

## Avoid The Paralyzing Analysis Of The Scribes (Part 8)

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

This final installment of our series is somewhat longer than our previous exposés. You may be wondering why we've spent so much time on this. It's an issue which the Holy Spirit wouldn't let go of until we completed it. It's vital that as you read this, you examine your own faith practices that you've been taught. Then verify with the Holy Spirit that each one is part of His faith walk for you.

Part 8 focuses on the entrenched **REBELLION** and **COLD LOVE** of European scribal theology since the 17th and 18th centuries. **REBELLION** and **COLD LOVE** are now deeply rooted within Christianity in both Europe and the US. We've previously noted several times that missiologists have branded Europe and the US as "**post-Christian**" or in more common terms, "**Christian has-beens!**" How did we get this way? We'll explore what happened to Christianity in Europe and the US since the **Age of Enlightenment**, an intellectual movement that began in Europe and dominated the continent in the 17th and 18th centuries. Its impact continues to this day to taint our Lord's call to a life of loving and obedient trust. The Age of Enlightenment birthed "**Higher Criticism Theology**" which dramatically escalated spiritual **REBELLION** and **COLD LOVE** in Christianity by further eradicating three essential biblical truths:

- ✦ the primacy of Jesus's Lordship in the life of His own.
- ✦ the crucial importance of the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide Jesus's own both in developing applications of God's commands and in having Father's specific will revealed.
- ✦ the Spirit's empowerment which is absolutely necessary to effectively serve our Lord Jesus and obtain lasting victory over demonic forces.

### Recapping Christian history before the Age of Enlightenment

In Parts 1 thru 7 of the Avoiding the Paralysis series we wrote how the intellectual scribal theologians who had no experience in living as beloved slave/servants of our Lord Jesus profoundly influenced Christian beliefs. The **vested interests** of theologians and the ecclesiastical hierarchy compelled them to maintain centuries of domination over European Christianity. Rather than turning to the Author of Scripture, the Holy Spirit, theologians instead relied on their human reasoning by utilizing **syncretism** and **revisionism** to develop creeds and traditions.

(See chapters 5 & 6 of *Restoring the Early Church*)

- Syncretism** is the practice of ecclesiastical leaders to adapt pagan rituals and traditions into Christianity, such as Christmas and Easter, to attract and keep members.
- Revisionism** deceptively rewrites past history to support Nicolaitan dominance and scribal theology, as in centuries later declaring Peter to be the first "Pope".
- Vested Interests** shore up the prominent who keep their supremacy by persecuting or eliminating those who attempt to expose their corruption.

For further insight into Christianity in Europe and the US, read:

*The US Or Europe Being "Christian" Is Only An Illusion*

*Jesus Wasn't A European White Man*

### SCRIBAL THEOLOGY

Rejected the Lordship of Jesus,  
and the guidance and  
empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

They replaced these with:  
**anti-Semitism, Nicolaitanism,  
syncretism, revisionism,  
Hellenism and Romanism.**

**Human reasoning concocted  
creeds and traditions, eclipsing  
the sole authority of God's Word.**



Scribal theology has been obsessed with *what you believe*, rather than *how you must live*, especially under the Lordship of Jesus. For example: The Apostle's Creed is a well-intentioned attempt to define the tenets of Christian belief. Many churchgoers recite it from memory each week. The scribal theologians who engineered it defined what to believe according to the Bible, but not how to apply its truths and live it. This has been the nature of scribal theology in Europe ever since.

There's also an arrogant presumption in scribal theology that **"God isn't all that clear in the Bible!"** In other words, they find fault that God fails to concisely state in one particular place in His Word exactly the truth He wants humans to know. So to help God out, scribal theology along with the support of Nicolaitan clergy piece together disconnected verses to develop "hallowed" creeds and traditions in which Christians must believe.

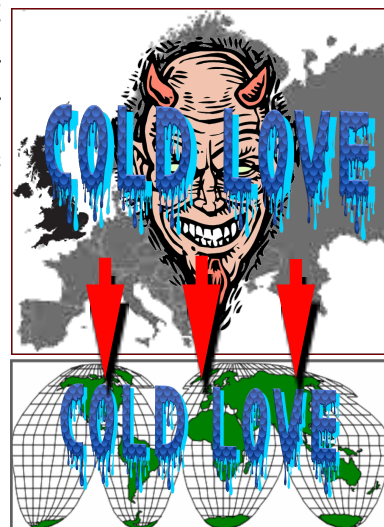
Yet the Bible unmistakably reveals that when God commands or speaks forth something, He is absolutely clear. In what He requires of or promises His children, He is the PARENT of all parents! A parent doesn't give disjointed, confusing instructions to his or her children and then expect them to make sense of what they were told to do. Neither does our God!

### A Christianity That's Devoid Of The Lordship Of Jesus Exudes **COLD LOVE**

Over the centuries European missions especially from Great Britain exported **COLD LOVE**. They brought with them not only white domination, but also a "gospel" intended to convert indigenous people to a scribally concocted denominational persuasion. No thought was given to unity under the Lordship of Jesus. The tragic outcome of this shortsighted approach? Indigenous peoples encountered **denominational division** and **white superiority**.

**"We do right by these Indians, but we don't love them!"**

This was told us by missionaries we confronted in the US in 1997. These same missionaries raped the Native girls and beat the boys with hoses and withheld food if they spoke in their native language. This isn't an isolated incident. It's **white Christian superiority** propelled by **COLD LOVE** inflicting itself on indigenous and minority peoples throughout the US and the world. You may not want to face it, but it's true: Both on the mission field and in the US and Europe, Christianity at large has been a predominant force for **racism** and **bigotry**.



In recent decades, atrocities meted out to indigenous peoples by white Christians have been exposed by the non-Christian news media. These secular news outlets have been used by our Lord Jesus to lay bare the truth of how **Christian white superiority** exported **COLD LOVE**. If you wonder why, after 2,000 years, more people around the world are not following our Lord Jesus, you must understand how powerfully **COLD LOVE** dominated scribal theology in Europe.

Consider European Christian history: **COLD LOVE** inspired the murderous Crusades. **COLD LOVE** incited the heinous torture of Jews and "Christian apostates" during the Inquisition, and the vicious pogroms against Jews throughout Europe. **COLD LOVE** was behind centuries of keeping people from having the Bible in their own language, and martyring many who fought so valiantly for the availability of God's Word to all. And **COLD LOVE** inflamed centuries of Catholic/Protestant wars in Europe, right down to the Northern Ireland conflict which ended in 1998. In most corners of the world, particularly those penetrated by the British, **racism** and **bigotry** was an integral aspect of both **colonialism** as well as **mission effort**.

## Consider these historical facts of Christian **COLD LOVE** in the US:

Hundreds of years ago Christianity laid the foundation for the theft of the Americas from indigenous peoples; for enslavement of Africans and Native Americans; and for centuries of brutal colonization worldwide. The insidious **COLD LOVE** rationale? The doctrine that it was "God-ordained" to seize land and liberty from people who were not Christian. Within their first decade on this continent, the Puritans, who told themselves they'd come to the "new world" to spread the gospel, had virtually exterminated the Pequot people and enslaved many of the survivors.

The Declaration of Independence reflects the strong influence of Christianity in the American colonies by rooting human rights in the "self-evident" truth "that all men are created equal." But on the other hand, the Declaration also describes Native Americans as "merciless Indian savages." The Constitution declared that any person who was not free would be counted as three-fifths of a free person to determine congressional representation. Despite America's early public piety, this nation was founded on the racist concept that the indigenous and minority people who were forced to build its farms, roads, cities and wealth — without freedom or payment — didn't count the same as those who were free.

In the years leading up to the Civil War, white evangelicals used scripture to defend slavery and to nurture the Confederacy. During Reconstruction these same white evangelicals used scripture to deny the vote to newly emancipated black people. In the twentieth century many white evangelicals sided with segregationists in avidly opposing movements for racial equality and civil rights. Today, **white Christian superiority** cloaked in a disguise of "**Christian nationalism**" is a voting bloc obsessed with white dominance. Is this **COLD LOVE**? You betcha!

## The **REBELLION** Of Higher Criticism Theology

**Higher Criticism: "When it comes to faith or reason, we'll choose reason every time."**

Here's something many of today's evangelicals don't even recognize at work within themselves. European Christian evangelism spread **REBELLION** by failing to make the Lordship of Jesus primary and dependence on His Spirit a necessity. And things got even worse during the **Age of Enlightenment**. A decidedly unChristian intellectual movement, the Age of Enlightenment dominated Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. In reality the Enlightenment revealed the widespread acceptance of Hellenism in Europe. At its core the Enlightenment insisted that reason and the human senses are the only means of verifying truth. (Sounds a lot like the Humanism that's force-fed into students of all ages today.)

The Age of Enlightenment spawned a branch of theology called "**Higher Criticism**." In one form or another, Higher Criticism became the flagship of scribal theology. By intellectually focusing on the history, contents and purposes of the various books of the Bible, it minimized or totally eliminated the divine operation of the Holy Spirit. The dominant intellectual theologians of the

### **HIGHER CRITICISM THEOLOGY**

**The Age of Enlightenment "Christianized"**

**Higher Criticism's revision of Isaiah 55:8,9:**

**"For our subjective reasonings  
are not Your divine revelations,  
neither does Your divine will  
interfere with our literary qualifications,"  
declares Higher Criticism theology.**

**"As far as Your truths are  
from our subjective concoctions,  
so are our creeds and traditions  
from the Lordship of Jesus."**





movement were **men with a strong bias against the supernatural**. They based their critical theories about the Bible largely on their own **subjective conclusions**. It wasn't their devotion to the Lordship Jesus or to the guidance of His Spirit that gave these theorists merit. Rather it was the dubious basis of their supposed literary qualifications.

Scribal debates within Protestantism intensified with the advent of Higher Criticism. Two major divisions between Protestant belief systems were Calvinism (John Calvin, 1509-1564) vs. Arminianism (Jacobus Arminius, 1560-1609). In general, the Calvinists asserted that God has preordained the salvation of a select group of people. In contrast, Arminianism teaches that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for all of humanity and that salvation is available for all. The Calvinist/Arminian debate really took off in early 17th century Netherlands with a theological dispute between the followers of Calvin and Arminius. Sadly, the dispute continues today among Protestant "evangelicals" whose belief systems comprise a smorgasbord of scribal theologies.

### **Scribal Dispensationalism — the rebellious bastion of non-Lordship, non-Holy Spirit beliefs**

Scribal theology approached its zenith with the theology of dispensationalism. Don't ignore this as irrelevant to you! It may well have adversely affected your own spiritual journey. Dispensationalism is a concocted theology which addresses issues concerning biblical covenants, Israel, the church, and end times. It originated in the 19th century with adherents of **"Higher Criticism"** who further lessened the Lordship of Jesus and divine operation of the Holy Spirit in favor of their own "learned" subjective conclusions. Its main spokesman was an Anglo-Irish Bible teacher, John Nelson Darby. The core of Dispensationalism is this:

- 👤 While it gives the Lordship of Jesus lip service, it limits Him to the role of Savior.
- 👤 The indwelling Holy Spirit's work of personal guidance and empowerment is eliminated.
- 👤 The gospel is preached as fire insurance to keep a person out of hell—an "easy-believism" gospel that can be preached efficiently at crusades where getting a person "saved" is all that matters.
- 👤 It has the audacity to dictate to God the manner in which He operated in the Bible. Dispensationalism tells God that history is divided into four to nine dispensations in which He acts in multiple different ways.
- 👤 Its concocted theology absolutely promises Christians that they won't have to suffer through the coming time of tribulation. Dispensationalist theology is perhaps best known for its obsession with eschatology, beginning with its creedal belief of the pre-tribulation "rapture" of Christians.

Dispensationalism became popularized in the United States through the 19th century Bible Conference movement around the country. Its growth in the US was spurred on through the publication of the Scofield Reference Bible in 1909. Scofield's Bible contributed to the spread of dispensationalism because it included study notes written from a distinctively dispensationalist perspective. The founding of Dallas Theological Seminary in 1924 provided an academic institution platform for training pastors and missionaries in the dispensationalist traditions. Dallas Theological Seminary refused to give degrees to people who believed in the power of the Holy Spirit in and through them. Rather, their mantra, "the power of God is in His Word", stresses the Bible rather than personal revelation (*rhema*) of the Holy Spirit in commanding Father's specific will for a specific follower of Jesus.

Most Southern Baptists, the largest Protestant denomination in the US, are Dispensationalists. The human reasoning underlying dispensationalism has also made it very popular with American evangelicalism, especially among nondenominational Bible churches, and Pentecostal and Charismatic groups.

**FYI:** In 1982 we turned down service with a particular mission agency because they ordered us not to share on the mission field anything about the power of the Holy Spirit or spiritual gifts. We later



found out the agency was Dispensationalist. Also, we've met a number of ex-clergy from Dispensationalism who came under the conviction of the Lordship of Jesus and the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Because of their stance, each one was defrocked and their seminary degree revoked. We praise our Lord for such men and are proud to call them friends!

### **Prophetic **REBELLION** in Dispensationalism: "We tell God what will happen in the future."**

*"From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit" (Jeremiah 6:13).* With the rise of Christian entertainment on TV and other media outlets, the number of **"Dispensational prophets"** making money by "prophesying" has risen astronomically. And dispensational eschatology is the most lucrative marketing scheme Christianity has ever seen.

With audiences obsessed with eschatology (study of the Last Days), Dispensationalist "prophets" in the media enjoy vast popularity as they present their version of the End Times. The popular "Left Behind" fiction series and movies with the same theme lead people to visualize and focus on the End. And before that, Hal Lindsey's books, such as "The Late Great Planet Earth" (1970) and "The Rapture" (1983), ignited an upsurge of **Dispensational prophets** and deep interest in their teaching. But realize this truth: people who claim to know the timing and specific events of the end are defying our Lord Jesus by nullifying His own words: ***"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father"*** (Matthew 24:36). But what even our Lord and the angels don't know, these Dispensational prophets claim to know!

### **Dispensational prophets practice *divination*!**

Divination is demonic! It's the practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown by supernatural means — even false prophecy. Jeremiah was sent by God to warn against such people — and we're offering this warning too:

*"The prophets are prophesying lies in My Name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds" (Jeremiah 14:14).* It's important to recognize that the Bible connects **rebellion with divination** (1Samuel 15:23). Behind both is the desire for something that is contrary to God's will.

Increasing numbers of Dispensationalists have had the audacity to play at being a "prophet". By telling God how His yet-to-be fulfilled prophecies are going to be carried out, they attract a deluded audience who derive great comfort believing they have a grasp on the future. Dispensationalist "prophets" imply that God is secretive in the Bible, and that only they can unravel what He's "hidden" throughout His Word. The "carrot" of these prophets is to entice Christians about **a rapture without any suffering for Christ**. Nowhere in the Bible does God promise this! In fact Jesus as well as the apostolic writers make clear that suffering is an essential part of belonging to our Lord Jesus. Keep in mind that freedom from persecution and suffering as a Christian is a tenet that's found only in affluent or generally westernized societies. Followers of Jesus in countries in which they are sorely persecuted by Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Communists know the truth!

### **Dispensationalism claims to have spiritual power, but it has none!**

As we noted previously, scribal theology alleges that "God isn't all that clear!" In other words, He doesn't say what they thought He should have said. So by relying on subjective reasoning, the true fruit of people-pleasing Dispensationalism is a spiritually powerless Christianity. The warning the Holy Spirit gives us today through Paul applies to Dispensationalism: *"having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people"* (2Timothy 3:5). The Spirit's warning is fulfilled in them: *"For the time is coming*

*when people will not have patience for sound teaching, but will cater to their passions and gather around themselves teachers who say whatever their ears itch to hear" (2Timothy 4:3).* Sadly, Dispensationalism's focus on eschatology, a rapture and their 4 to 9 dispensations entertain itching ears and meet the inner **REBELLION** of the sin nature-influenced soul.

An example of the spiritually powerless: The Assemblies of God is the largest of the Pentecostal denominations in the world today. The Assemblies teach a dispensationalist perspective on the future, including belief in a pre-suffering rapture. With its reputation for having Spirit-filled Christians and emphasizing the work of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts and modern-day miracles are touted as an everyday part of a believer's life. Yet their assertions are far from reality in the Assemblies. If anything, lively worship would be the clearest depiction of them, coated with their belief that they'll escape Earth before the Tribulation and suffering begin.

### **Scribal theology has created a lucrative business: "We can mass-market Christianity!"**

The widespread influence of Higher Criticism theology contributed to the **Church Growth Movement**, as well as its kindred **"Name it and Claim it"** theology: we tell God what we want and He has to do it. The Church Growth Movement emerged in the 1970s and 1980s among evangelicals. The objective was to develop business-like strategies to increase the size of congregations using research, sociology, and analysis. The marketing motif of the Church Growth Movement now influences many other congregational leaders: "Let us show you all the things we provide for your comfort and enjoyment so that you and your family will stay (and help pay the bills)."

To retain "paying clients" in their pews, many of these large congregations in the 1980s introduced another form of divination through **"mood conjuring"** — using worship to conjure up an emotional state which makes the worshipper feel good regardless of whether they are clean of sin or not. Over the decades lively Christian worship has become entertainment. And our Lord Jesus is often peddled as a "life improver" who'll cater to your happiness.

In 1983 at our retreat center in Connecticut, we got our first glimpse into the mentality of the Church Growth marketing mentality. The staff of one of the larger Assemblies of God in New England held a planning retreat. At times we happened to overhear their discussions. Their main focus was on attracting new churchgoers through lively worship. We were amazed when we learned how much of their budget was spent on their worship team and on marketing lively worship in newspapers and other media. When Mike asked the pastor about his approach to growing his congregation, the man answered, "You just have to provide a better worship team than the other churches." Several weeks later a senior pastor of another very large congregation came on a personal retreat. Mike asked him how he got his congregants to actively participate in serving our Lord Jesus and one another. He told Mike, "We don't need them to do anything but just come to the service and pay their tithe. We just add staff as our numbers grow, and we now have twenty-one staffers who do everything."

### **Evangelicalism has a short history, and too small an understanding of Who Jesus is**

From its inception in the 18th century, Evangelicalism built itself on "getting people saved". In its intellectual reasoning, the system eliminated both the *way of life* for followers of Jesus in serving His Lordship, and the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in doing our Father's will. The real fruit of Evangelicals are the self-preoccupied, spiritually powerless who occupy a pew each week. Our Lord's condemning accusation is as equally applicable to many evangelicals as it was to the Pharisees: *"You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are"* (Matthew 23:15).

Missiologists have stated that Christianity hasn't grown in the US since 1977. In fact, the religiously-mired are experiencing a spiritually powerless demise. A new term has been given to those who flee the evangelical religious agenda: "**Ex-vangelical**." These are people who have left evangelicalism, especially white evangelical churches in the United States, for a life that's spiritually akin to our Lord's first followers. (The term also refers to those who've completely departed Christianity and follow atheism, agnosticism, or other religious belief or lack thereof.) You could say that the powerlessness of scribal theology and its **REBELLION** and **COLD LOVE** drove them out.

***"Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me.  
The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father,  
and I too will love them and **show Myself to them**."*** (John 14:21)

In our **General Rules Of Biblical Interpretation** document we note that the didactic passages in Scripture express the will of God or the commands of God — things that demand your obedience. What God commands and what we who follow Jesus as Lord are responsible to obey as His beloved family, He has made clear and concise. This is where the Lordship-committed must remain focused: applying the commands of God to our lives through His indwelling Spirit out of loving appreciation for what our Lord Jesus did for us by grace. Make certain that your way of life revolves around the living Lord (Joshua 24:15) and not from scribal theology either modern or historical. And avoid scribal theologians who focus on topics which God **did not** command, such as genealogies, numerology, eschatology, and just plain vain assertions.

**Our Lord Jesus says to you, "Let Me show you all I can do through you to bring glory to My heavenly Father if you will just pick up your cross and follow Me in loving trust."**

After our heavenly Father revealed to us the Hebraic foundations, He then commanded us to **"Contend for My Son Jesus."** This one command overrides every other responsibility we've been given over the past 3 decades. We've exposed the scribal delusions in this 8-part series to help you examine your own love-grounded obedient trust in our Lord Jesus, and to flee any areas of your life which aren't lifting Him up as Lord of your life. We are deeply committed to:

- ✝ **the primacy of Jesus's Lordship in our lives, and to helping you walk in His Lordship day by day.**
- ✝ **embracing the crucial importance of the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide us and you, both in developing applications of God's commands and in having His specific will revealed to us and to you.**
- ✝ **living with the Spirit's empowerment which is absolutely necessary for us and you to effectively serve our Lord Jesus and obtain victory over demonic powers.**