

Robert Hindmarsh

Matthew 2:1-2,11

tenour of the Old Testament leads us to expect the coming of JEHOVAH in the form of a Man, and the whole body of the New teaches that he actually did so come. The example, therefore, which the wise-men hold out to the rest of mankind, of prostrating themselves at the feet of him, whom they came from afar for the sole purpose of worshipping, added to the countenance and recommendation which is given it at the very commencement of the Evangelical Word, is evidence of the first order that the genuine spirit of the true christian religion, the very life and soul of the succeeding revelation, consists in the acknowledgment and humble adoration of the GREAT GOD HIMSELF thus made manifest in the flesh. The star seen in the east is the light of revelation, or knowledge from heaven, leading and directing those, who are capable of understanding it, to bring all their gifts of pure and holy worship to him, who is entitled to receive them, and who in return enriches the worshipper with the sight, the presence, and the love of his GOD.

(1) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

(2) Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

(11) And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

When it is considered, that the chief design of all revelation is to put an end to idolatry, and to lead men to the knowledge and worship of the true God, it is impossible to read this passage without perceiving either that the Evangelist has mistaken his object, or else that the infant child JESUS was worthy to receive the divine honours paid him by the wise-men of the east. But the former supposition cannot for a moment be admitted, because the

From the Book written against Unitarians and Trinitarians
By Robert Hindmarsh

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“TWELVE RULES FOR RAISING DELINQUENT CHILDREN”

The police department in Houston, Texas, drew up a list of “Twelve Rules for Raising Delinquent Children.” I pray that this is not our parental example.

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he’s cute. It will also encourage him to pick up “cuter” phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.
3. Never give him any scriptural training. Wait till he is 21 and then let him “decide for himself.”
4. Avoid use of the word “wrong.” It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around—book, shoes, and clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on to others.
6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.
7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.
8. Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as YOU had them?
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustrations.
10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, and policemen. They all are prejudiced against your child.
11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, “I never could do anything with him.”
12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will be apt to have it.

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Mission Statement

Since our first publication in the early eighties, our mission has been to provide “doctrine and instruction in righteousness” to the churches in the Philippines (2 Timothy 3:16). By request, we are expanding our circulation, trusting that God will bless and use it for the benefit of His kingdom.

LEADERSHIP

Webster’s defines a leader as—one who leads; a commander. There is a real need in these last days for true leadership. Someone who will lead through action and example. Many people want an exalted position, but few want the accountability that comes with it. But an unaccountable man is a dangerous man because he becomes a dictator instead of a leader. Dictators do not answer to anybody and become resentful when their decisions are challenged or even questioned.

A true leader will be accountable for his life and his actions. And if his life is governed by character and conviction, he will pay his bills, keep his word, raise his children in the fear of God, and be ever faithful to the things of God.

A leader must be dependable; he cannot afford to be lazy. Proverbs 10:26 says, “as vinegar to the teeth and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.” A pastor desperately needs people he can count on. He needs people he can depend on to finish what they are asked to do. Proverbs 25:19 says, “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”

A leader must have credibility. This cannot be demanded; it must be earned. To be credible, one must be a man of his word; he cannot be a liar. He must prove himself by living a godly life before God and man. Just because a man has the ability to preach, sing, or play an instrument, does not mean he should not be accountable for the way he lives. A true leader will be a submitted person.

A leader must be a man of principles and conviction. Men who preach without having convictions are like “clouds without rain.” An unprincipled man should never be allowed to preach. He must have a strong belief in the Gospel (the new birth, holiness, One God message) to be a true leader. It’s more important to exalt principles and godly character than oratory abilities and charisma. Men who adhere to principles are the type of leaders we need—there are too many empty suits out there.

The following list of principles was given to President Garfield when he was a youth:

1. Never be idle.
2. Make few promises.
3. Always speak the truth.
4. Live within your income.
5. Never speak evil of anyone.
6. Keep good company or none.
7. Live up to your engagements.
8. Never play games of chance.
9. Drink no intoxicating drinks.
10. Good character is above everything else.
11. Keep your own secrets if you have any.
12. Never borrow if you can possibly help it.
13. Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.
14. When you speak to a person, look into his eyes.
15. Save when you are young to spend when you are old.
16. Never run into debt unless you see a way out again.
17. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.
18. Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts.
19. If anybody speaks evil of you, let your life be so that no one believes him.
20. When you retire at night, think over what you have done during the day.
21. If your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of your mind.
22. Read the above carefully and thoughtfully at least once a week.

Into the Dark Ages—William Chalfant

It is amazing how that the inception and history of the church parallels important events and developments in the history of the world. God has temporarily intertwined destinies.

Consider the fact that Greek became the *lingua franca* of the ancient world to prepare the way for the spreading of the Gospel in the ancient world. The Roman Empire, through its marvelously paved roads and *pax romana*, facilitated the growth of the church.

Barbarian hordes and moral weakness brought the great Roman Empire in the West to an end, and the Dark Ages descended upon Europe circa AD 476. Civilization receded.

The Italian, Petrarch, (1304-1374) coined the phrase “the dark ages.” He was one of the fathers of what historians call “the Renaissance,” the rebirth of classical literature and thought. Petrarch went around collecting ancient, dusty Greek and Latin manuscripts, attempting to revive the great Greek and Roman classical era. A new day was dawning.

The Renaissance was an era when men and women had access to the writings of the classical Greeks and Romans. A great love for learning and knowledge was reborn. This does not mean that there was no knowledge elsewhere in the world, but the history of the Roman Empire, and its remnants, has been critically tied to Christianity in a special way. It was the hand of Rome, instigated by the leaders of Judea, which crucified our Lord. This strange relationship (in whatever way one might describe it) has continued down through the centuries. This strange relationship is in play today as the nominally Christian nations, the remnant of the Empire, prepare to confront the Islamic *jihad*, which threatens to engulf the world in blood. The real prize to be destroyed or to be preserved is the elect lady.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that following this emergence from the “Dark Ages” there was a movement in the Western world to re-examine the nominal teachings of Christianity. Men began to look at the teaching of the Scriptures concerning such cardinal beliefs as water baptism, salvation, the Oneness of the Godhead, and other areas of Christian teaching. The Reformation was a result of the Renaissance or the emergence from the Dark Ages. While the Reformation was trapped in traditions of men, it did move the climate forward to the day when the elect lady would once more appear on the world stage.

While much of nominal Christianity languished under what Gibbon in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* called “priest-ridden, superstitious dark times,” the apostolic church survived in scattered, secluded congregations, in parts of Eastern Europe, and possibly in a few areas in Western Europe.

The Renaissance of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries emboldened truth-seeking men to search the Scriptures, discarding the traditions of men, and a search for biblical truth grew.

The daring voyages of discovery and colonization by the nations of Western Europe had spread the Graeco-Roman civilization into the New World. English, based heavily on the Latin language, and Spanish, a Latin “Romance” language, had become the *lingua franca* of the New World. The nominal forms of Christianity had been transplanted to the New World and areas of the Pacific by European colonists. A place was prepared for the elect lady to one day begin an end-time struggle for revival. But she was not yet born in the hearts of the New World. She remained sequestered in the wilderness of Eastern Europe.

The Age of Enlightenment in the eighteenth century brought logic and reason to the fore in the minds of European and Western thinkers. This was followed by the amazing Scientific Revolution, which equipped mankind with advanced communications and transportation ability, among other modern technological inventions, with an opportunity to reach the greatest population that has ever lived on the planet since the world began. At the beginning of the last century, the elect lady was transplanted to the New World into the heart of a superpower for what could be a final push for souls. Topeka and Azusa Street sounded the beginning of the vibrant rise of the elect lady in the New World.

Thus God molded and guided the destiny of His church through the centuries so that a firm foundation could be accomplished in the first three centuries. He then hid His beloved during the Dark Ages so that she could survive the darkness. Once again, as the conditions became ripe for a mighty, world encompassing revival, He has given His church the means to reach the teeming billions.

The question is whether or not His lady will rise up in this day to stand by her glorious companion’s side to bring in the harvest. Mankind is reaching for the stars, but he will never get there without the elect lady’s glorious companion, who holds the seven stars in His right hand (Revelation 2:1). “*Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*” (Esther 4:14b)

The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. (2 John 1-2)

Hermeneutics

Webster's defines hermeneutics as, "The science of interpretation, or of finding the meaning of an author's words and phrases, and explaining it to others; exegesis; particularly applied to the interpretation of Scripture."

Connor and Malmin wrote a textbook on the subject of interpreting the Scriptures. The book gives some examples of what the authors deem to be incorrect methods of interpretation. This is their evaluation of the devotional method: *"In seeking to apply the Scripture to their lives, Jewish scribes began to interpret them in the light of their own life situations. In their zeal for application they produced faulty interpretations. Time has proven the devotional method to be quite dangerous as a system of interpretation. The chief danger of this method is that in seeking to apply Scripture personally the interpreter may ignore the plain literal sense of what God was saying to those in that particular historical setting, and thus apply Scripture self-centeredly."*

"The allegorical method which presumes that beneath the plain and obvious sense of Scripture lies its true meaning. As an example of allegorism, Tan (p.38) cites Pope Gregory's interpretation of the Book of Job; 'The Patriarch's three friends denote the heretics; his seven sons are the twelve Apostles; his seven thousand sheep are God's faithful people; and the three thousand hump-backed camels are the depraved Gentiles.' The error of this method begins at its foundational assumption: that what God said in plain language is not what He really meant. It is a dangerous method, in that there are no Scriptural boundaries to guide its implementation. By exalting the interpreter's intentions and ignoring the author's intended meaning, the allegorical method fails to reach the basic goal of interpretation and must be discarded."

In Milton S. Terry's book on biblical hermeneutics he states: *"The Ancient Jewish expositions of the Old Testament exhibit numerous absurd methods of interpretation. For example, the letters of a word were reduced to their numerical value, and then some other word or statement was sought having the same letters in another order, or other letters aggregating the same numerical value, and the two words were thereupon regarded as equivalent in meaning."*

In conclusion, any interpretation which strays from the central theme of the Bible is to be avoided. It is not necessarily the method that causes someone to come to a wrong conclusion, but generally it is a lack of understanding the rules that govern how we interpret the Bible. For the most part, faulty interpretations are self-serving and subjective. In contrast, correct interpretations never conflict with what is already plainly stated in Scripture. And like Milton Terry so aptly states, *"Erroneous and absurd methods of explanation are mostly traceable to false notions of the Bible itself . . . It leaves everything subject to the peculiar faith or fancy of the interpreter."*

Syncretism—Thomas Weisser

The word syncretism refers to the mixing of two opposite concepts. It purports to marry these two and make them agree. This term is applicable to what took place in Christianity in the fourth century. The marriage of pagan ideas and Christian ideas took place and humanity has suffered ever since because of the compromise. Whatever the motives, the result has been devastating. The confusion of mixing One God and the imagined three co-equal persons of the Trinity is an example of syncretism. Pure monotheism and pagan polytheism are unequally yoked in this unbiblical doctrine. Defenders of this illicit relationship have the blood of millions on their hands. They also have forced millions to conform to concepts never propagated by the New Testament Church.

A perfect example of this syncretism took place when the Jews waited for Moses while he was in the mount getting the Ten Commandments from God. The warning of not worshipping God through an image was ignored. God was desiring to take His people away from the image-centered culture of Egypt to a word-centered culture. When they made a golden calf and ascribed to it a representation of the God who delivered them, God was ready to kill them all. The attempted marriage of Egyptian idolatry and the pure worship of the invisible God was a violation of the Word and God hated it—He hasn't changed.

It doesn't take a theologian to recognize the absolute Oneness of God. It is emphasized throughout the Old Testament and confirmed in the New. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." We are informed that this One God is a jealous God. He will not share his glory with another. When the Jews in the Old Testament endeavored to cover their bases by worshipping both pagan deities and the One True God, they were not accepted, and punished over and over again by this jealous God. Divided loyalties lead to compromise which leads to displeasure from the stronger party. The God of the Bible is unequalled in glory and power. We are hurting ourselves if we even think there is another worthy of our devotion.

In spite of all the creedal deviation from truth and the traditions associated with Scripture, the truth is available. I was raised in a church that compromised truth and had a terrible history. It had strayed far away from the teachings of the New Testament while claiming to be apostolic. God, in His mercy, led me to a church that embraced New Testament teaching concerning God and the new birth. The opportunity is available to embrace truth through the preserved and handed down Word. Separated churches that adhere to the original teaching of Scripture are out there. The Oneness of God and the biblical message of the new birth are being preached. God is building His church in spite of every obstacle. Hell has not prevailed against the church Jesus is building. People are embracing the One True God and devoting their lives to His service. In our loyalty and consecration to this one who is altogether lovely, we will find righteousness, peace and joy in this present life and eternal life with Him.

Loyalty to principles can galvanize people and lead to great achievements. During World War II the people of the free world embracing the concepts of freedom of speech and religion unified in their efforts and wrought a great victory over the tyranny of Nazism. During the English Civil War the parliamentarians, fighting for representative government, and freedom of religion, defeated the royalists, who were fighting for the divine right of kings. Freedom of the individual and the equality of man seemed to be the great motivating factors in the Revolutionary War.

In considering these, patriotism may rise up in us, but how significant are these in comparison to the kingdom Christ is building? We are talking about the greatest entity this world has ever seen. The church comprises a glorious body of believers destined for rule and eternal life. It is the pillar and ground of the truth. "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." We have received a kingdom that cannot be moved. We are built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit. We are the temple of God. What a privilege that God has allowed us to be part of His church. We should be the most thankful people on the face of this earth. We should be unified in the cause of propagating these glorious truths that God has entrusted to our keeping. We should not seek to unify ourselves with those who have compromised truth with paganism.