

The Narrow Gate Update

A Ministry of The Berean Way Fellowship
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"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matt. 7:13-14)

OUR TEACHING WEBSITE: <https://thebereanwayfellowship.org>

QUOTES AND THOUGHTS ON THE LAODICEAN MINDSET

*"Whatever interpretation we take of the book of Revelation, it is undeniable that the church of Laodicea presents a vivid picture of the age in which we live. Luxury-living abounds on every hand while souls are dying for want of the gospel. Christians are wearing crowns instead of bearing a cross. We become more emotionally stirred over sports, politics, or television than we do over Christ. There is little sense of spiritual need, little longing for true revival. We give the best of our lives to the business world, then turn over the remnants of a wasted career to the Savior. We cater to our bodies which in a few short years will turn to dust. We accumulate instead of forsake, lay- up treasures on earth instead of in heaven. The general attitude is, 'Nothing too good for the people of God. If I don't pamper myself, who will? Let's get ahead in the world and give our spare evenings to the Lord.' This is our condition on the eve of Christ's return." (Wm MacDonald; *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, pp. 2360–61
Commentary on Rev. 3:22)*

Re: True biblically Christian attitude toward the sinner: ***"While it is the duty of the Christian to pity and pray for the sinner, he must view with loathing all that bears traces of the sin."*** (J. B. Mayor; quoted in MacDonald; p. 2346)

The notion of "loving" the sinner yet hating his or her sin is fallacious and unbiblical as it is propagated in so-called Christianity. The crucial point becomes clear when differentiating true biblical love vs. the world's love, a definition we've all been indoctrinated with through the entertainment industries.

The world emphasizes a major misappropriation of emotional content, seeing as how emotions play the biggest role in a perverted/worldly understanding of love.

When emotions rule, common sense, especially in the form of taking responsibility, flies out the window. Consequences are not desired and thus are swept under some rug. The truth is that there are always consequences; the sooner they're admitted to and considered, the more likely it is that we can respond before a harsh or misinformed word is spoken or an action is taken.

Responsibility is the condition of being responsible and facing or being accountable for obligations. Thus, being a responsible parent, employee, educator, pastor, or whatever is serious business. Responding correctly often means leaving the self behind and thinking of someone or something other than self, at least until the task is finished. Selflessness is a character trait honored by God!

In contrast, the Laodicean mindset is so entrenched into "self," and all the emotions that support it, that individuals who are caught up in it fail miserably to see the forest for the trees.

Ultimately it is the seminal sin called "pride" that undergirds the "I can do it myself" attitude. It's one thing to truly not need or want outside help, but it's quite another to claim that we can deal with life's issues without God.

To claim relationship with God, as Laodicea does—to gather together and meet in His name, to bring offerings in His name, to corporately pray to Him and in His name—but then to keep Him from the reality of where we all live doesn't make any sense whatsoever.

Laodicean pride is so deceived that many who've allowed themselves to get to this stage find it nearly impossible to be set free. *"He whom the Son sets free is free indeed."* (John 8:36) This Laodicean spirit of selfishness literally keeps one from enjoying Christ-given freedoms, not to mention that it brings headaches and troubles that we stew over needlessly.

Since much mental oppression and plagues are really spiritual in nature, why do people think they can handle that which they cannot control? (Ps. 142:4-5) Many people nowadays correctly recognize the fact that all human governments are failing their people miserably. The sheep have literally given the pasture over to the wolves in the name of democracy as defined by Laodicea—namely, the people rule.

Whoever heard of someone outside of government continuing to get paid their salary after they've left the job, as U.S. presidents, senators, and the like do? And all the while, the people for whom they supposedly labored in their various offices can't afford descent healthcare or pay the rent.

All systems of human governance serve only the rich and those who sell their souls to become rich. (Prov. 22:7) The godlessness of it all is appalling. Trust and hope are placed in human celebrities—whether Hollywood personalities, or Washington politicians, or the many media talk-show hosts and their affiliations such as CNN, FOX, MSNBC, and even such so-called "Christian" outlets as TBN and the like.

But all of them are nothing more than extremely overpaid talkers of empty words. "Opinion" polls rank high in this "sewer of our own making," as if our humanly contrived opinions have any basis in facts, let alone truth.

One of those who have the lion's share of followers on the fringe side of conspiracy advocates is David Icke, who fills large theaters with those who eagerly listen to his rampaging talk about the reptilian bloodlines of the world's so-called royal families. His conclusions amount to the idea that we should take back what the royals have stolen from us.

Comedian George Carlin, who became famous in the 1970s for his "seven words you can never say on TV" comedy routine, in the last decades before his death voiced his displeasure with our world's leaders in no uncertain terms. He was correct in his assessment of the problem for the most part, but like everyone else, he didn't point to the God of the Bible for salvation; he pointed to humanity, even advocating a bloody revolution as being the only way change would occur. While this is certainly true, at the end we'd have the same thing all over again.

Carlin, unfortunately for him, went so far (as do British commentator and self-appointed philosopher David Icke and many more) as to unequivocally make the claim that there is no God.

To be fair, Carlin said that he tried, he "really tried" to believe in God but found out that there isn't one. His Roman Catholic upbringing played a large part in his dismissal of the TRUTH.

The Bible says that it is a fool who makes the claim that there is no God. Icke, Carlin, Nietzsche, and all the other naysayers are but tools in the hand of the devil to accomplish his fiendish desire to be recognized as god in this world.

The mere recognition as god by equally godless humans is in reality no big deal. The true God of the Bible will allow Satan to accomplish what he craves only to be thrown eternally into the Lake of Fire when all is said and done. (Rev. 20:10)

People are so enamored with worthless gadgets and titles and red-carpet appearances that they happily forfeit eternity with Jesus, who is Life. No wonder the self-help craze of the eighties arose, spurred on by Napoleon Hill, who admitted to having received the knowledge he recorded in his many bestselling books from actual demons. Worthless advice has been offered on how to negotiate what you want, how to get rich the easy way, how to influence people even when they don't like you, how to sell yourself and your ideas, how to build your self-esteem and learn to love yourself first, how to be somebody, how to become a CEO and run corporations, blah, blah, blah!

Everybody in the world wants democracy. Yet most don't know even a little bit of what democracy actually looks like. They don't know that a democracy doesn't exist anywhere on earth except in a few small enclaves in Switzerland.

They don't know that the concept isn't just a Greek idea, but a demonic idea that has been around since the Fall—but even the Greeks recognized that it could never work, especially on a large scale. The answer, so Satan thought, was to get God's creation, mankind, to believe the lie that they can govern themselves without God's directives, and then if he could throw in a little doubt about sin, he had a great chance of leading them by the nose.

Anyone not grounded in God's Word will fall for sure, and those with only a little knowledge, and who aren't increasing in that knowledge, will soon follow them. God's unconditional love doesn't mean that there are no conditions, it means that there are no conditions that we could have invented to satisfy the Holy God. The salvation package is all His doing, and the accepting it is what we must accomplish by faith.

God, however, does have conditions, such as we have to repent of our sins, we have to fear Him, we have to trust and believe Him and His Word full on, we have to remain in faith once we have come, we have to obey His commands, we have to love our brothers and sisters in the Lord, we have to be morally upright to walk worthy of the Lord, we have to ask for forgiveness for any wrongs committed, we have to forgive others who've sinned against us, and so on.

None of the above is a consequence, nor a concern, to the Laodicean mindset. This is the mindset that represents the majority of denominational churches worldwide, because everything is equated with the self and the perceived power to accomplish whatever they want to on their own.

These churches form committees and vote on issues they deem important to keep the coffers flowing because the bank notes that financed the new church building have to be paid. Engagement with the world on a social level is promoted as witnessing. Taking political sides is promoted and encouraged even though Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world, and that we, His followers, are not citizens of this world;

instead, we are strangers, pilgrims, and sojourners until Jesus comes to evacuate us to give us our eternal homes in the New Jerusalem built by God Himself.

The truly saved are already citizens of heaven; that is, we look not for a home here on earth, but for that eternal home like those who came before us, such as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The letter to the Hebrews chapter 11 gives a good list.

All those who settle their hearts and minds on this present earth are not seeking a heavenly home. They are Laodicean in heart and soul, even if they claim Christ's salvation. Jesus plainly told them to be either cold or hot, meaning that they were not concerned enough with doctrinal truth to protect it from false teachings.

This grave sin is the beginning of many a downfall. The totally lousy condition that they were in as a church wasn't even recognized by them. They made claims of being rich and happy and in need of nothing. However, Jesus said they were actually wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. In His love, Jesus rebuked them for their own good, for they were still, as of yet, counted as one of His assemblies. They were commanded to be zealous and to repent, to be hot about Him and His Word, the TRUTH. Lastly, Christ promised anyone in this church environment who would overcome, by doing what Christ commanded them to do, that they would sit with Him on His throne. (Rev. 3:21)

To be called "naked" in Scripture means that one has no robe, which always refers to righteousness. No righteousness, no salvation, because it is a gift imputed to us by Christ in exchange for our faith in God, who took our sins upon Himself on the Cross. (II Cor. 5:21)

Looking unto Jesus, the originator and perfecter of our faith, is the ticket. (Heb. 12:2) Christ, being our life, cannot be sidelined or substituted for in any way, shape, or form. He alone is to be praised now and forever more. Hallelujah!!! ~



Q & A

We welcome any questions you may have regarding any subjects we have written about in this newsletter, any of Walt's sermons you may have seen on YouTube, or any other biblical subjects.

You may send them via

email - jw.hartwich@gmail.com

text - 765-714-5113

or regular mail - P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041 ~



WORSHIP SERVICE & BIBLE STUDY....

The Berean Way Fellowship: Sunday 10:30am, Lafayette, IN

Home Bible Study: Wednesday night 6:30pm, Lafayette; call 765-714-5113 for specific location. ~



WALT'S SUNDAY SERMONS can be seen on YouTube or on our newly published website at <https://theboreanwayfellowship.org>. The archives can also be accessed on YouTube by searching for Walt Hartwich, Victory Seekers Church, or Victory Seekers Ministries. ~

Walt: "Aaouu!!"



RECOMMENDED BOOKS, SERMONS, AND AUTHORS Leonard Ravenhill's various sermons and books; J.B. Phillips's books *The New Testament in Modern English* and *Ring of Truth: A Translator's Testimony*; and Irenaeus's book *Against Heresies* (he lived in the 2nd century and was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a direct disciple of the Apostle John). ~

PRAYER REQUESTS



We hope that you all will join us in our prayers, remembering the Persecuted Church, praying for the health of all brothers and sisters in Christ, asking that we might live according to the will of God.

Pray for His wisdom, especially in not being deceived by the enemy. Pray also that all believers in Christ Jesus would be good witnesses for Him by the way we live our lives and our obedience to His commandments. Pray for the salvation of all the unsaved family members of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and that the fullness of the Gentiles would come in per Romans 11:25. Pray for our leaders, as Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem—the soon coming of our Lord Jesus, because only when He comes will there truly be peace.

Praise God in all things and to God be the glory for all that is good! ~

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"No man can be true to God and escape unpopularity." (Author Unknown)
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We wish to thank God for supplying the ways and means for publishing this quarterly update, and those whose hearts He has moved to donate to the cause of teaching the church. **All donations are appreciated and should be sent to The Berean Way Fellowship, P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041, with "for NGU" in the memo for a tax-deductible qualification.**

We solicit your prayers for our ministry that we will continue with boldness as we present the truth, no matter what, and that **we** will not be deceived as **no one** is immune.

If you would like Walt to speak at your church or Bible study or other group, or if you have questions regarding anything you've read in our Update or on any biblical subject, you may send your requests via mail, or by email to jw.hartwich@gmail.com, or by calling 765-426-1413.

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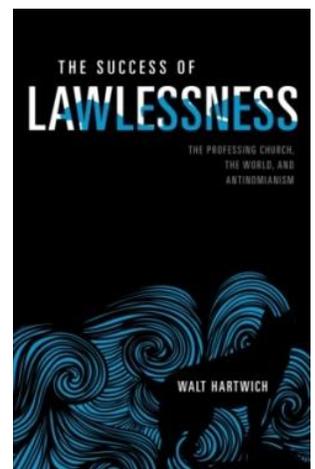
THOUGHT-PROVOKING, SOBERING, POLITICALLY INCORRECT AND CONTROVERSIAL, YET QUITE REVEALING.... Gary Kah, popular author and conference speaker

THE SUCCESS OF LAWLESSNESS: The Professing Church, the World, and Antinomianism, by Walt Hartwich

The unconscionable destruction of planet earth as we know it, which results in the battle of Armageddon or WWII, will be the culmination of global lawlessness.

In *The Success of Lawlessness* the author details how and why lawlessness is a success. He points out that world leaders routinely deviate from the dictates of their governments' constitutions in the five basic realms of modern human existence: political, financial, educational, medical, and spiritual. This deviation is what results in complete lawlessness, which is achieved by incorporating the concept of the fourth kind of appearances as it was first formulated by first-century-B.C. Greek philosopher Epictetus.

There's only one sensible conclusion the searching mind can reach considering the evidence presented in these pages: **Sin = Lawlessness. (I John 3:4)**



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