



# Victory Seekers Update

A news up-date of Victory Seekers Ministries

4th Qtr 2015

Published quarterly by Walt and Jill Hartwich

No. 50

## Inside this issue:

1. PRIDE—The Seminal Sin – by Walt Hartwich
2. Q&A Email Bag
3. Prayer Requests
4. Recommended Websites & Reading
5. Worship Service & Bible Study – Walt’s teachings on MP3

Anyone wishing to donate to our ministry may now do so through PayPal on our website [www.victoryseekersministries.com](http://www.victoryseekersministries.com) or you may send your donation to P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041.

## PRIDE—The Seminal Sin

As with all words to describe things, especially things pertaining to biblical truth, we must establish what they meant when they were written. Unfortunately, mankind, including born-again Christians, are too quick in accepting meanings to biblical terminology that don’t agree with what God actually meant in His Word. God meant what He said, and said what He meant. Theologians and philologists dissect phrases and words as to their grammatical constructs—who was speaking or writing, to whom was the message given, what were the conditions of life at the time inasmuch as we can glean and accept from historical writers, what were the politics and social customs of the day, etc.

In our more recent history, a word or phrase becomes a bona fide part of the language if it has been in continual use by the general public for 25 years or more. The expression “ain’t” is an example. This example has no grammatical precedent whatsoever but is in full use all over the U.S. Even many young Brits have accepted that which was unacceptable not so long ago, especially among the British aristocracy, which also has survived all the social changes of the past 100 years.

The expression “pride” is one of many examples for those of us who are living in the times we do, and it’s a very important one. Most would argue that some sort of “pride” is quite acceptable. We speak of being proud of our children’s achievements, our accomplishments, deeds of heroism, reaching various personal and corporate goals, backing countless sports heroes and teams, national pride as in patriotism. Some are even proud of certain political candidates for which they toiled in campaigning.

Yours truly also freely used that term and thereby committed fraud. I actually used the popular worldly expression “being proud of” and was under the delusion that it was akin to the biblical expression “being well pleased.” I surely knew better but just went with the flow. I adopted the world’s way of interpretation for the word “proud” instead of the Bible’s, as I regularly do otherwise. For this I stood guilty, but I repented! I have a discerning brother in the Lord to thank for changing my belief about using the term “proud.”

I vividly remember wondering what this school pride we were being indoctrinated with during “pep rally” sessions in junior high and high school was all about. My thought was, why would I be proud of a school? The fact that just because I attended there meant nothing to me might have something to do with the fact that I never really liked school, period. Nevertheless, pride of some sort is part and parcel to all of us in some form or fashion, especially when we utilize the meanings of words which this world promotes.

Gay pride is nowadays the fusion of two perversions. One is the perversion of the word “gay,” which actually just means happy, colorful, bright, excited with merriment, given to social pleasures as in a gay life, meaning being carefree and not necessarily in a good way. However, in the original definition, there is nothing to even suggest a homosexual connotation. Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary published in 1960 still has no mention of the homosexual meaning concerning the word “gay.” So it was after the 1960s that this movement really got under way to promote their agenda. The second is, of course, our subject word itself, namely, “pride.” With our being totally selfish in nature, it’s no wonder that proponents of the homosexual lobby chose to promote it in this way.

Not only are these individuals perverting God's absolute standard of sexual behavior in general, but they are selfishly prideful in it. Thus the term "gay pride" is most offensive to the Lord God. Jesus said that in these last days, social conditions would be just as they were in Sodom and Gomorrah. As Chuck Missler has pointed out, and I think he has merit in doing so, the big sin of Sodom and Gomorrah wasn't only the acts of sexual perversion but also the legal condoning of same. The U.S. Supreme Court has handed the final death blow recently to the United States of America by its godless decision to "legalize" homosexual behavior combined with all the other perversions that accompany it.

Pride or extreme selfishness is what filled Satan from the beginning, and it is what drives him to want to be like the El Elyon, Most High God. This is why "pride" is the seminal sin. All other sins of men and angels stem from and are indeed born out of selfishness. The desire to exalt self is really behind any and all fighting among mankind, as demonstrated by fighting among husbands and their wives, sibling rivalry, the attitude to have to "outdo" everyone on your team, to be number one, to take care of number one first and foremost, and much more.

In Satan's attack on humanity involving Adam and Eve, he went straight to the "weaker vessel," the one who didn't actually possess the authority but the one he knew would be most likely to succumb to her sensual self; and his success plagues us to this day. Although we saints have been set free from the curse by Christ's ultimate sacrifice for sin, living in these fleshly bodies as we do still invites opportunities to exalt the self. Psalm 73:6 says, "Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment." (NKJV)

It seems to me the biggest issue for we who are saints of God is to realize that we must change our attitudes about using the word "pride" in all its forms. Even when we don't mean to be selfish when we use the term "pride," we are. The fact that the word "pride," biblically speaking, has selfishness at the core cannot be disputed.

Admittedly, as previously mentioned, I once regarded using the word "pride" as meaning "being well pleased." God the Father clearly approves of this phrase by declaring, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17, 12:18; Luke 2:14; Isa. 42:1 KJV) In the verses of scripture just mentioned, the translated phrases in English where the Father is "well pleased" or is "ever delighted" or "on whom His favor rests" in Hebrew are *naf-shi ra-tze tah* and in the NT by the Greek word *eudokias* or one of its conjugated forms, with no hint of any kind of "pride" to be found.

By these Bible verses we saints ought to get a clue and use that which our Lord approves of in showing gratitude in our children or anything else. Clearly, the credit for the Son's making the Father well pleased is with the Son Himself via His total obedience to the Father. This way the Father cannot ever become prideful in something He might have done or caused to happen. Anyone would immediately give that one to God because He is God, but even He doesn't utilize or pervert true pleasing joy with selfishness. God the Trinity is the ultimate unselfish personalities.

I know this sounds crazy for many because they believe that God literally can and has all rights to say and do whatever He wants. That this is not so is demonstrated by the fact that God cannot say or do some things just because He is God. For example, God cannot lie, ever, or He'd have to self-destruct, being that He is the Truth. God also cannot deny Himself for the same reason. Some might object, saying, "But the Father does everything"; well said, but this also is due to the Son because the Son is the Word before He was made flesh. (Isa. 9:6) Allow me to digress shortly. By Him, that is the Word, all things were created, as Colossians 1:16 makes clear. Suffice it to say that the Trinity of God is a oneness in plurality expressed by the Hebrew term *echad*. In all references in the Old Testament, God is known as *Elohim* or Gods. Please note, I am not speaking of the various names and compound names used in Scripture to identify one of God's attributes, such as Jehovah Shalom, God our Peace. In number this trinity that is *echad* is always and forever limited to three persons, never two or six or any other number, hence, the Holy Trinity. Admittedly, this term sounds too Roman Catholic, but in fact it has nothing to do with that perversion of Scripture; it's simply what the Bible teaches about God. Other leaders appointed by God also are called *Elohim* at times, such as mere men who were appointed to sit as earthly judges, whom Jesus referred to in John 10:34-35. He was quoting from Psalm 82:6. The difference of whether the true God or a false one is meant is determined by the Hebrew grammatical composition, which at times actually goes against Hebrew grammatical rules. There is something called "Plural of Majesty." This Hebrew concept is concerned with usage of verbs, whether in the plural or singular, when used following *Elohim*.

There are two evidences: (1) When the verb follows *Elohim*, it's always singular. This refers to the true God. This is contrary to Hebrew grammar, which states that the verb must agree with the noun in gender and number. (2) When the plural verb follows *Elohim*. This refers to false gods. While this rule stands, there are four exceptions to it:

1. Genesis 20:13: "It came to pass when God called me to wonder" ("called me to wonder" is plural in Hebrew); the literal Hebrew reads, "It came to pass when they called me to wonder."
2. Genesis 35:7: "Their god revealed Himself" (himself is plural); the literal Hebrew reads, "Their God revealed Themselves."
3. II Samuel 7:23: "God went" (went is plural); the literal Hebrew reads, "For God, They went."

4. *Psalm 58:11*: The phrase “There is a God who judges” (who judges is plural); the literal Hebrew reads, “There is a God, *They* judge.” (Source: Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Ariel Ministries, *The Trinity*)

According to the 49 scripture examples listed in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, pride always has a meaning of selfish exaltation that has zero to do with anything that could be twisted to include some sort of good values associated with it. Being proud and being well pleased have two entirely different meanings. When expressing pleasure in someone or something someone has done or accomplished, let’s check our pride at the door in whatever part we may have played in it and use the expression that God Himself used. This way we’re sure to stay clear from overstepping the truth and simultaneously siding, even unknowingly, with the pagan world all around us, something that should make us shudder in all abhorrence.

“In whom I am well pleased—Or, in whom I delight, That is, whose character I perfectly approve, and in whom I acquiesce as the great Mediator, through whom will I show myself favourable unto sinful creatures. The original word properly signifies an entire acquiescence, or a special and singular complacency and satisfaction. This the Father took, in the person and undertaking of Christ; and this, through him, he takes in all true believers, who, by faith, are united to him, and made members of his body. And O, how poor, in comparison of this, are all other kinds of praise, yea, and all other pleasures! To have the approbation, and be the delight of God; this is praise, this is pleasure indeed! This is, at once, true glory and true happiness, and is the highest and brightest light that virtue can appear in.” (Joseph Benson)

\* \* \*

### Letters from the Email Bag: [info@victoryseekersministries.com](mailto:info@victoryseekersministries.com)



**Q: Is it true that if you are once saved you are always saved? E.G.**

**A:** The short answer is yes, provided one stays in faith. We are saved by grace through faith according to Paul in Ephesians 2:8. Where there’s no faith, there’s no ability to appropriate the grace that God freely gives.

The problem is the false teachings of Calvinism which erroneously claim that salvation belongs to those whom God chose and that damnation also is by the pleasure of God’s will, as Calvin himself wrote repeatedly in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Instead of once saved/always saved, what they are really promoting is once faith/always faith, and that is unscriptural.

Abiding—that is, continually staying where you are without interruption—is the key. Hebrews 6:4-6 is clear in meaning that one can, on purpose, leave the faith, and if that’s done there is no chance of coming back. Nevertheless, we must be careful and not confuse backsliding with turning from God deliberately.

Backsliders are drifting and can be brought back on the right path, whereas believers who become doubters who become unbelievers have forfeited the salvation they once had. If not stopped before it’s too late, the flow is always from bad to worse.

I’ve addressed a whole newsletter on this subject. Look for the Sep. 2010 issue of VSM Update on our website: [www.victoryseekersministries.com](http://www.victoryseekersministries.com).

\*\*

**Q: I saw on [raptureready.com](http://raptureready.com) an article titled “Can Someone Still Be a Sinner but Forgiven by Christ?” What is your take on that? C.S.**

**A:** On the face of it, this seems to be asking whether someone can be classified a sinner and simultaneously be in a state of forgiveness by Jesus Christ. Technically speaking, a sinner already forgiven by Christ is classified a saint. Based on that, the answer to the above question is no.

There are, however, several aspects to this that should be understood. Possibly the most important is that saints and sinners are forever and always distinguished one from the other throughout Scripture. Saints and sinners have two very different ultimate eternal destinies. Saints are unconditionally loved by God, whereas sinners, especially unrepentant ones, are in fact hated by God. See Psalm 5:5-6, 11:5. Psalm 7:11 says that God is a just Judge and that He is angry with the sinner every day. Abraham in Genesis 18:25 says to God, “Far be it from you to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked so that the righteous should be as the wicked...”(NKJV)

All the wicked or unrepentant sinners will appear before the Great White Throne of God’s Judgment at the end of the millennium to hear their sentences and to be cast into the Lake of Fire. (Rev. 20:11-15) Conversely, saints will enjoy heaven with the Lord in unspeakable bliss. Both destinations spoken of are eternal. Suffice it to say that there is a vast

difference between saint and sinner in the eyes of God and His Word. The saint is forgiven, whereas the unrepentant sinner is stuck with his or her sins and thus suffers eternal death.

\*\*

**Q: If a man and woman are married and the man looks at another man, is that sin and adultery? J.T.**

**A:** Yes and yes.

\*\*

**Q: Recently I read somewhere that Satan can't hear our thoughts; is this true? I was thinking of all the times I have said, not out loud, *Satan go away! I rebuke you in the name of the Lord!* A.H.**

**A:** Yes! Satan is not God and can't hear our thoughts. However, our demeanor, our attitudes, our other words that we do speak out loud, and our actions are all indicators not just to Satan but even to other people. An example might be a person who can't have what he wants, who acts out his anger or frustration with the situation, and so all who are observing can read him. The devil is watching us all with his many minions assigned to everybody on earth. Satan may not know the exact reasons for our behavior, but he can have a good guess based on our subsequent attitudes and how we show them.

Please remember that we ourselves can't rebuke the devil. What we should say to him out loud is, "The Lord rebuke you!" James 4:7 has the perfect answer that actually works: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Verse 8 caps it nicely by stating, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." Submit to God, and then resisting will cause Satan to flee. There is nothing he can do with someone who's submitted to the Lord.

When Satan recognizes a certain behavior in someone, he immediately exploits it to ultimately cause trouble or worse, especially in a relationship between a husband and his wife. In case they present too much of a united front, he'll go and attack the children to cause division. He'll use friends, acquaintances, co-workers, and anyone's and everyone's attitude to steal, kill, and destroy, the three reasons for which he came at all. (John 10:10) This is why forgiveness and reconciliation among us Christians and especially between husbands and wives is so important for all of us. It's something the devil can't deal with. It's like leaving him with an empty gun.

\* \* \*



### Prayer Requests from Our Readers

Please remember Alan D. & Alan G, Andy, Scott, Thelma, Jim C., Mike B., Anna, Patti and Patti, Sam, and Teri in your prayers.

A brief update: Alan Dickson—rare brain tumor. He had surgery in January 2015 but the doctors were not able to remove all the tumors. Chemo and radiation were given but were not successful, so he has sought and continues to seek alternative treatments. Please continue praying for him. You can access his story and donate to his medical expenses at the following: <https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/1sb9>.

Jim Connell—kidney transplant—a perfect match. Please continue to pray for his health and for the recovery of the donor and that their financial needs will be met during the recovery period.

Also, remember in your prayers: the Persecuted Church, the Peace of Jerusalem, and the salvation of all the unsaved family members of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, plus those others who are yet to come to Christ, and that the fullness of the Gentiles would come in per Romans 11:25. Praise God in all things and **to God be the glory for all that is good!**

\* \* \*

### RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

[www.victoryseekersministries.com](http://www.victoryseekersministries.com) – Walt Hartwich

<http://walthartwich.tateauthor.com> – Website for Walt's book

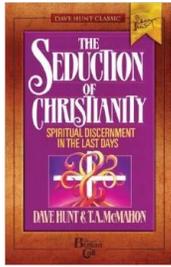
[www.worldviewweekend.com](http://www.worldviewweekend.com) – Brannon Howse

[www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org) – The Berean Call, Dave Hunt & T.A. McMahon

[www.moriel.org](http://www.moriel.org) – Moriel Ministries, Jacob Prasch

[www.ariel.org](http://www.ariel.org) – Ariel Ministries, Arnold Fruchtenbaum

\* \* \*



### RECOMMENDED READING:

1. *The Seduction of Christianity* – Dave Hunt & T.A. McMahon
2. *The Success of Lawlessness: The Professing Church, the World, and Antinomianism* – Walt Hartwich. Preview and purchase online at <http://walthartwich.tateauthor.com/> from the Tate Publishing Bookstore. Or contact Victory Seekers Update.
3. *Genesis of a Legacy: Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World* – Ken & Steve Ham
4. *The Creature from Jekyll Island* – G. Edward Griffin
5. *The Coming Apocalypse: A Study of Replacement Theology vs. God’s Faithfulness in the End-Times* – Dr. Renald E. Showers
6. *En Route to Global Occupation* – Gary Kah
7. *East Wind* – This is the true story of Maria Zeitner Linke—a story of survival and courage in the death camps of Stalin’s Gulag after World War II. Ruth Hunt, republished by The Berean Call. This is an outstanding account of Maria’s life, definitely a page-turner!

\* \* \*

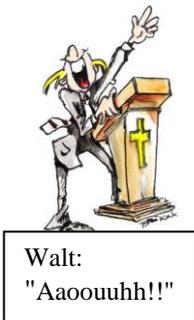
### WORSHIP SERVICE AND BIBLE STUDY



**Victory Seekers Church:** Sunday 10:30am, Tippecanoe County.  
**Home Bible Study:** Wednesday night 6:30pm, Lafayette, IN.  
 Call 765-714-5113 for specific location and more information.

\* \* \*

### WALT’S SUNDAY SERMONS AVAILABLE ON MP3 and DVD:



Audio and visual recordings can be found on the Victory Seekers Ministries website, [www.victoryseekersministries.com](http://www.victoryseekersministries.com), and the videos can also be accessed on **YouTube** under Victory Seekers Church Sermons.

If you wish to order an MP3 or a DVD of any of these teaching/preachings, the price of each is \$5.00, which includes shipping & handling. Place your order by emailing [info@victoryseekersministries.com](mailto:info@victoryseekersministries.com) or writing to VSM, P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041.

\* \* \*

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 Victory Seekers Church, P.O. Box 823, Frankfort, IN 46041, with “for VSM” in the memo for a tax-deductible qualification. PayPal is available on our website for all donations.**

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 for Walt to speak at your church/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 email [jw.hartwich@gmail.com](mailto:jw.hartwich@gmail.com) or [info@victoryseekersministries.com](mailto:info@victoryseekersministries.com), or call 765-714-5113 / 765-426-1413.

If you wish to add someone to or be deleted from this mailing list, respond by mail or email. We apologize if we do not get the change administered quickly; sometimes things fall through the cracks. **Changes of address are appreciated to keep the cost of mailing to a minimum.** If you wish to receive your newsletter via email rather than regular mail, please notify us of that as well.

\* \* \*

**“No man can be true to God and escape unpopularity.”** (Author Unknown)

Victory Seekers Ministries  
P.O. Box 823  
Frankfort, IN 46041

Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Frankfort, IN  
Permit No. 13

Return Service Requested

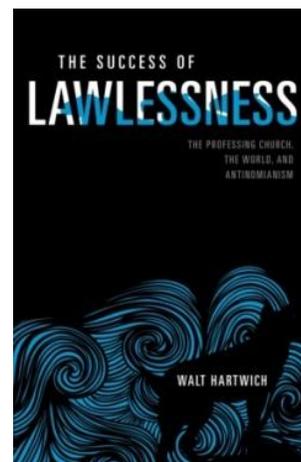
**THOUGHT-PROVOKING, SOBERING, POLITICALLY INCORRECT AND CONTROVERSIAL, YET QUITE REVEALING.... Gary Kah, popular author and conference speaker**

***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 WWIII, 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 government's 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)**



Preview and purchase online at <http://walthartwich.tateauthor.com/> from the Tate Publishing Bookstore.  
256 pages – \$14.99 paperback; \$10.99 eBook.