

HOW LATE IS IT?

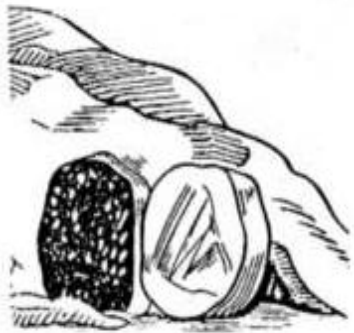
March 2016

The answer to the above question is, It is very late! Dr. J.H. Brookes was a strong Fundamentalist who preached about one hundred years ago. He was a man of great perception and penned the following around 1900: "It seems more and more evident that truth is not to win the field in our day; it will have a tremendous fight to hold it's own against the ever-increasing odds with which it has to contend. *If the battle were only with the world and the devil, there would be nothing to fear; but, unhappily, the fight must be carried on principally against professed friends. Insurrection rages within the citadel, and a man's foes are those of his own household. The church itself is traitorous and the worst enemy we have to dread.* Annihilation, restoration, evolution, a mixture of Herbert Spencer, Darwin, and Jesus Christ - such is the stuff certain popular preachers are giving their hearers...Alas! Nothing is more apparent to me, than that the professing body, with its false doctrines, its worldliness, its scarcely concealed iniquities, is on the rapids just above the Falls of Niagara, and the awful abyss is just below." Writing some years later Dr. Brookes said: "The conflict between truth and error is waxing hotter on this side of the sea (in America), as it is in the mother country. Higher criticism (fountain of all modern bible versions), a denial of the inspiration of the Scriptures, future probationism, annihilationism, contempt for the atonement, ridicule of our Lord's Second Coming, even in so called evangelical churches, are pushing forward with a bolder front every day; and those who are contending earnestly for the faith once delivered unto the saints, are few and disheartened. But why should we be surprised? We are plainly told by our Lord and the Holy Spirit in the inspired writings, that in the last days there shall be difficult times, and we ought to know that just what we see around us, must be witnessed before the end shall come."

That dear man of God certainly had his hand on the pulse of the times but what would he say if he were living today? Never mind the liberals, the cults, the Catholics, etc. Look what is going on among professing Fundamental Bible believers! Many, if not a majority of Fundamentalists do not believe they can hold the inspired Word of God in their hands - they assure us with great haughtiness that "only the originals are inspired." Worldliness is rampant among those who profess faith in the crucified Son of God. Carnal and even ungodly dress is tolerated. Many fundamental churches have dropped the Sunday Evening Service or the Wednesday Prayer Meeting and in some cases both. Then, rare indeed, is the Fundamental church that has a door-to-door visitation ministry or preaches on the streets. While hell is still believed, it has been somewhat softened; it really doesn't matter for it is seldom if ever preached. When one looks at the world and the professing church, he sees exactly what the Word of God predicts for the last days; read II Timothy 3:1-5, etc. It is not the time to give up but to stand up and be counted for Christ. Let's "**Fight the good fight of faith!**" Let's stand on and for the Word of God (there's only One, you know what it is).

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* * * * *

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BURNING YOUR SHIPS. We have all heard of burning your bridges behind you, but what of burning your ships behind you? When Cortez and his followers landed in the New World, they burned their ships and so eliminated all means of their return to the homeland. The Bible says, **“Forgetting those things which are behind...”** Christian when you were saved, everything changed. There are two sides in this world – God and the devil. You changed sides. The old relationships are no longer the same. While we care about our old friends and want to win them for Christ, the Bible says we are not to have close relationships with them. They will bring you down. God says, **“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.”** They are in the dark – you are in the light! You may say, I want to bring them into the light. Good, but you must do it God’s way – separation – lest you fall into sin. Then, there is our relationship to the world in general. The world is under the devil’s control. God says it is sinful and calls it **“...this present evil world.”** ~Galatians 1:4. The Lord says, **“Love not the world neither the things that are in the world...For all that is of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world.”** ~I John 2:15,16. Then, do you know your worst enemy? It is you, Yourself! It is your old Self life; your old nature. It was bad and it still is bad. You need to walk in the Spirit (walk according to the Word of God). Yes, you need to burn your ships (or bridges). Put away the old things and live in the new. Listen to God: **“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.”** ~II Corinthians 5:17.

THERE’S THE CAPTAIN. Vance Havner told this story: Some years ago two boats were passing each other on the Mississippi. Pointing to the other boat, an old gentleman said to another passenger, “Look, there’s the Captain.” When asked what it was all about, he said, “Years ago, we were going down the river like this and I fell overboard. The Captain rescued me. And ever since then, I just love to point him out.” He was indeed grateful for what that ship Captain did to save his life. Christian, what about you and me? The Captain of our salvation rescued us from hell! And He did it at tremendous cost! Should we not gladly point him out to others? John the Baptist pointed to Him and said **“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away he sin of the world.”**

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NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

A STUDENT PUNISHED FOR WEARING A U.S. FLAG SHIRT.

A Texas high school student received an in-school suspension for a very interesting dress code violation. His crime was wearing a shirt that had a picture of the American flag on it. Jaeger is a junior at Seagoville High School who is very passionate about the Reserve Officers Corps or ROTC program, and hopes he can use that to get a scholarship into the military after college. However, he was stopped by a school administrator to lift up the hoodie that he was wearing, revealing the American flag shirt he was wearing. He was immediately sent to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day... In an almost laughable statement, Jaeger's mother was told that the American flag does not constitute legitimate support for the military. There is a liberal idea creeping into the schools nationwide that support for anything American is wrong...-Phyllis Schlafly Report (0216) Ed. I would add to this that the liberal philosophy is not creeping into the schools, and just about everywhere else; It is galloping!

NASA BANS "JESUS" The following is excerpted from Todd Starnes, "NASA bans the word 'Jesus,' *Fox News*, Feb. 8, 2016: "The name of Jesus is not welcome in the Johnson Space Center newsletter, according to a complaint filed on behalf of a group of Christians who work for NASA. The JSC Praise & Worship Club was directed by NASA attorneys to refrain from using the name 'Jesus' in club announcements that appeared in a Space Center newsletter. ... Liberty Institute, one of the nation's largest religious liberty law firms, threatened to file a federal lawsuit unless NASA apologizes and stops censoring the name 'Jesus.' The *JSC Today* newsletter is distributed electronically and includes a number of Space Center events--from salsa dancing lessons to soccer camp. ... Since 2001, employees had gathered during their lunch hour to pray and sing and read the Bible. There had been no censorship issues until last year. ... The club's leadership was told that 'NASA would be censoring all future club announcements that featured the name *Jesus*.'

FBIS (2/19/16)

THREE NETWORKS SLANT NEWS TO LIBERAL

BIAS! A media watchdog has released its year long study that tracked the evening newscasts for 2015. ABC, CBS, NBC, totaled more than 300 hours of news coverage in 2015 with stories on crime, terrorism, and weather attracting heavy attention. According to Rich Noyse, at the Media Research Center however, the MRC analysis revealed that many important stories received little attention. For example, the undercover

Planned Parenthood videos got only 25 minutes while the same-gender marriage, bolstered by the Supreme Court decision received two hours and 11 minutes. "But that was something where the media, clearly from the beginning, wanted to celebrate and promote it." Noyse says of the marriage issue,...Sword of the Lord (2/12/16). Ed. Anybody who knows anything of the media's news coverage knows that it is, and has been for sometime, very liberal in its presentation of the news. Sometime ago I read the statement of someone in the news business who said that they tell the people what they want them to know. Anyone who only gets his news from the major media doesn't know what is really going on!

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS OF AN ARAB INVASION.

Pope Francis referred to an "Arab invasion" during a speech to a French Christian group this week, adding that Europe has been enhanced by previous influxes of people. The pontiff also noted that Europe has seen many invasions over the course of its history, according to excerpts of the comments posted on the website of the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*. Europe has been facing huge waves of migrants and asylum seekers, many of them from Syria and Iraq. While the seemingly endless streams of people have led to tension among the 28 nations of the European Union, some political leaders have said the newcomers should be seen as a new resource.

"Today we can talk about an Arab invasion," the Roman Catholic leader said in the comments dated Thursday. "It is a social fact." *L'Osservatore Romano* reported the pope hastened to add Europe has always been able to "go forward and find itself enhanced by the exchange among cultures," after saying that Europe is the "only continent that can bring about a certain unity to the world." The number of Syrians seeking asylum doubled to 362,800 last year and the number of Iraqis jumped to 121,500, the European Commission said Friday. -NewsMax (3/4/16)

Ed. Surely the Pope knows of the devastation brought on by the "Arabs" in the Middle East today. No woman is safe and even children are abused and slain. Of course Europe will play a prominent part in the Great Tribulation, when as the harlot woman (Roman Catholicism) she trides the Beast (Revived Roman Empire). Thank God, those who are truly born again will not be here for God's people will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air. I wonder, my Friend, if you have been born again by receiving Christ as your, Read the Gospel of John, chapter three. Then, acknowledge your sin unto God and ask Jesus to save you because He died for your sins on the cross.

A WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT

Many think if one does the best he can, if he does more good than bad, he'll make it to Heaven. If one is a *good person on the whole* he'll make it. This is the belief of multitudes. There was a farmer to whom that seemed right. He said, "I try to do good, I pay my debts, etc. Sometimes I may swear or get angry but *I am doing pretty well on the whole.*" One day he hired a Christian carpenter, whom he knew, to build a fence around his pasture. "Build the fence securely, perfectly," he instructed. Upon completion of the job the farmer asked, "Is the fence good and strong; totally secure?" The man replied, "I cannot say that it is perfectly secure all around, but it is a good average fence *on the whole*. I may have left a little gap here and there, but I made up for that by strengthening other parts. I would say that *it is a good fence on the whole.*" The farmer cried: "Do you mean to tell me you built a fence with little gaps here and there? That fence must have no weak places or my cattle will get out! That fence must be perfect or it is worthless." The Christian replied, "I used to think so too, but I heard you talk so much about averaging things out with the Lord, and being *pretty good on the whole*, I thought if it was good enough for your soul it would be good enough for a fence." The Bible says, "**There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**" ~*Proverbs 14:12*. It doesn't matter what you think! It may sound reasonable to you, but God requires perfection! That is why He sent His sinless, perfect Son, Jesus Christ, to die for your sins. You must put your confidence in Him - not yourself. "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.**" ~*Acts 16:31*.

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MEDIOCRE CHRISTIANITY

A. W. Tozer said: "It is disheartening to those who care, and surely a grief to the Spirit, to see how many Christians are content to settle for less than the best. I have for years carried a burden of sorrow as I have moved among Evangelical (Fundamental) Christians who somewhere in the past have managed to strike a compromise with their heart's holier longings and have settled down to a lukewarm, mediocre kind of Christianity utterly unworthy of themselves and of the Lord they claim to serve. And such are found everywhere. Every man is as close to God as he wants to be; he is as holy and full of the Spirit as he wills to be... Yet we must distinguish wanting from wishing. By 'want' I mean wholehearted desire. There are many who wish they were holy or victorious or joyful but are not willing to meet God's conditions for obtaining it." The word *mediocre* means "half way to the top." I have often said one of the curses of Christians today is people who just want to be average, mediocre. There are many professing believers who will serve God as long as it doesn't cost anything. The truth is if you are going to serve Him it will cost you everything. God did not say we are to be half-filled, or three-quarters filled with the Spirit (an impossibility). He said: "**Be filled with the Spirit.**" That is a concept many of us will not comply with, it is God's will and plan for our accomplishing anything for eternity! If you want to go to the top of the mountain with God, you will have to surrender all and give the Spirit total control.