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Victory Baptist Press is a ministry of the Victory Baptist Church of Milton, Florida

Founder *Dr. Thomas F. Woodward (1935 - 1994)* - **Pastor** *Tim Fellure* - **Editor & VBP Director** *Jim Fellure*

The Newsletter is the official publication of *Victory Baptist Press* and is sent free of charge to those who request it. The main purpose of the Newsletter is to promote missions with an emphasis on the printing and distribution of the Word of God. While we may not agree with every statement printed from outside sources, we will make every effort to keep the paper as free from error as possible. To receive the Newsletter send your complete mailing address to: P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572-0766. Phone: 850-623-2505. Fax: 850-623-3502 e-mail: news@victorybaptistpress.com

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12TH ANNUAL

EMERALD COAST

Jubilee

JANUARY 8-12
7:00 EACH NIGHT

GUEST SPEAKERS

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MARK WESLEY

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VICTORYBAPTISTCHURCH

Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

This is Monday, October 30th, and I am writing these notes from my home in Milton, Florida. We have turned the spare room at our house into an office, and it is certainly a much more convenient place to work, especially early in the morning.

ONE MILLION DOLLARS RAISED FOR MISSIONS

The meetings since our last Newsletter have been wonderful, and I wish I could report on them all, but space won't allow it. I deeply appreciate every pastor that has used us in any kind of meeting, but I especially enjoy the mission conferences. In the month of October alone, I took part in five different mission conferences and saw more than a million dollars promised for world-wide missions within the next year. Our home church, Victory Baptist here in Florida, ended their annual Faith Promise Conference yesterday. Last year the church gave \$255,000 to missions, and the new commitment taken yesterday went up to \$270,000 for the next year. To God be the glory!

MISSION TRIP TO PACHUCA, MEXICO

The highlight for the month of September was a trip to Pachuca, Mexico, to preach for missionary Adam Thompson. Pachuca is a city of 700,000 people about an hour north of Mexico City. There are only two gospel preaching Baptist churches in the city, and Brother Adam started one of them six-years ago. They have close to two hundred

people (They have personally won most of them to Christ.) meeting in a rented facility until they can finish a building on their own property. They have the foundation down and the pillars up, but they are temporarily out of building money. Just as soon as they get in their own building, they plan to take what they are spending on rent and start another church in a city of about 40,000 one hour east of Pachuca with no gospel preaching church at all.

I just happened to be in Pachuca on September 15 which is Mexico's Independence Day. We went to the big celebration downtown that night, and I have never seen as many people in one place in my life. Brother Adam is having a Mexico patriotic cover designed with their church information for a Spanish John/Romans, and Victory Baptist Press plans to print 50,000 copies to be distributed during the big celebration next year.

RVG 2004 SPANISH BIBLE

For several years Brother Humberto Gomez has worked at perfecting the Reina Valera Spanish Bible. Through the testimony of many Spanish speaking people, we are convinced it is by far the closest thing to a King James Bible in Spanish in print today. We have already printed several thousand of the New Testaments and will soon be printing the entire Bible. Brother Humberto is a very humble, generous, dedicated man of God. He has given hundreds of the hardback and also leather bound Bibles away, and I know personally that he borrowed several thousand dollars to have them printed at a commercial printer. He has worked hard at paying off the loans and is now in the process of raising the funds for another printing. With Hispanics being the largest minority group in America, we would even be doing our country a great service by supporting the RVG 2004 Bible printing.

If you can help Brother Humberto with an offering to help get the Bibles printed, contact him at (956) 867-1281 or email him at humberto_gmz@yahoo.com.

We also have a fourteen page article in-

STATEMENT OF FAITH

W^E ACCEPT the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice.

W^E BELIEVE in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

W^E BELIEVE in the deity of Christ - His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillennial return.

W^E BELIEVE all men are sinners and are guilty before God, in need of a Saviour.

W^E BELIEVE that men are born again through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

W^E BELIEVE in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world.

cluding a comparison of over two-hundred verses from nine different Spanish New Testaments, by Brother Rex Cobb. If you would like the article emailed send your request to jfellure@victorybaptistpress.com.

Please continue to pray for us and may God bless your service for Him.

In Christ,
Jim Fellure

Mission Attrition

by Rex L. Cobb

Dr. Jeff Williams, veteran missionary to New Zealand, gave the BBTI graduating class of 2006 a sad example of the attrition in our Baptist missionary force. He was one of 450 missionaries supported by a church on the east coast. Unfortunately, the church lost a number of members and could not continue supporting that many missionaries. They vowed not to drop any missionaries but not to take on any new ones. At the end of four years, the number of their missionaries still on the field had decreased to 280! One hundred and seventy missionary families, or almost 38% of their missionary force, left the field in only four years! Perhaps a few died or retired, but the vast majority left for other reasons.

At a time when the world population is increasing rapidly, making the need for missionaries even greater, the number of missionaries going to meet that challenge is decreasing. Furthermore, many missionaries drop out after only a year or two. Some stay for four years, take a furlough, and then do not return for a second term.

Veteran missionary to Japan, Kenneth Mansell, says that in many countries the number of missionaries returning for a second term is as low as 10%! How many of those missionary families planned to stay only one term or less? On deputation, did they tell the churches that they would need support for only twenty-four or thirty-six months? No, they planned to spend a lifetime on the field! Therefore, we conclude that something went wrong! Could it have been prevented? Was it God's plan for them to spend three or four years visiting churches to raise their support, spend thousands of dollars on passage to the field, then thousands more to set up housekeeping, buy a vehicle, and go to a language school, etc. only to return home in such a short time? What does this do to church members who pray and make financial sacrifices to help send these missionaries? It must be heartbreaking for the missionaries themselves who must live with the fact that they left their field before they planned to. The important

question, however, is where does it leave the heathen that never hear the Gospel of Christ because a missionary never went to them or did not stay long enough to learn their language and culture and preach Christ?

The field is a difficult place. If the Devil attacks any Christian, you know it is the one who invades his territory, the mission field! There are many diseases on the field that might cause a family to leave. (But why don't they return when they are well again or find another field where medical services are available?) When a missionary family is discouraged because of their inability to communicate well with the people, when the culture stress is great, and when the results are few, they are tempted to use one of the many "respectable" reasons for leaving the field.

Political problems, wars, inability to renew visas, and such problems sometimes force missionaries from their chosen field; but why don't they go to another country? Is the call of God a "there or nowhere" call? Is a closed door a call to go home? It wasn't for the Apostle Paul!

Many missionary casualties result from the inability to learn the native language and culture. It may be that the husband or the wife is overcome by language or culture shock. Perhaps they reason, if we cannot reach these people, what use is it for us to be here? Very few missionaries are going to admit that they dropped out because of failure, and we are not going to judge them; but we cannot help but wonder. A pastor should make it his business to find out what went wrong. His question should be, what can be done to drastically reduce this tragic rate of attrition?

Are the people being sent to the field of a poor quality and destined to fail? Should mission applicants be better screened so that the potential dropouts will be weeded out? That would reduce the number of missionaries even more; and besides, what reliable test can be used to predict whether or not they will stay on the field? Are those who leave the field prematurely less intelligent than those who stick it out? I doubt it very much. Are the casualties less spiritual than those who succeed? Probably not.

When an exceptional family is willing to give up the American dream and serve Christ on a foreign field, why not prepare them for what they are going to encounter? Are they not worthy of the very best possible preparation? Don't tell me that all they need are Bible college and language school; the ones who came home in defeat went to Bible college and language school. Don't tell me that people are dying without Christ and we cannot afford the time for specialized training. We insist missionaries take all the time needed to raise financial support, don't we? Besides, the missionary trained in linguistics and language learning will learn the new language more quickly and accurately than the one who rushes to the field without it.

Am I wrong in thinking that missionaries should not go to a new and difficult field without proper training in language and culture learning? Most Baptist missionaries are bypassing the one school available to them, and naively saying, "I can't fail! I am spiritual! I am called of God!" So were the ones who came home. Am I wrong, or is the pastor wrong that would send his precious missionary family to the mission field ill prepared?

Mission attrition is an undeniable reality. We cannot stop missionaries from leaving the field because of death. We have no right to demand that they not retire, but die on the field. Some are going to leave due to life-threatening illness. However, we must prevent the preventable causes of mission attrition! A missionary couple that can successfully learn the new language and adapt to the culture is naturally going to reach the people for Christ; and they will be much less likely to leave their field prematurely. The nine-month intensive training program of Baptist Bible Translators Institute prepares missionaries to succeed.

EDITORS NOTE: BBTI is an Independent Baptist ministry, sponsored by East Side Baptist Church of Bowie, Texas.

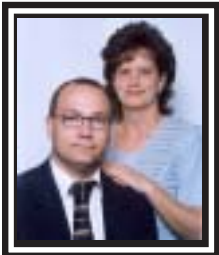
For a free CD presentation and catalog about BBTI, write to P.O. Box 1450, Bowie, TX 76230, Ph: (940) 872-5751
email: info@BaptistTranslators.com, or visit their web site: www.BaptistTranslators.com.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE VICTORY
BAPTIST PRESS FIELD REPRESENTATIVES**



BILL AND VICKI RICHBURG left a full-time ministry in South Carolina and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in January of 1999. Brother Richburg has pastored churches in West Virginia, Virginia, and South Carolina.

Contact the Richburgs at P. O. Box 508, Six Mile, South Carolina 29682. Phone (864)868.9988/(864)506.2380.



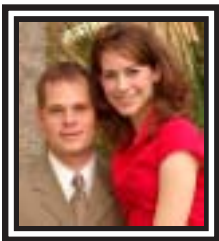
RICK & MELINDA REED have been field representatives for Victory Baptist Press since October of 1996. Brother Reed gave up a very comfortable and secure employment position in order to help send the glorious Gospel of Christ around the world through this ministry.

Contact the Reeds at 12207 Buckhorn Cemetery Rd., Moody, Texas 76557. Phone (254)853.9353.



MARTIN AND ANNE FULLER left a full-time ministry and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in January, 2002. Brother Fuller attended Tabernacle Baptist College of Greenville, South Carolina, and was on staff under Dr. Harold Sightler. He also served as assistant pastor and youth director and pastored for twelve years in Texas.

Contact the Fullers at P.O. Box 474, Grovetown, Georgia 30813. Phone (706)556.8369.



Paul and Rachael Edes: Paul has been in Victory Baptist Church for the past fifteen years. While attending Oklahoma Baptist College in Oklahoma City, he met Rachael, and after graduation in May of 2005, they were married and started their service for the Lord together. We are glad to have this fine,

dedicated young couple as field representatives. Contact the Edes at P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32577. Phone (850)384.1564.

**A NOTE FROM BILL RICHBURG
General Field Director**

Recently we drove past several large farms with many crops in different stages of growth. Some were ready to be harvested, however, no one was working in those fields. I couldn't help but wonder if these farmers had lost interest in their fields. That simple scene reminded me that the mission fields of this world are also now white unto harvest, but the laborers are few and time to reap the harvest is swiftly passing by.

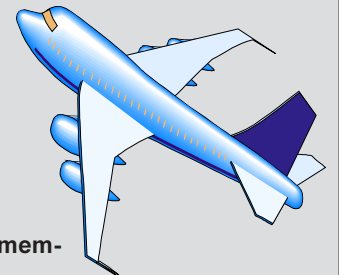
Harvest time also reminds us that Christmas is just around the corner. Within the next six weeks billions of dollars will be spent on gifts with no lasting value to give to family and friends, but some, even professing Christians, will show very little interest in the fields that Jesus said "...are white already to harvest." This Christmas season would be a good time to include Victory Baptist Press in your giving and thereby help some missionary reap a harvest of eternal souls. Five-hundred dollars will purchase one roll of paper; \$684.96 will pay for one complete day of operation of the print shop, but regardless of how much you give, your gift will go toward providing Bibles, without charge, to some missionaries.

Also, during the holiday season, meetings slow down for the field representatives. If you could use a VBP rep. during this season to present this scripture printing ministry to your church, contact me, and I will put you in contact with the rep nearest to you.

Please continue to pray for me and the other field representatives as we labor recruiting help for the ministry.

Bro. Bill Richburg

**Robert & Leonor
Schmidt Willing To
Help Ministries With
Low-Rate Air Fares**



Brother Bob Schmidt and his wife, Leonor, are faithful members of Victory Baptist Church. They are travel agents and do their best to get the best flight rates available for the brethren. Brother Bob says they can do especially well with overseas flights.

Ph: 702-437-9999 - email: bobleonor3@bellsouth.net



For your personal copy of the fifteen minute DVD showing the actual operation of the printing ministry, send your request with your mailing address to Victory Baptist Press, P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572 or email us at news@victorybaptistpress.com. We will send the DVD immediately at no cost to you!



Blessings & Benefits

by Mrs. Pam Leake

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. (Ps. 68:19)

The teaching year had ended at our church and a twelve-year-old young man who had been in classes I had taught throughout his life, had graduated out of my realm of teaching. He surreptitiously left me a note that touched my heart and encouraged me to keep on. His note, in part, said, "Thank you for all the times you taught me in the past. I will miss your teaching a lot. I miss J.A.M. Youth already. I guess it's called "life" and growing and getting older.

Just a few words, yet what an impact it had on me. I began to think about the benefits and blessings of being a teacher, especially a teacher of God's Word to children. The impact that the Word of God can have on a young life (or any life!) is immeasurable. God gave me an acrostic that indicates the power that teaching God's Word can have.

*I mpress a mind
M ake a difference
P lant a seed
A ssist in learning
C hange a life
T each the Truth*

If you have the privilege of teaching - teach on! The effects are far-reaching and oh, so valuable. If you think perhaps God could use you in that capacity - make yourself available to Him. The notes from your students are the immediate, tangible blessings, but the heavenly rewards are the eternal benefits. Make an impact on a life!

Pam Leake

Note: Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and director of Colonial Press in Charlottesville, Virginia. Colonial Press has provided over four million discipleship booklets for missionaries in fifteen languages. Contact the Leakes at colonialbaptist@colonialbaptist-cville.org.

FOR OUR SPANISH SPEAKING FRIENDS

To hear Pastor Roy Carrizales preach and watch the live services of the Iglesia Bautista Libertad of Houston, Texas, over the internet, go to www.iblibertad.com,



Ray & Juanita Bowie

“Man is like to vanity:
his days are as a shadow
that passeth away.”
(Psalm 144:4)

Praise the Lord for those who have called on the Lord to be saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and repented of their sin since our last letter.

One of our men who is serving life in prison got saved and followed the Lord in believer's baptism, and he plays the accordion. So now we have an accordion, two guitars, and a violin playing gospel music in our prison services in Coborca, Sonora, Mexico.

Almost all of our flying is with United Indian Mission. Sometimes we fly with another Christian man who flies missionaries also. Well, the man who flies privately was flying some people to work at a Christian youth camp. The wind was blowing hard, the pilot made two passes at a very short distance runway. On the second pass he hit a small rock and a gust of wind caused the plane to flip over. The pilot and three passengers got out safely. No one was hurt seriously. The pilot had only a small pin prick. The plane was a total loss. But with all of the mountain flying in Mexico, that wasn't much. God really has used the pilots that fly all the time in Mexico. The only thing I thought of was why couldn't that happen when I was along with a camera!

- Prayer needs:
1. Safety while traveling.
 2. Souls to be saved.
 3. More missionaries.

Yours For Souls in Mexico,
Ray & Juanita Bowie

\$684.96

WILL SPONSOR A COMPLETE DAY OF OPERATION OF THE VICTORY BAPTIST PRESS PRINT SHOP.

Our thanks to the following churches that have recently sponsored one full day of operation:

Way Of The Cross Baptist Church,

Dunlap, Tennessee - Lanny Tate, Pastor.

Grace Independent Baptist Church,

Ocean Springs, Mississippi - Ed Decker, Pastor.

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore Sales

Victory Baptist Press Bookstore is a ministry of Victory Baptist Press. Any profit made from the sale of our competitively priced books, goes toward the printing of more scripture portions. These scripture portions are free at our door as the Lord provides. This is just one more way we get the word of God to a lost world.



Now more than ever, there is a need for fundamentalists to arise and defend the authority and integrity of the Scriptures. **Neither Jot Nor Tittle**, by Tim Fellure, declares the promise of God to preserve His Word and tells the story of how it was accomplished. 188 pages. Price: \$12.00

Order in sets of ten for \$7.20 each. A 40% discount.

OUR BEST OFFER: Order by the case (26 books) for \$6.00 each. A 50% discount.



The Name Above Every Name, by Tim Fellure. No man ever lived who was called by so many names as Christ. The Muslim has exhausted his knowledge of Allah when he learns the 99 names of his god in the Koran, but the more than 700 titles given to Christ in the Scriptures are only a portion of the names worthy of our Savior. It is impossible to know every name or to comprehend the full treasure of truth contained in each. It is the aim of this 30-day

devotional guide to expound on some of the great titles that can belong to none other than Jesus Christ.

4 1/4" X 6 1/2" 60 pages. Price: \$3.95



Are You Supporting A Missionary or a Moochionary, by Jim Fellure, is a straight-forward shot at sham missionaries that are bleeding off mission money that should go for more productive causes. The problem and the cure are both dealt with in a very convicting and instructive manner. This is the old *Missionary or Moochionary* book improved and expanded.

163 pages. Price \$9.50

Order in sets of ten for \$5.70 each. A 40% discount.

OUR BEST OFFER: Order by the case (32 books) for \$4.75 each. A 50% discount.



The Religion Racket, by Norman H. Wells, a student of Dr. J. Frank Norris. This book reveals religion in its true light; as a failure that uses deception to lead people away from the truth. 119 pages. Price: \$7.00



How to be Saved Forever and Know It, by Jim Fellure is a 21 page, pocket-size tract that is an excellent witnessing tool. It gives a clear-cut presentation of salvation using scripture and illustrations in an easy-to-understand manner.

Minimum order-twenty five. We will imprint your church information (at no additional cost) on the back page with orders of 100 or more.

Price: 1-99/\$0.25 each - 100 or more/\$0.15 each



Tim Fellure's newest book, **Authority, Who's in Charge** is a must read.

Our world desperately needs to rediscover a respect for and submission to duly-appointed,

God-ordained authority. If we are to have unity in our churches, peace in our homes, security in our communities, progress in our schools, and productivity in our places of employment, then someone must be in charge.

4 1/4" X 6 1/2". 42 pages. Price \$2.95



The Scofield Bible Study Leaflets

contains 101 outlines by Dr. C. I. Scofield. The original set of leaflets from which these outlines were produced was found tucked

among his books in the library of Dr. W. O. H. Garman (1899-1983)...Dr. Garman was a minister in Western Pennsylvania for sixty years and used his own copyright 1915 set of Scofield outlines in combination with "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth" (also by C. I. Scofield) and his own notes in teaching the fundamentals of the faith to believers.

There is also a dispensational chart in the middle of the book, and a seven page article by Dr. Garman supporting baptism by immersion, plus a twelve page history of the Scofield Bible by Dr. Frank E. Gaebelein.

Testimonials: "Thank you so much for sending the Scofield Study Notes. I...believe they are the best I have ever received and very profitable to any preacher who has a desire to know Bible doctrines. I would highly recommend these notes to anyone."

H.D. Shuemaker, Chancellor, Bethany Divinity College & Seminary, Dothan, Alabama.

Comb-bound, 8 1/2" X 11" page size.

Price: \$20.00



You Can Make It, by Tom Williams. This is a true story about how God can use catastrophies in a family's life and turn them into something good. It is a story that will touch your heart and your life.

102 pages. Price \$4.95



Take A Stand: Essays by an American Patriot, by Captain G. Russel Evans, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.). With liberal groups attempting to seize new territory every day, how should concerned Americans respond to the issues which threaten our nation's heritage and sovereignty? As a man who has honorably served his country in times of war and peace, G. Russel Evans insists that it's time to lay aside political correctness and take a stand!

180 pages. Price \$9.00



Loving My Wife Back To Health, by Dr. Tom Williams. Here is a moving story about how a young man falls in love and begins a remarkable marriage with his godly wife and how, when tragedy strikes, God gives him grace to abound and faith to love his wife back to health.

92 pages. Price \$5.25



How To Bring Them To Christ, by R.A. Torrey. Most Christians intensely desire to bring others to the Lord but somehow find themselves overwhelmed with fear, uncertainty, and rejection. Author R.A. Torrey, who won thousands to the Lord, takes you step-by-step through receiving the power to witness and dealing with indifferent and skeptical people.

Torrey's personal examples and practical soul-winning principles will give you the confidence you need.

110 pages. Price \$6.50



"In a day and age when quality Christian music is difficult to find, I am pleased to present to you who I believe is one of the finest soloists in America today, Pastor Patrick McCloskey."
- Dr. Jon M. Jenkins



Once Upon A Cross
There Is A Fountain

2 CD's \$12.00 each

You can view song titles on the website.

100 leather bound Spanish Bibles were recently bought and sent to a missionary in Mexico with profits from the Bookstore. Thank you for making this possible.

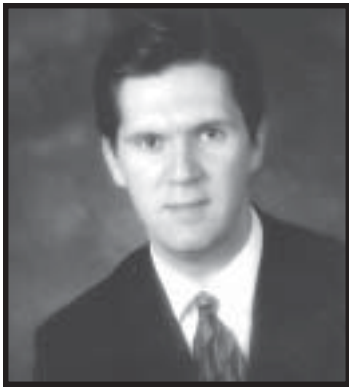
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Pastor Tim Fellure

Separation Is Still In The Bible

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

Separation is not a subject that you hear much preaching on these days. What little preaching is given to the subject is often so vague that no one is sure who the preacher is talking about or where he stands on specifics. And if he does get personal he is sure to be labeled a legalist with charges that he just wants to run your life. The Bible answer, however, to all the objections to separation is, "come out from among them, and be ye separate." We, as believers, are not to be isolationists, but we are expected to live holy lives in contrast to the walk of this world.

1. Separation Insulates You From The World!

The most important reason for biblical separation is to protect you from the influence and defilement of the world. In Haggai 2 the Lord engages the priests of that day in a question and answer session. They were not taking the laws of ceremonial separation very seriously, and the Lord explained to them why those laws were in place. The first question was, in essence, can a holy thing touch a neutral thing and make it holy. The obvious answer is no. The next question was whether an unholy thing touching a neutral thing made it unholy. This time the answer is yes. If a person touched the high priestly garments he did not become holy by that contact, but if he touched a dead carcass he did become unholy. The lesson is clear: the holy does not sanctify the unholy but the unholy does corrupt the holy. Whenever you bring the holy and unholy together, the unholy always affects the holy.

If a sick person and healthy person get together do not expect the good health of the one to cure the sickness of the other. The sick person does not get healthy by being around a healthy person; rather, the healthy person will get sick. One bad apple in a bushel of good apples will not lose its rottenness by the influence of the good apples. Instead, soon all the apples will be rotten. Mix a glass of clean water and a glass of dirty water and you will have a glass of dirty water. The dirty water is not purified by mixing with the clean water; the clean water is defiled by mixing with the dirty.

"Evil communications corrupt good manners." Good never makes evil better; evil always defiles good. The dirty pollutes the clean, the unholy corrupts the holy, the impure defiles the pure, and the ungodly perverts the godly. This is the reason why a believer should never marry an unbeliever, why you should shelter your children from the world and restrict who their friends are, why you should never send your children to a public school, why you should be careful who your golfing buddies are, why you should reevaluate your music, entertainment, friends, reading material, internet content, etc.

2. Separation Identifies You As Being Different!

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;" The child of God is to be different from this world and separation is how this distinction is to be made. Of course, the desire of the compromiser of the day is to blur the lines and for all to come together for the sake of unity. But read through the book of Acts and study the testimony of the first century Christians and you will see they didn't care one whit about unity with the world.

Those who object to being different will quote their favorite verse for support: "for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." They interpret this to mean that God doesn't care what the outside looks like as long as your heart is right. But this is not saying that God is not interested on the outward appearance; the point is that God is not fooled by the outward appearance. Your hypocrisy and veneer don't fool God. God is concerned

about the outward because it is a reflection of what's in the heart.

Do you now how to tell the difference between a Christian and the world? The same way you tell the difference between a horse and a cow. They look different, they make different noises, and they hang around others of their own kind. If you see an animal that looks like a cow, moos a lot, and hangs around other known cows there is a strong chance that it is a cow. If you see a creature that looks just like this world, sounds just like them, and hangs around them all the time there is a strong chance they are of the world. You can tell what branch of military a man is in by the uniform he wears. You can tell a police officer by the uniform he wears. You can tell who is the opposing team on the football field by the uniform he wears. Sadly, too many Christians want to wear the uniform of the opposing team.

3. Separation Instills A Dynamic For Duty!

The first century church was so effective because their testimony validated their message. The world saw the power of the Gospel working in their lives. The gospel message coming from a worldly Christian is a distorted message with an uncertain sound. We must have a clear message and a clean life; the walk must match the talk if we are to have any power in our service for God.

When Lot tried to persuade his sons-in-law to leave Sodom, "he seemed as one that mocked" to them. He was telling them how wicked Sodom was but they knew his lifestyle. Worldly Lot was trying to make a case against worldliness and they weren't buying it. I wonder how many in our churches have the right message, but they seem as one that mocks because of their dress, their music, their friends, their language, etc. The mantra that you have to join them to win them has never worked and never will. If I find a man in quicksand I don't need to jump in with him to help him out. In fact, if I do jump in with him, I won't be able to help him out. Only by staying out of the same pit he is in can I possibly be of any assistance to him. The world doesn't need me to conform to them; they need me to show them a better way.