discredited His authority by tampering with His Inspired Word, and likewise plans to keep His authoritative life and power from

influencing the saint.

For dogged dedication, this deceit is much like King Herod of old when he heard of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem: he sent forth into that whole region and had all children slain who were two years old and under, seeking to snuff out the life of the Son of God at birth. And Herod's works do follow him: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." And when deceit in evangelism so deliberately and willfully terminates Christ in the Word, then there is no scruple or restraint left in it to refrain from terminating Him in His people. Do not forget it: the best thing said about those who touch the saint with any form of an unsympathetic hand is this. "Why persecutest thou *Me*?"

In Acts 20:29 Paul said this to the Ephesian elders: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock." Indeed so! With that mighty man of God it was after he left the scene (not while he was there) that butter-tongued traitors and corrupters with new translations and ecumenical plans would come in. Paul loved God's eternal interests in His people. He shared his fellow apostle John's outlook for them: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (III John 4). But you cannot say one-tenth that much about our popular deceit in present-day evangelism. Few care any more if Christ be formed in the saint. What are deceivers doing in this hour rather than praying that Christ take up His authoritative abode in His people? What else but throwing wide the gates of the fold, commending and inviting in the "grievous wolves." What does Mr. Deceit do today? Simple. He introduces to the sheep as future shepherds to love and trust and follow these exact wolves whom Paul would have gladly spilled his blood to keep out; wolves about whom John would have said, "Beware, little children."

What a horror of great darkness is upon us today! What

blindness of spiritual eye! What utter unconcern that the Gospel continue with the Christians! Deceit in evangelism has stolen our Lord's authority from the Inspired Text and it therefore cares not for the interests of the authoritative Christ in His children.

Notice in John 10:11-13 that it is the great, the authoritative, the true Shepherd, who "giveth his life *for the sheep.*" He does not see the wolf coming and in one of a dozen popular ways try to minimize its nature, camouflage its designs, ignore its presence, rationalize its interests or flee the fold Himself, letting the beast catch the sheep and scatter them. Jesus tells us plainly that the hireling (false shepherd) "fleeth because he is an hireling" (is wrongly related to His authority) "*and careth not for the sheep.*"

All those who view Him as "the good Shepherd," the only authoritative shepherd, are not found giving-place by subjection to the wolves of error, "no, not for an hour, that the truth of the Gospel might continue with" the sheep: they are not found posing with these wolves, sponsored by them, sympathetic towards them, ignorant of their devices or fleeing from them when they come skulking around. True shepherds feed His sheep and are deeply burdened that the truth of the Gospel continue with them in all of its glorious power and sanctifying grace and mystery.

God is vitally interested in His people. The Inspired Text (Eph. 4:11, 12) tells us what the good shepherd has done for His Church: "Gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." But for purposes of destruction and ruination, deceit in evangelism has put into the Church apostates, false prophets, grievous wolves, corrupters, and a whole array of religious leaders who walk in craftiness and handle the Word of God deceitfully, men who seek their own and not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

By way of contrast to the hireling, notice carefully the true burden of any true shepherd:

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulnes; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.”

—Colossians 1:9-23

We have been saying that because deceit in evangelism must remain consistent with itself and its evil ends, the following is therefore true: as it has subtly tampered with the authority of Christ in the Inspired Text, so it is left with no

scruples as to who preaches that text. Hence and therefore, it is careless that the everlasting Gospel have free course in, continue with, and be glorified in the believers. In short, deceit in evangelism uses the Gospel as a present tool to personal self-glorifying ends rather than as a present and future channel to glorify Christ in His people.

Do you not see the present new-evangelical fervor as indicative of this very principle? Stop and consider it briefly: in recent years there has been an extreme emphasis upon “reaching the lost,” but comparatively little upon “concern for the saved,” crowning the authoritative Christ King in Christians’ lives as He is revealed in the Inspired Text. The sinners are “loved” into salvation, and the saints are ignored into annihilation!

Thus we have with us this awful monstrosity of evangelism, with a few big and deceitful guns (promoted by anyone) being the voice of evangelism, instead of allowing the local church to reach out in her own area as her own powerful voice in witnessing, adding saved sinners to her number and so leaving, a permanent, pure and true testimony for the Risen Christ. Consider the irony and subtlety of the present situation: the Church and her witnesses monopolized and headed by a man who is hostile to the authority of Christ in the Scriptures and subsequently the life of Christ in the believers! What chance do new believers in any locality have to pursue a pure witness who have been turned over into wicked hands to be strangled at birth? Surely we can see what is happening! Is not this terrible condition clear enough to us now to make us burdened for it?

Therefore—and read it soberly—any brand of modern evangelism in depth, so-called, promoted by men who imply that God has not provided His people in this age with a Divinely inspired, absolutely authoritative and inerrant account of Himself, any such evangelism in depth, I say, is nothing but evangelism on a sand bar.

The earnest, honest soul can easily discern who these men are to whom I refer because:

C. DECEIT IN EVANGELISM REFUSES TO WARN GOD'S PEOPLE ABOUT HIS CURRENT ENEMIES.

The authoritative Jesus in the Inspired Text has told us that Satan is not divided against himself: he will neither expose nor condemn himself in favour of the holy record which God has given us of His son; but as we have already noticed, he will always work in close cooperation and affinity with his own.

True, Satan may campaign against certain “enemies,” but here again he succeeds merely in revealing his true self: according to Mr. Deceit, the only bad person, the only deceiver, the only crafty foe to watch out for is someone who resembles “the Prince of the devils,”—any man who is adamant about Christ’s Inspired Word and His supreme authority as revealed in that word. To say it this way: To Mr. Deceit in evangelism the only real enemy on the religious scene is the man who insists upon living by every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God—and *who is dogmatic enough to know which is and which is not the Divinely Inspired Account to live victoriously by, to judge conclusively by, and to die gladly by!*

We will be brief now and not spend a long time on this final point, and you as a true child of God can easily check out as a conclusive, startling truth what we are about to say. Something very shocking will be immediately evident about Mr. Deceit in Evangelism if you will:

- (1) Listen to your radio and take notes;
- (2) Watch T.V. and take notes;
- (3) Read all of his printed material and take notes.

After doing this for several days, see if you have: recorded just one instance where Mr. Deceit condemns modernism, exposes liberalism, warns against Catholicism or

stands (even weakly) in the gap, decrying ecumenism, the World Council of Churches or anyone of a dozen evil branches, roots or fruits of the religion of Antichrist?

Deceit in evangelism today gives the Church of Christ the over all assurance, the sly persuasion, that within (as well as without) her structure she has no cause for alarm; that Jesus does not have one current enemy unless it is someone who is pigheaded, unloving and divisive enough to believe that all God says in the Bible is Divinely inspired.

However, notice Acts 20:28-31, where “the Bible says,” “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

Here was a true shepherd. He warned God’s people of God’s enemies and theirs. In vs. 28 he commanded the Church leaders to *feed* the sheep, not strangle them. In vss. 29 and 30, Paul displayed his faithfulness in keeping out the wolves of error, and he warned them of corrupters who would arise among them after he departed. Then notice these revealing words in vs. 31: “Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

Here is Paul, a man who lines up the Church leaders of Ephesus, reminding them that for three years, day and night, *with passionate tears*, he has faithfully warned them of evil men; so much so, that they cannot point to one day or one night when he did not caution them!

Now take the notes you made on Mr. Deceit and check his extreme dissimilarity to Acts 20:31: Was there even one

occasion when he faithfully warned God's people of a real enemy of Christ? Notice this ever so carefully: When *did* Mr. Deceit in evangelism ever warn Christians? And when *didn't* the man under Christ's authority warn Christians?

Day and night for three long years,
I ceased not warning saints with tears:
Of evil men with perverse ways
Who would arise in future days,
Involving faith in errors odd,
Enticing souls away from God.
Remember, saints: The man who's true
Will prove his love by warning you.

No stormy day, no weeping night
Of warning, guiding saints with light,
To shun those who walk craftily
And use God's Word deceitfully;
Who interfere by tongue and pen
And change the destinies of men?
Beware! The strictest sentry keep:
And hireling careth not for sheep.

"But I am come," the Shepherd saith,
"To give My life and scatter death:
To work in saints My will to know;
To nurture, feed and cause to grow.
But hirelings prey on those who live,
To gain by plunder; not to give."

All I can say here in this (and may God the Holy Ghost give you a heart to interpret it correctly): Psalms 11:3 "If the *foundations* be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Proverbs 22:3 "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." Philippians 3:17-19 "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you *often*, and now tell you *even weeping*, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)" John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd: the good

shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” Philippians 2:21 “For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.”

In Conclusion

In II Corinthians 4:2, Paul said that he had renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, along with walking in craftiness and handling God’s Word deceitfully. Notice what he did positively in his next words: “By manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” Paul’s emphasis in preaching was an open *manifestation* of the truth to a man’s conscience: not a secret *manipulation* of the truth to his wallet, his intellect, his reason, his patriotism, his logic, his emotions or his fighting ire!

As you live the Christian life in this world, just remember that the man who does you the most good is he who seeks to bring your conscience and your will under the full focus, the entire dominion of the authoritative Christ as God has given us record of Him and set Him forth dogmatically only in the Inspired Text. Let this Text be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your pathway, and boldly reject everything else.

A Word About The Author

For the past twenty years Mr. Fieldhouse has been a missionary to Japan, and may be reached at the address of the publishers of this volume. His main burden rests with the spiritual condition of the mystical Body of Christ throughout the world.

*By the few he is accounted to be a prophet of the pen with a vital and fitting message from God for Christendom in these grim days: and by the many he is said to be demonic inspired, a free lance fanatic whose nearest kin is Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. But regardless of the extreme and conflicting opinions about himself and his ministry, the author is a strong believer in the fact that truth is justified only of her **children**; that it is only polluted, belittled, misrepresented and desecrated by all those who defend error and yet pose as Blood relations of the King of kings. He is a stickler for the principle that all those who lay claim to the great honour of being born of the Holy Ghost and the Word of God should speak only the very highest of the Biblical Jesus, including everyone who claims with trumpet tongue and convincing gesture that “we have one Father, even God.”*

Mr. Fieldhouse has written over a dozen vital books, some thick and some thin. They are earnestly recommended both to the hungry in heart who are journeying towards the Holy City, as well as to those with a cold heart, who seem to have no higher aim in life than to lice comb evangelical writings in search of theological lint—lint with which they can take exception and forthwith reject the whole, thus appearing to some as champions of righteousness.

Author Fieldhouse does not apologize for his crystal clear message. He realizes that it is a savor of life unto life to some and a savor of death unto death to others, and that only God Himself is sufficient for these things. He also strongly believes that either men or machines are fully to blame for any message which leaves men in the fog of neutrality, the moral mists of wondering, discussing and conferring about what God loves and what God hates.