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# TEACHINGS OF PETER RUCKMAN

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**WHY THIS ARTICLE?** Why bother to take up such a subject? Well, one reason is that I am often asked if I believe what Ruckman believes (especially about the KJV). I assure you I don't! In fact, there are a good many areas of disagreement. Also, people frequently ask about the man and what he believes. Then, many have been misled through his teachings. Because he takes a stand on the KJV (though a perverted one) and he seems to have some truth, new Christians and those untutored in the Word sometimes believe his errors. Another reason is there are times when it is necessary to sound the alarm; something that few are willing to do. It is widely known that to reveal any of his heresies will bring down a large dose of vitriol (which he claims God has called him to dish out). Well, I have been vilified by better people than Peter Ruckman. Before I get into the problem areas, I do want to say that I know some good men who hold to one or more similar beliefs. They are not bitter and divisive (like many of his followers) nor do they hold to all of the erroneous doctrines of Mr. Ruckman. I know some preachers who went to Mr. Ruckman's school years ago. Much of the false teaching has been added since.

**RUCKMAN'S POSITION ON THE BIBLE.** First of all let me say that I believe that the King James Bible is the inspired, infallible, preserved Word of God. But it was not given by inspiration as the originals; the translators never claimed such. It is not an original but a translation of what had already been inspired and given by God. However, since it is an accurate copy of those writings, it is obviously the inspired Word of God. It is not one bit inferior to the originals, nor is it any better. How can an exact copy, of a perfect original, be better? Yet Mr. Ruckman believes that the KJV was inspired as were the originals. He says that it is actually better than the originals and that you can even correct the Hebrew and Greek with the KJV. How can you correct what is perfect? He writes: *"The truth is that God slammed the door of revelation shut in 389 BC and He slammed it shut again in 1611."* This goes along with another one of his far-fetched claims that the KJV gives *"advanced light and advanced revelation..."* That is heresy! God's revelation was closed about 95 A.D. with the Book of Revelation and there is no *"advanced revelation"* beyond that. Of course, cultic individuals always claim to have some information or insight that no one else has. If you do not adhere to what Mr. Ruckman teaches, you are an apostate and you will also be called a few choice names; possibly "jackass," "silly asses," "some incredible idiot," among a long list of slanders for those who disagree with him.

**RUCKMAN'S OTHER HERESIES.** There are too many to give here, but we will list a number of the more obvious ones. Mr. Ruckman says that people were saved different ways in different times. By the way, he is a dispensationalist,

but the last I heard he taught there were eleven dispensations. He teaches that men were saved in the Old Testament by faith plus works. For example, Noah was saved because he obeyed God and built an ark, not simply because he believed God. According to him, in this age, we are saved by grace; but in the Tribulation men will be saved by faith and works, while in the Millennium salvation will be based on works alone. In a booklet he put out on the Rapture he asks what a person should do if he misses the Rapture. He says that he should work like crazy and keep the commandments of God for this is the only way he can be saved. This means people will be in heaven who made it without Christ and His sacrifice! That is heresy! In **Rev. 5:9**, it says, **"Thou (Christ) art worthy..."** Period! This is at the Throne of God; there are people there from all different ages. It's so plain: **"There is none righteous, no not one!" Rom. 3:10** (which is a quote of **Ps.14:3**). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews shows that all the O.T. saints were saved by faith! Nobody ever made it to glory except by faith and no one ever will! If you say that someone was ever saved, or ever will be saved by the law or some other good works, you make God a liar. That's no charge that I want to make! **"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED."** **Gal.2:16.** Unfortunately, there seems to be quite a few who follow his line of false doctrine. You can believe Ruckman if you want to; (One of the curses of our day is man worship), I believe God! Ruckman teaches that a woman must obey her husband, even if he tells her to sin: *"...we are shown that wives should obey their husbands in cases when they are told to do something that contradicts Scripture."* Among many other false teachings he believes that Judas was not human because Jesus said, "One of you is a devil." One of his worst teachings is Jesus was capable of sin and that He could have fallen. Now, there have been some men who were much closer to the truth than Ruckman who held to that position. However, it is still heresy. Was Jesus God? The Scriptures bear abundant witness to that truth. That's what it is all about. Even the unbelieving Jews when asked why He should die said, **"Because he made Himself equal to God."** The King James Bible says, **"For God cannot be tempted with evil."** **Jas.1:15.** He also teaches there will be no women in heaven but that all will be thirty-three year old males who look exactly like Jesus. There are other false or fanciful teachings, but we have neither the time nor desire to elaborate.

**A STRANGE VIEW OF MARRIAGE.** Mr. Ruckman believes that marriage is nothing more than having sexual relations with someone - "flesh joined to flesh," is how he

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describes it; apparently one is married every time he has sex. He says a piece of paper or a ceremony doesn't constitute a marriage. There is more to marriage than a piece of paper, but the Bible shows that couples were formerly married. This is obvious from a number of incidents in the Word of God, not the least of which is the marriage in Cana of Galilee, which Jesus honored with his presence. Mr. Ruckman apparently believes that one can be divorced and remarried for a number of reasons. He has been married three times while in the ministry and divorced at least twice. The Word of God declares that a Pastor, Elder or Deacon must be "the husband of one wife." This sort of antinomianism is pleasing to the flesh and we live in a day dominated by the flesh, even in Christian circles. Many who claim to be saved are living on a low, carnal, plane. There have always been some who adapt their doctrine to their conduct - God help them!

## HIS ARROGANT, SELF-IMPORTANT ATTITUDE.

How is this for an inflated ego? David Cloud quotes Ruckman's new book, *The Salient Verses*: "If you are able to obtain a copy (of this book) you will have, in your hands, a minimum of 200 advanced revelations that...were completely overlooked (or ignored) by every major Christian Bible scholar since 90 A.D... If a Bible believer has this work he will have the accumulated knowledge of Cornelius Stam and Ethelbert Bullinger... Clarence Larkin and C.I.Scofield... Hickey, Gorman, Swaggart, Dake, Roberts, Terrill, Hagin, Allen, Ewing, Osborne, Tilton, and PTL...Pember, Peters, Gaebelein, Pentecost...plus the Puritans, Reformers, major evangelists (Moody, Sunday, Finney, Torrey, Wesley, etc.) and all that any Greek and Hebrew scholar...ever found out - that was SO - in the last 200 years." Frankly, I don't think some of those people know very much, but some were great Bible scholars. It is an impressive list and Peter Ruckman knows more than all of them. So much for self-importance. He also excels in arrogance. Mr. Ruckman has contradicted and put down just about everyone of note who ever made a statement on the Scriptures. In addition to some of the names mentioned above for those who disagree with him, he uses *two-bit junkies, incredible idiots, stupid*. Of course, anyone who dares disagree with him is an "apostate." He said, "*God called me to sit at this typewriter and pour forth VINEGAR, ACID, VITRIOL, AND CLEANING FLUID on the leading conservative and fundamental scholars of 1900 through 1990.*" I for one do not believe God ever called him to do such a thing! That sounds to me like something the devil would get you to do but not God. No matter how sound a man is in the faith, if he dares to contradict Mr. Ruckman, he

will find his name in print with all sorts of slander attached to it. This is a man of God? My Bible says, "**And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men...**" **II Tim.2:24**. Now his defenders will say that Jesus used some harsh language at times. Yes, He did. But He never used the kind of language that Peter Ruckman uses! Furthermore, Jesus used hard words with the scribes and Pharisees, those who would deliberately destroy the truth, but not with the weakest believer or even unbeliever. When James and John wanted to call fire down on those unbelieving Samaritans, Jesus rebuked them saying, "**Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.**" Jeremiah had some strong words for the people of his day (though not words like Ruckman's) and at the same time he was filled with compassion for them. The people of his day were not interested in the truth, they would not repent, but he still cared and wept over them.

**IT'S YOUR CHOICE.** It's up to you, you can believe Mr. Ruckman or you can believe the Word of God. It always comes down to this. I have long observed that most people believe what they want to. With the exception of the few who bow their knees to God and repent, down through the ages men have gone their own way and believed what they wanted to. False teachers have no lack of followers; they never have. Whatever you want to believe or do, if you look around (usually it won't take much looking), you will no doubt find it. But just remember this, some day you are going to face God and the only standard will be the pure Word of God. You will not have an opportunity to bring up your explanation or excuses. Dr. Ruckman's interpretation, or yours or, mine won't amount to anything. Be sure of this, if your interpretation contradicts the Scriptures, you are wrong! It doesn't matter how many agree with you or how great a status they have in this world, if what they teach doesn't line up with God's Word it is condemned. I find that the greater part of God's Word is rather easily understood. After all, it wasn't written by scholars nor for scholars. It was written for the average person though there are a few portions which are "**difficult and hard to be understood.**" You must be saved if you are to understand anything. Of course, God has ordained pastors and others to help us but not all are helpful. I believe it was Spurgeon who said something like this: There are some preachers whose only claim to fame is they startle their congregations with some new heresy every week. If you will honestly "**compare Scripture with Scripture**" you will be able to discern truth and error. Unless you "**Study to shew thyself approved unto God...**" you may become prey to all sorts of error and confusion. Would you rather be different, popular, or right?

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