

# REDEEMING THE TIME

*"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).*

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## CHURCH AND STATE



### FOR EVIL OR FOR GOOD?

BY MARK W. EVANS

**H**istory reveals that the two institutions of Church and State have often been corrupted and made into instruments of evil. Civil government is ordained of God for the good order, protection and benefit of human society (1 Timothy 2:1,2; Romans 13:1-7). The Apostle Paul taught believers that a lawful ruler was "the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Romans 13:4).

We now face public officials who "call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). Government is turned upside down. Above everything, we must follow our Savior and obey Him. The disciples said: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Every nation and every ruler is accountable to the Lord, the Judge of all the earth (Psalm 2; Isaiah 40:15-17,22,23; Daniel 5:21). When civil government uses its power unlawfully, and promotes evil rather than good, it is in rebellion against God.

The Church is instituted by Jesus Christ for the purpose of providing for the spiritual welfare of Christians and advancing the Savior's kingdom (Psalm 2:6; Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:42-47). Its power is not physical, but spiritual. The Church is under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, through the Scriptures, gives His infallible instructions concerning doctrine, worship,

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## DARE to stand alone!

BY JOHN MILLS

**O**Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?" (Daniel 6:20).

Beloved, the Empire of Babylonia and Chaldea had passed into the hands of a new dynasty. King Belshazzar was slain in a night assault upon his capital. On that very night he had clothed Daniel in scarlet and made him the third ruler in the kingdom.

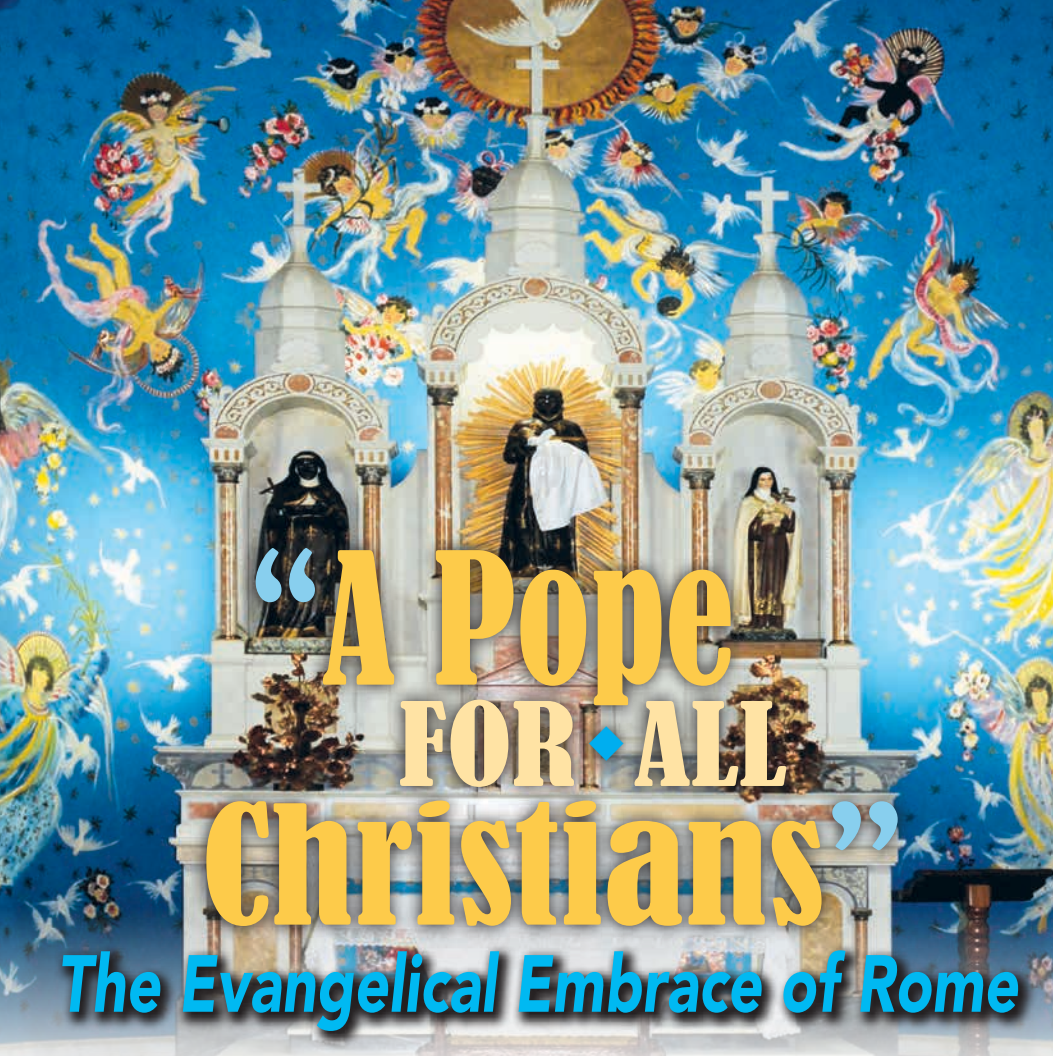
This was providential, for had Daniel been in obscurity, he would not have been noticed by Darius the Mede. Being in the palace, clothed in scarlet, it would be natural for Darius to take notice of him, and he did. He was so pleased in what he saw in Daniel that he set him over the presidents that had the oversight of 120 princes that were over the whole kingdom.

However, Daniel's position soon brought jealousy on the part of the presidents of the princes. They conspired together to come up with some kind of a plot that would bring him down and destroy him. They could find no fault with him, although they tried, I'm sure. So, they contrived a new law which

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# “A Pope FOR ALL Christians”

## The Evangelical Embrace of Rome

BY BRAD K. GSELL

**T**he election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio to the papal throne has highlighted, with not a hint of subtlety, the Evangelical capitulation to Rome.

The April 2013 issue of *Christianity Today*, founded and brought into prominence by Billy Graham, Carl Henry, and other well-known evangelicals, carried a full-page article entitled: “A Pope for All Christians: Why believers of all stripes should care about the new head of the Catholic Church.”

This was no mere opinion piece. Above the title were the words: “WHERE

WE STAND: CT’s [Christianity Today’s] Views on Key Issues.” The article was written by Senior Editor of Global Journalism Timothy C. Morgan.

Morgan writes: “One consequence of globalization is that the walls that have long divided Catholics from Orthodox, mainline Protestants, evangelicals, and Pentecostals

**“Not in 500 years have the two sides [Catholics and Evangelicals] been so close and friendly.”**

Brian Stiller

Global ambassador for the World Evangelical Alliance

are eroding. Brian Stiller, a global ambassador for the World Evangelical Alliance, commenting about Catholic and evangelical relations,

wrote on his blog recently, ‘Not in 500 years have the two sides been so close and friendly.’”

Morgan continues: “Catholic-Protestant partnership, then, whether at the grassroots or the grassstops, must be grounded in mutual commitments: to the authority of Scripture, the atoning work of Christ, the need for individual salvation and conversion, and the expression of the gospel through evangelism and social action.... Whether we Protestants like to admit it or not, though, there is a single person in Rome who can influence Christians of every stripe to work more heartily in the cause of Christ, sometimes together (even with Catholics) and sometimes faithfully in their own theological tradition. That’s why even non-Catholics are praying fervently for the new Pope.”

*Christianity Today* is not alone. A number of popular evangelical leaders publicly offered praise and well wishes to both Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

Rick Warren tweeted: “Join me today in fasting and prayer for the 115 Cardinals seeking God’s Will in a new leader.” A later tweet stated: “Welcome Pope Francis, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio [#Habemus-Papam]. You have our prayers.”

Fuller Seminary, a prominent evangelical school, founded by Dr. Charles Fuller of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour radio broadcast, started out with the intention of being a Bible-believing school. However, its compromises through the decades are well documented. The official Catholic News Agency released a statement on February 24, 2013, quoting Fuller professor Cecil M. Robeck, Jr., a minister in the Assembly of God, offering effusive praise for Pope Benedict XVI: “Benedict has been an important figure in helping all of our churches to rethink the question of evangelism.”

Evangelist Luis Palau, often called the “Billy Graham of Latin America,” was quite enthusiastic at



(Headline reproduced from Christianity Today, April 2013)

# A Pope for All Christians

Why believers of all stripes should care about the new head of the Catholic Church.

the choice of Pope Francis. *Christianity Today* carried an online interview with Palau dated March 14, 2013. Among many things, Palau declared: "He's [Pope Francis is] a very Bible-centered man, a very Jesus Christ-centered man. He's more

**"Whether we Protestants like to admit it or not, though, there is a single person in Rome who can influence Christians of every stripe to work more heartily in the cause of Christ...."**

Timothy C. Morgan  
Senior Editor of Global Journalism,  
*Christianity Today*

spiritual than he is administrative.... But personally, he is more known for his personal love for Christ. He's really centered on Jesus and the Gospel, the pure Gospel."

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), claiming to represent more than 420 million evangelical Christians, sent out official press releases both on the announcement of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and upon the election of Pope Francis. In a February 11, 2013, press release, they announced: "The World Evangelical Alliance wishes God's blessing upon Pope Benedict in his retirement and prays for wisdom as the leaders of the Catholic Church select their next Pontiff."

A month later (March 14, 2013), the WEA congratulated Pope Fran-

cis. The WEA Secretary General wrote that "despite our differences, we can uphold one another in prayer and that the Holy Spirit will guide us and help us discern within our different communities, what tasks God has for us to do."

The WEA has accelerated its cooperation with Roman Catholicism. In 2009, it began a five-year "international consultation" with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU). The PCPCU Information Service (2009/III-IV), published at the Vatican, reported that the Consultation "featured papers and discussion concerning the common ground on dogmatic questions and on ethical issues. Discussions were held within a context of joint prayer. The Consultation featured warm and honest discussions on aspects which bind us together and others which present challenges for our respective communions." The WEA reports that "...an important bi-lateral theological dialogue of the WEA and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity will release its results in 2014" (WEA press release [2/11/13]).

In the not-too-distant past, the evangelical movement stood united

in denouncing the unscriptural doctrines of Rome, many of which are an attack upon the very heart of the Gospel (see "Discerning the Difference: Roman Catholicism and Biblical Christianity," by Mark Evans, *Redeeming the Time*, Fall 2012). Evangelicalism, on the whole, held firmly that the Protestant Reformation was absolutely necessary to bringing the Church back to a Biblical position, in a number of areas.

The last 60 years have seen evangelicals quickly abandoning their militant stand for the Word of God and against the errors of Roman Catholicism. Examples include: the inclusion of Catholics by Billy Graham

in his Crusades; the active promotion of Evangelical/Catholic cooperation by Chuck Colson, of Prison Fellowship; the Evangelicals and Catholics Together collaboration in the 1990s; increased ecumenical cooperation with Catholicism by the World Evangelical Alliance; to name a few.

Bible-believing Christians must not succumb to the tragic compromise and indifference of our time. The Word

of God is the anchor to which we must cling in the shifting tides of twisted reason and bold rebellion of sinful men.



**Pope Francis' coat of arms, with the Jesuit emblem prominently displayed at the top of the blue shield.**



# “Conservative Presbyterianism”:

## *The Cooperation With Apostasy Continues*

**T**he Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP), and others who claim to be conservative, Bible-believing churches, remain as active members of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), either directly, or by membership in the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and/or the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF).

In June 2011, WEA leaders appeared with leaders of the apostate World Council of Churches (WCC) and Roman Catholic Church at the WCC headquarters in Geneva, to present the joint statement entitled “Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World” (see the Summer and Fall 2011 issues of *Redeeming the Time*). These unscriptural ecumenical ties have only grown stronger since that time.

The Theological Commission of the WEA, chaired by Dr. Thomas Schirmacher, a “Reformed Lutheran,” prepared a 1,300 word statement entitled “Evangelism, the Hallmark of Evangelical Faith.” By invitation, Dr. Schirmacher and Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, Secretary General of the WEA, attended the Vatican Synod commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Vatican II. Dr. Tunnicliffe read the statement to the Pope and the 250 delegates gathered in Rome for the Vatican Synod.

The WEA representatives did not use the opportunity to present the Gospel by “faith alone,” “without the works of the law.” Rather, the statement reads: “As Jesus states in his prayer in John 17, the witness of the disciples is hindered if they are

not one in heart and mind. The joint document of the Roman Catholic Church, the World Evangelical Alliance and the World Council of Churches, *Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct*, is a wonderful reminder of the importance and the mandate for evangelism. It is a deeply



**Dr. Thomas Schirmacher, Chairman of the World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission, attended the Vatican Synod of Bishops in October 2012, representing the WEA. He is pictured here with Pope Benedict XVI. He also participated in the inauguration of Pope Francis in March 2013. Dr. Schirmacher is listed as a lecturer at Whitefield College and Seminary in Lakeland, Florida, where a number of men from the Presbyterian Church in America, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Bible Presbyterian Church, General Synod, are likewise listed as lecturers. These photos, taken by the Vatican, appearing on Dr. Schirmacher's website, are presented here as evidence.**

significant document that begins and ends with the word mission.”

It is of interest that a number of the theological schools which feed ministers to the PCA, and most of the other “conservative” Presbyterian churches, are members of the WRF and the WEA. These include

Covenant Theological Seminary, in St. Louis, as well as the various campuses of Reformed Theological Seminary and Westminster Theological Seminary.

Dr. Schirmacher, who participates in many of these ecumenical dialogues and cooperative efforts, even with non-Christian religions, is a lecturer of Whitefield College and Seminary in Lakeland, Florida. This school also includes lecturers from the PCA, OPC, the Reformed Church in the US, and the Bible Presbyterian Church, General Synod (BPCGS), among others. Although the school's *Administrative Bulletin* offers a disclaimer that it does not “necessarily endorse every theological position espoused by the lecturers or authors used in our various courses,” it assures us that it offers its students “a wide, yet uniformly orthodox, array of Christian thought and learning....” Certainly, a good education of any kind will expose students to various viewpoints and philosophies. But, a sound Christian school will not list men of such compromise and disobedience in its list of lecturers and staff.

How are students to learn the Biblical doctrine of separation from apostasy and compromise, when one of their listed professors is in serious and very public disobedience to the Word of God in cooperating with the enemies of the Gospel? How are they to believe with conviction



that the Lord is “God, and there is none else,” when one of their teachers praises, and dialogues and prays with those who do not believe in God, as presented in the Bible?



*You Are Invited!*

# 75th Anniversary

## OF THE Bible Presbyterian Church\*

Join us for a weekend celebration, complete with powerful preaching, historic audio-video presentations of the church and denomination, musical concerts, several dinners, memorabilia to take home, recorded messages as gifts to attendees and presentations to key people.

**October 26-27, 2013**

Bible Presbyterian Church of Collingswood, NJ

\*The First Synod of the Bible Presbyterian Church was held in 1938 at the Bible Presbyterian Church of Collingswood, NJ, which had been formed earlier that same year.

*"For the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" – Revelation 1:9*

### **PCA Remains in NAE Despite This and Much More Evidence**

Of further interest is that the 2011 General Assembly of the PCA received an overture from its Central Carolina Presbytery, requesting that the PCA withdraw its membership from the compromising National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), which is the U.S. associate member body of the WEA. Some thought that the documentation which we have reported in *Redeeming the Time*, and which is readily available on the internet, would jolt some in the PCA into seeing what was going on.

However, L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk of the PCA, reported, following the 2012 General Assembly: "The 2011 General Assembly approved the recommendation of Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) and the Committee of Commissioners on

Interchurch Relations that the IRC study the issue after receiving written comments by February 1, 2012, from Sessions and Presbyteries and report

**"No Session or Presbytery submitted any concerns to the IRC [about the NAE].**

**The IRC Permanent Committee recommended that the 2011 overture simply be answered in the negative.... The PCA remains in the NAE."**

L. Roy Taylor  
Stated Clerk of the PCA

to the 40th General Assembly. The Stated Clerk notified all Presbyteries of that action through his report on the 'Actions of the Thirty-ninth General Assembly': No Session or Pres-

bytery submitted any concerns to the IRC. The IRC Permanent Committee recommended that the 2011 overture simply be answered in the negative.... The PCA remains in the NAE."

Yet many Bible-believing Christians attend and are members of the PCA, despite these things. Is it the bigger churches, with more programs, and supposedly more influence? Is it a tiredness in waging the battle, of "earnestly contend[ing] for the faith, once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)? Is it a desire for more influence and a "more positive" Christian approach? Many Christians do not like for these things to be said, or for someone to shine the spotlight on the facts.

May our focus be on faithfulness to Christ and total reliance upon Him. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). •



# Worshipping Jesus IN THE Mosque?

BY BRAD K. GSELL

## "An Interview With a Muslim Follower of Isa [Jesus]"

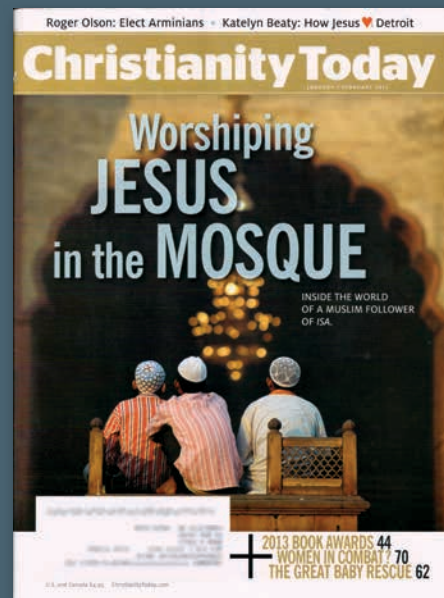
As Islam and other religions become more prominent in the minds of Western Christians, compromising evangelicalism has been trying feverishly to remove the offense of the gospel to those from non-Christian backgrounds. The January/February 2013 issue of *Christianity Today* carried several articles on witnessing to Muslims, with the cover reading "Worshipping Jesus in the Mosque."

The feature article begins: "Can people from other religious traditions genuinely follow Jesus without becoming 'Christians'? The question is a point of much dispute within today's missions world." It continues by describing "Insider Movements," where people of other religions believe in Christ, but remain in their old religion.

This is followed by an interview between a missionary and a Muslim man in East Africa, who "started following *Isa al Masih* ('Jesus the Messiah') as the Savior 18 years ago." This man gives an account of being very short of food one day, with an insufficient amount to feed all at his table. But then: "The macaroni started to multiply; it became full in the bowl.... Afterward I lay down on the bed, and as I slept, Isa came to me and asked me, 'Do you know who multiplied the macaroni?' I said, 'I don't know.' He said, 'I am Isa al

Masih. If you follow me, not only the macaroni but your life will be multiplied.'"

"I didn't understand what he meant when he said that my life would be multiplied. Now I understand what that means. But at that time, I accepted him simply as the



'lord of macaroni.' Yes, I just accepted him as one who satisfied my needs. That day I understood that because Allah loved me, Isa came to my home.... He didn't completely explain theological issues, he only said, 'If you will follow.'"

Including himself in the phrase "we Muslims," he goes to great effort to say that those spreading the Gospel should begin by acknowledging the Muslim conception of Allah as the Creator God. He says that if not, "What you are telling him is not good news."

He continues: "... We cannot rule out syncretism at the beginning of a new believer's life.... So when they put their faith in Jesus, they may have at the same time Muhammad in their heart." He says these new converts will gradually evolve to where they no longer think about Muhammad. "It is a process of the Holy Spirit."

Later, he states: "People ask us, 'Who is Isa for you?' Our answer is, 'He is the Word of Allah.' Then we quote from the Qur'an, but explain what the 'Word of Allah' means from a biblical perspective." Still later: "It is the evangelist's responsibility to choose which benefit of the Cross is the answer to the spiritual needs a Muslim feels. Then gradually the Holy Spirit will explain the benefit of the Cross as it relates to their sin." He sums up his belief in the concluding remark in the interview: "We must remember that it is not we who are bringing God to the Muslim people. He was already here."

## "Insider Movements" or "Churchless Christianity"

Another article, by Timothy C. Tennent, president of Asbury Theological Seminary, describes some of these so-called "Insider Movements," which he also identifies as "churchless Christianity." Tennent writes: "They are not actually Muslim-background believers, but *Muslim believers*. They retain their Muslim identity. They regard Muhammad as a prophet — not in the 'final' sense that Muslims claim, of course, but as a man who led the peoples of Arabia out of polytheism and into monotheism."

Tennent talks about "scholars" debating whether such "believers" "represent a valid, permanent movement in the Islamic or Hindu world, or whether they are an acceptable transitional bridge that will eventually lead Muslims and Hindus into explicit Christian identity." He con-

cludes by saying that “one thing is clear: Christ-loving movements are growing in countries where a traditional church has been absent or long gone. Both theologians and on-the-ground leaders will need to reflect with care on [this] debate as the gospel takes root in new contexts.”

### **“Jesus Saves, Religion Doesn’t”**

Still another essay, by Fuller Theological Seminary professor John J. Travis, attempts to make the argument that “Jesus saves, religion doesn’t.” He says that many of these “believers” have “not ‘changed religions,’ but their changed lives demonstrate the reality of Jesus, right inside the religious communities of their birth.... They, just as we, are saved by grace through faith in Jesus alone, not by religious affiliation.”

### **“Limits in Contextualizing the Gospel”**

The final article on the subject, by SIM missionary Phil Parshall, raised some valid points and concerns. Entitled “Too Much Context May Harm,” Parshall drew on his valuable experience as a long-time missionary to Muslims. However, he closes his article by saying: “Prayerful respect is essential to resolve these issues.”

### **What Is Biblical and What Is Not**

It is very true that those taking the Gospel around the world face many challenges in dealing with different languages, mores and cultural norms. As a guest in a foreign land, he or she must show genuine respect and humility. The age of colonialism is over, and the missionary must be extremely careful to identify those things which are required Biblically, and those things which are quite different from their own experience, but yet fall within the acceptable parameters of Scripture.

It is also true that in order to communicate we must start with the level of understanding of those with whom we speak. Those in non-Christian areas will indeed require much more patience and care in simply getting them to understand intellectually. We see this in the Scriptures. In John 4, Christ talks with the woman at the well about the “living water,” something she could readily understand.

The Apostle Paul, when speaking to the Gentiles in Athens, faced opposition, because they perceived that he was presenting “strange gods,” “strange things” and “new doctrine.” This culture had many idols, many gods and many temples. Paul did not reason that if he left their beliefs intact, he would have an easier time slipping Christ “into the mix.” He immediately began by telling them: “I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.”

He did start at a point that they would all understand. He referred to the altar “to the Unknown God.” However, he did not just try to insert a little Christianity. No! He proclaimed: “Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.” All religions have one or more gods. This, of course, is a starting point, but it is to present to them the true God of the Bible, not to do a cosmetic makeover!

## *The Fatal Problem*

The evangelical world seems to be looking for “what works,” instead of trusting God to “do the work.” Many of these things discussed are based on man’s reasoning, not God’s.

- We are told to allow syncretism, to accept as believers those who hold to beliefs which are contrary to the Gospel of Christ. The Apostle Paul rather rejoiced that the Thess-

salonians “turned TO God FROM idols to serve the living and true God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).”

- We are told that “Prayerful respect is essential to resolve these issues,” yet the Scriptures tell us that in the face of error we are to: “Earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).
- We are told that “Jesus Saves, Religion Doesn’t,” yet that argument is unworthy, if not dishonest, coming from a seminary professor. This catchy slogan seeks to obscure the fact that true followers of Christ cannot have a religion that is at enmity with the true Gospel of Christ.
- We are told that these compromises must be made in order to make Christianity more palatable for those of other religions. Yet, the gospel is hated by ALL sinful men, and Paul spoke of the “offense of the cross.”

### **“Hide Not the Offense of the Cross”**

On April 25, 1890, the Rev. Charles Haddon Spurgeon spoke to an assembly of ministers. Modern evangelicals would do well to heed Spurgeon’s words:

“... We are sure that the gospel we have preached is not after men, because *men do not take to it*. It is opposed even to this day. If anything is hated bitterly, it is the out-and-out gospel of the grace of God....

A gospel which is after men will be welcomed by men; but the true gospel of the grace of God needs a divine operation upon the heart and mind to make a man willing to receive into his utmost soul such a distasteful truth.

My dear Brethren, do not try to make it tasteful to carnal minds. Hide not the offense of the cross, lest you make it of none effect. The angles and corners of the gospel are its strength: to pare them off is to deprive it of power. Toning down is not the increase of strength, but the death of it.”





**Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church, Spring Meeting**  
 Friday, April 5, 2013, Pilgrim Presbyterian Bible Church, Kingsville, MD





# Thankful for God's Blessing

## Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church, Meets in Kingsville, Maryland

**T**he spring meeting of Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church, came to order on April 5, 2013, at the Pilgrim Presbyterian Bible Church in Kingsville, Maryland. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

The Rev. Mark Evans, of Greenville, SC, was elected Moderator; Elder Keith McCoy, of Collingswood, NJ, was elected Vice Moderator; and Elder Brad Gsell, of Charlotte, NC, was elected Stated Clerk/Treasurer.

Of special joy was the ordination of Elder Chris Salerno to the Gospel ministry. After careful examination

by the Candidates and Credentials Committee, and finally by the entire Presbytery, he answered all of the ordination vows in the affirmative.

All of the ministers and elders present then gathered around and laid hands on him, following the apostolic example in 1 Timothy 4:14 and other places, and prayer was offered for the Lord's blessing and direction in his ministry.

The Presbytery was also greatly encouraged as a minister from another denomination formally applied for membership in the Presbytery. An unrelated request was also received from a local congregation to be considered for reception into the Presbytery. The Candidates and Credentials Committee will be working with both of these between now and the fall 2013 meeting.

Continue to pray for Faith Presbytery as it seeks to be faithful to Christ and stand as a witness in our evil day.

The fall 2013 Presbytery meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 25, to coincide with the celebrations being planned that weekend by the Collingswood Bible Presbyterian Church for the 75th Anniversary of their local church. It likewise is the 75th anniversary of the First Synod of the Bible Presbyterian Church, which met at the Collingswood Church in 1938. •

## CHURCH AND STATE

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government and discipline. As seen in Revelation, chapters two and three, the Church is accountable to Christ. He has also promised that He will build His Church "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

In the Dark Ages, an apostate church ruled over the souls of men and nations. Kings and rulers rendered homage to her and filled her coffers with their wealth. Relatively few dared to resist her oppression. Defiance brought cruelties such as imprisonment, torture, exile and execution.

On April 16, 1521, a German monk, Dr. Martin Luther, appeared before kings, dukes, princes, noblemen, cardinals, archbishops, and bishops at the Diet at Worms. Standing before this august assembly, presided over by Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Luther was ordered to recant his writings. His only "crime" was exposing through the Scriptures the fraud of Rome's pretended authority, along with her false doctrines and corrupt practices.

He gave his address, which brought the civil and religious potentates before God's Judgment Bar. The incensed secretary ordered the

*Continued on page 11*





# LET'S GET READY TO GO TO CAMP!

**T**he Faith Presbytery Family Camp has been a great blessing to all who have attended. By the grace of God, 2013 will mark the fifth year of camp.

The ages have ranged from infants in arms to some in their 90s. The blend of solid Bible messages and classes has made some comment that camp is like attending a Bible conference.

During the day there are various activities geared for young and old alike. Although the youth activi-

ties are more structured, adults can swim, hike, go to scenic mountain vistas, or just enjoy the cool mountain breezes, sipping on some lemonade and fellowshiping with others. There has even been an afternoon tea for the ladies.

**All are welcome, whether a part of Faith Presbytery or not.** See the ad on page 11 for details.

If you are unable to attend camp yourself, **perhaps you would like to contribute toward sending a young person to camp.** If so, contributions may be made to *Redeeming the Time*

for that purpose. Make sure this is clearly marked on the designation line of your check.

Following is an account of what the youth in one church did recently to help send children in their church to camp.  
—The Editors

## TEENS GEARING UP FOR CAMP!


**T**eens are gearing up for the 2013 Faith Presbytery Family Camp!!

On Saturday, February 16, 2013, the Youth at Pilgrim Presbyterian Bible Church in Kingsville, MD, put on a Valentine's Fundraiser Dinner in order to raise money for the Faith Presbytery Family Camp in Tennessee.

This was an elegant night that started with valet parking, a coat check, a host to escort you to your table, full wait staff for everyone's fine dining pleasure, along with entertainment that you could only get from a great group of teenagers.

All ticket purchases, donations and tips (yes even tips) had the purpose of renting the Red Oak Lodge to help church families with the cost of camp.

It was a wonderful night that our teens and adult helpers put on for the Church. What a blessing it is to see our youth so excited about going to Bible Camp. —Beverly Young

 **The teens at Pilgrim Presbyterian Bible Church in Kingsville, MD, put on quite a banquet for the members of their church at Valentine's Day. All funds collected for the dinner, and even the tips they received, went toward helping church members to be able to attend the Faith Presbytery 2013 Family Camp.**







**ALL  
AGES  
WELCOME!**

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## CHURCH AND STATE

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monk to give a precise answer. He did, concluding with these words: "Unless, therefore, I am convinced by the testimony of Scriptures, or on plain and clear grounds of reason, so that conscience shall bind me to make acknowledgment of error, I can and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything contrary to conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. May God help me. Amen."<sup>1</sup>

With those words, a fire began that spread through the known world. Church historian J.A. Wylie wrote: "A solitary and undefended monk stood up as the representative of conscience enlightened and upheld by the Word of God. Opposed to him was a power, which wielding armies of emperors, and the anathemas of popes, yet met utter discomfiture. And so has it been all along in

the great war. Victory has been the constant attendant of the one power, defeat the constant attendant of the other. Triumph may not always have come in the guise of victory; it may have come by the cord, or by the axe, or by the fiery stake; it may have worn the semblance of defeat; but in every case it has been a real triumph to the cause, while the worldly powers which have set themselves in opposition have been slowly consumed by their own efforts, and have been undermining their dominion by the very successes which they thought were ruining their rival."<sup>2</sup> The Scriptures teach that Jesus Christ "must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet" (1 Corinthians 15:25).

Another Roman priest, Ulrich Zwingli, studied the Bible in Switzerland and learned the same doctrines as Luther. He dared to proclaim God's truth and Rome's shackles were broken in the land.

One of Rome's prized students, John Calvin, was confronted by his cousin, Olivetan, with the Word of God. The battle was long and fierce, but the renowned Protestant theologian of the Reformation was conquered by God's Word. Many servants of the Lord, even to this day, have learned the doctrines of the martyrs from Calvin.

The Gospel spread to other lands, including England, Scotland, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, and even into Roman Catholic Spain and Italy. This reformation was more than an improvement in morals. It was a work of God that gave men changed natures and produced an unquenchable zeal for Christ and His doctrines. Many suffered horrible persecution, including burning at the stake. Yet, they died rather than yield to religious and civil tyranny.

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## CHURCH AND STATE

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The revival fire continued in the 1600s and 1700s. England and Scotland endured fierce persecutions, but the Word of God shattered the false claims of popes and monarchs. Civil and religious tyrants were thwarted by those who obeyed God rather than men.

The fire spread to the American colonies. Before our forefathers fought for independence from British tyranny, the Lord sent the Great Awakening — a revival that fortified the land for the coming War for Independence. The same doctrines of the Reformation were proclaimed on American soil. Dr. D. MacFarlan cites an estimate of the number who professed salvation in Christ: “It is estimated, that in two or three years, thirty or forty thousand souls were born into the family of heaven in New England, besides great numbers in New York, New Jersey, and the more southern provinces.”<sup>3</sup>

Many revivals also blessed our country during the 1800s. The largest took place in the Confederate Armies, between the years 1861-1865. Tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers professed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Following that war, an avalanche of compromise and apostasy entered the professing Church. Clergy embraced the principles of liberal theology and social Darwinism. Gone were the doctrines of total depravity and salvation through faith alone in the atoning blood of Christ.

In the early 1900s, the Gospel of the Bible was replaced with the “Social Gospel,” that aimed at the perfecting of society. A new theology from Germany entered the seminaries that attacked the plenary, verbal inspiration of the sacred Scriptures. It trod

**After many decades of rejecting the truths of God’s Word, the modern church views Christianity as a bundle of spiritual experiences without doctrinal foundation or moral absolutes.**

“under foot the Son of God,” “counted the blood of the covenant... [as] an unholy thing” and did “despite unto the Spirit of grace” (Hebrews 10:29).

Our present spiritual nightmare comes from this apostasy. The acquiescence of ministers, church officers, and many laymen to the denigration of the “faith once delivered unto the saints” opened the door for a flood of false doctrine and practice. The Apostle Paul warned against allowing heresy into the Church: “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9).

After many decades of rejecting the truths of God’s Word, the modern church views Christianity as a bundle of spiritual experiences without doctrinal foundation or moral absolutes. Major Protestant denominations, corrupted by German infidelity, learned that they could advance their socialist agenda through the power of civil government. This combination of liberal clergymen and liberal politicians produced a deluge of Marxist legisla-

tion wrapped in appealing promises. At its core, the liberals’ dream is to eliminate the Bible, dethrone God and shred the Constitution. Today, politicians, like many clerics, are adept at articulating liberation theology, atheistic communism, and the new “liberty” that legitimizes perverted immorality and the killing of over 55 million babies in the womb.

Richard Cameron (1648-1680), The Lion of the Covenant, courageously stood against the tyrannical King Charles II, who, as head of the Church of England, sought to subjugate Scotland to the Anglican Church and pave the way for a return to Romanism. In 1638, thousands of faithful Scottish believers signed a covenant to resist any attempt to rob Christ of His crown rights. The result was a bloodbath of persecution from the civil government. Cameron was one of the faithful who refused to bow to civil and religious tyranny. In one of his sermons, he told Christ’s persecuted people, “Cry unto the Lord and let us fight against these wicked rulers with the weapons of the spiritual warfare, the arms of secret prayer.”

Today, we face a similar struggle. Our duty is to use the spiritual weapons the Lord has granted us and to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. We have the privilege of lifting up the blood stained banner of our Savior before a perishing world. The victory is certain and the end is before us. We read in God’s Word: “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord” (Isaiah 54:17). •

<sup>1</sup>J.A. Wylie, *The History of Protestantism* (New York: Cassell and Company, n.d.), vol. I, 344.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup>A quote from Trumbull, cited by D. Macfarlan, *The Revivals of the Eighteenth Century* (Wheaton, IL: Richard Owen Roberts, Publishers, 1980), 18.

## REDEEMING THE TIME

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## Present With the Lord

**M**R. RICHARD WHITBECK, SR., an elder of the Bible Presbyterian Church of Collingswood, NJ, went to be with His Saviour on January 17, 2013. He loved the Lord and served Him in virtually every facet of the church's ministry.

He was also a faithful and beloved member of The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions and The Independent Board for Presbyterian Home Missions. •

### DARE TO STAND ALONE!

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would bring his piety and his patriotism into conflict. He was a Hebrew by birth, and believed with all of his heart in the one true God. He had been in the habit of praying three times each day to the true and living God, Jehovah, with his windows open toward Jerusalem.

So these presidents and princes devised a cunning scheme to entrap him, and one that would somehow involve the king himself. A royal statute was framed and a decree published, and signed by the king, forbidding any petition to be asked of God or man for 30 days. So, what would Daniel do? You would imagine that if he were going to pray, he would go down to the cellar or somewhere out of sight. Surely his petitions would still be heard in heaven, without respect of the place from which they were presented. Or, perhaps he could have prayed silently, or with his windows closed. His prayers would have been heard just the same.

#### Daniel Would Make No Concessions

But Daniel was such a servant of the living God that he would make no concessions, no changes as to his prayer habits, no changes as to trim down or hide his prayer life. He went upstairs. It could have cost him his life. He dropped to his knees, put his hands

together, and, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, in the presence of all his adversaries, he prayed three times a day as he had done aforetime. No change! The penalty for this violation was the lion's den.

But, so great was his commitment to God, and to prayer, that he still would not make any changes in his prayer habits. There are many today who despise such loyalty to God. They hate nothing so much as a true believer, a true man of God. An infidel may be reputed to be honest, intelligent and worthy of respect, but a genuine Christian is maligned because he believes in Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life! We see it all the time. There is toleration for every flagrant violator of the laws of decency, but no toleration for anyone who believes that the laws of heaven should regulate life on earth.

Daniel would not bend and soon found himself in the lion's den. But, no sooner had he arrived than an angel of God encamped in that dungeon and, positioning himself in front of those fierce beasts, Daniel's safety was secure. The lions were given lockjaw, so they couldn't open their mouths and they could not bite. Daniel was delivered and his foes confounded.

#### Daniel Would Not Delay Being Faithful to the Lord

Daniel began to serve God in his youth. This shows that the sooner we begin teaching our little ones the ways of God, the better. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Removed from the home of his ancestors, Daniel was taken to the palace of Nebuchadnezzar. He was entered, along with three other youths, as a student in a heathen school — to be instructed in the ways of a strange nation, so as to become one of the king's learned men. And here, beloved, is where what he had learned early on would be put to the test. Certain food was served up to him that was repugnant to his conscience. It probably had

been offered in sacrifice to a false god. In any case, Daniel knew that he would be polluted by partaking of it. So, he, along with the three companions, would have no part of it.

Nor would they violate their conscience by drinking the king's wine. They requested that for 10 days they be allowed to eat pulse and drink water. At the end of the 10 days, their countenance appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children who did eat the portion of the king's meat. That's the way of the Lord.

**There are many today who despise such loyalty to God. They hate nothing so much as a true believer, a true man of God. An infidel may be reputed to be honest, intelligent and worthy of respect, but a genuine Christian is maligned because he believes in Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life!**

Other men might have thought little of what they ate or drank. But, Daniel had been trained to know better. He had been trained to make the distinction between the clean and the unclean, and he would not swerve from his faithful obedience. That's Daniel!

At length, the time arrived when Daniel was brought into public notice. He was enabled of God to interpret two of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, when the king's astrologers could not do so. After a while, Daniel retired into obscurity, into the background. We hear nothing more about him until Belshazzar ascended to the throne.

He certainly maintained his prayer life and his reputation. All of a sudden, Belshazzar summoned him before his presence to interpret some mysterious writing on the wall. What courage it must have taken for Daniel to inter-

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## DARE TO STAND ALONE!

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pret this message for the king. And the proud monarch was to hear the words: “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.... Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” At no time did Daniel swerve from his noble integrity to tell the truth. You would have to go to an Elijah to rival his courage.

Beloved, Daniel might have lost his head for relating such bad news to the king. On the contrary, he was rewarded for his integrity and was promoted to the highest honor in the realm. He was now lifted up to a higher place of dignity than he had ever had before. In the midst of the horrors of the idolatry of the heathen, he maintained his integrity before Him that rules in the heavens. He is nevertheless made the prime minister of the greatest monarch of the age. This is another example of Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

But, then came the test. Belshazzar was slain and Darius the Mede came on the scene, and ultimately the test that we talked about earlier. It was compromise, or face the lion’s den. It was relatively easy to follow the Lord in such bright days as Daniel was enjoying. But, what now, with the test he was facing?



How will he respond? What will Daniel’s determination be? Again, he opened his window, got on his knees, and prayed as he had done aforetime. With his head clear in the crisis and his heart pure in the midst of persecution, he steadfastly stayed the course, so to speak. Come what may, he would not change his position. He would not change his posture. He would not change his prayer habits one iota. That was Daniel — steadfast, come what may.

### Daniel Would Make No Excuses

Secondly, just think of the excuses Daniel could have used for staying out of that lion’s den. Now, he might have said, “Just think of all the good things I

**And may our  
determination be like  
Daniel’s: No compromise!  
No compromise!  
No compromise!**

can do for the people of this kingdom by making whatever compromise necessary to stay alive. I can do a lot more for these people by being alive than being dead.” That is very common thinking, as far as people at large are concerned.

Today you have many supposed Christians, who name the name of Christ, propping up the future church of Antichrist by remaining in fellowship with it, for whatever reason. They think somehow they’ll get better business connections, or what have you, by staying a part of a large apostate church. They come up with all kinds of rhymes and reasons for doing this, when the Bible says: “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing ...” (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Or, they might think it affords them more opportunities for witness by belonging to the “synagogue of Satan,” where no gospel is preached, and nobody is saved. They think, “I’ll just move around in a little rowboat, so to

speak, and save souls here and save souls there, save souls everywhere, because I am part of a church where nobody is saved and no gospel is preached. This is where I belong.”

Paul deals with that argument in Romans 3, where he answers those who accuse him falsely of saying, “Let us do evil that good may come.” The Apostle exclaims, “God forbid.” Concerning religious apostasy, the Scriptures say, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4).

Of those who insist on staying in fellowship with the ungodly, Obadiah 11 says: “In the day that thou stoodest on the other side ... even thou wast as one of them.” We do not want to be supporting the apostasy when Christ returns. But, for many professing Christians, that will be the case. Instead of confidence, it will be shame at His coming.

Other examples could be given, such as giving Christ His proper priority on that one day out of seven, which is called the Lord’s Day. While we are no longer under the Law regarding the seventh day sabbath, the principle of giving one whole day out of seven to the Lord is fundamental and perpetual. It antedates the Law as far back as Genesis 2:2,3, “... And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it...”

Under the law, the seventh day was kept in honor of God’s work of creation, and we now keep the first day in honor of God’s finished work of redemption. He rose from the dead on the first day of the week. Either way, there is one day in seven which is to be kept. And the extent to which it is kept, in honor of Jesus Christ, tells something about the priority that He is given.

Another compromise that some Christians make, which sets them apart from Daniel, is the way they conveniently forget to pray in the name of Jesus Christ when praying publicly or in the presence of non-believers. You’ll see this in some of these ecumenical prayer breakfasts in Washington and



other places, where notables gather and have their interfaith prayer meetings. There you find all stripes and shades of religion. In the midst of all this, you will find professing Christians who conveniently leave Christ out of their prayer so as to avoid offending somebody.

Their usual habit is to close their prayer and offer it to God, in Jesus name, except when praying around those who would be offended by it. That, beloved, sets them oceans apart from Daniel. That sets them way, way apart from Daniel. To avoid Christ's name in prayer, out of fear of offending someone, would be like Daniel shutting his window for 30 days so the prayer would not be heard. If Daniel would not shut his windows for those 30 days, under threat of the lion's den, God forbid that we should be so fearful of unbelievers as to leave Jesus Christ out of our prayer.

We should even mention our financial support of the gospel. This figures in as well. It has been said that to look at a man's checkbook tells much as to where Christ ranks in his order of priorities. It is written that "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver." For those who refuse to give proportionally, he calls them "robbers of God" (Malachi 3:8-10). Not very flattering! Not flattering at all, but it's God's Word. He is no Daniel who does not take his stewardship seriously.

Many other examples could be given. Christians today need to make the same distinction between the clean and the unclean. To run with the world, and be part of its intoxicated society, is to bear no resemblance to Daniel, or to what a Christian should be.

### **May Our Determination Be Like Daniel's**

As Christians, we are called to be like Him who is declared to be holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners. The bottom line is that Jesus Christ is infinitely deserving of all of these priorities. By faith, I understand that the blessed Son of God redeemed my soul with His own precious blood.

**For, even were we to  
dwell among lions until  
we die, what joy it shall be  
to leave the lions and be  
linked with the saints on  
high and the holy  
angels when the Lord  
calls us home.**

I know that he raised me up out of dark despair and set my feet upon a solid rock. He raised me up from the pit of darkness and despair and set my feet upon the rock, which is Christ Jesus. He took all my sin upon Himself and suffered brutally for it. What more can I wish for then? And while my brief term on earth shall last, I should be the servant of Him who became the Servant of servants for me.

Beloved, like Daniel, have we not ourselves experienced many deliverances? We've had our own lions' dens, so to speak. We surely have, and have been delivered from them time, time, and time again. Think back! Some of you may be enduring difficult circumstances right now. Lions have sharp teeth and so do many of life's difficult circumstances. But, as surely as God has delivered you time, time and time again in the past, He has not run out of deliverances! He is mighty to deliver, mighty to save. There are some 365 "fear nots" in the Bible, one for each and every day of the year!

But even if deliverance were not to come, as we would hope, He is still deserving of our utmost loyalty concerning what He has done for us already in the past. We can sing, like David, "My heart is fixed, O God. My heart is fixed." For, even were we to dwell among lions until we die, what joy it shall be to leave the lions and be linked with the saints on high and the holy angels when the Lord calls us home.

We have had few and sundry opportunities to show our love to the Lord as Daniel did. But, beloved, with the ever increasing hatred of Christians, and threats from Islamic terrorists, who

knows what lies ahead? Trials could become more and more and more like Daniel's. The bottom line is that whatever the circumstances, "Dare to Be a Daniel," not only in the future day, when your life might be threatened, but now, by maintaining the priorities we have discussed.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:1,2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

We have just given you a perfect example of this in the life of the Prophet Daniel. And now, might it be so of us. Present yourself! Make a present of yourself to Him for Christian service and faithfulness, come what may, in whatever way He directs and in whatever way He enables! And may our determination be like Daniel's: No compromise! No compromise! No compromise! •



*The Rev. John Mills is a minister in Faith Presbyterian, Bible Presbyterian Church. He served for many years as pastor of Faith Bible Presbyterian Church of Trenton, MI, and as a well-loved radio Bible teacher.*





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