

# **“Foes of Final Authority (Psalms 138)”**

## **(What We Believe and Why We Do What We Do)**

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(Preached on Sunday Night, July 13, 2008)  
(Footnotes are added by Transcriber)

Psalms 138 and Isaiah chapter 40... Psalms 138 and Isaiah chapter 40. We tell people who are visiting or people who are new to our church or people who have come to join with us in fellowship that you would need to attend three services a week for two months to get properly oriented. And the reason I say that is you can't preach everything in one sermon. You can't give a biblical perspective in one sermon. And our churches are so influenced by the world that when you hear Bible teaching and Bible preaching that is not in any way, shape or form influenced by the world's philosophy and the world's approach to life, the world has so influenced the church that church people think what they just heard wasn't Christian. And so there's a certain period of de-briefing that is necessary to get you out of that materialistic, self-loving mindset and into a spiritually oriented others loving mindset – you can't get that in one sermon or two.

Now on Sunday mornings, I try my best to deal with matters of victorious and positive Christian living and when I preach that way, people say, “*Brother James, you preach like that all the time...*” – this place would be packed! But Sunday nights are proof that that's not true! Because I preach like that Sunday morning and people **don't** come back Sunday night because they got what they wanted and got what they come for. (Or because maybe you've told them it's not like that on Sunday nights. *(Audience Laughing)* That could be the situation.)

Now the Bible says in Psalm 138 (and we read these verses in the last week or two.) Psalm 138, verse 2, ***I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*** We devoted an entire message to this matter of the place of authority that God has given to His word. It trumps your opinion. It trumps my opinion. It trumps our combined opinion. It trumps how anybody else feels about it. It trumps how anybody else looks at it. In fact, it even trumps the very name of Jesus Christ! (and we saw that from the scripture.)

Now the Bible says in Psalm 139 starting at verse 20, ***For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.*** Now this whole Psalm 139 up to this verse is about how good God is to us, how marvelous it is that God has made us, that He protects us and He provides for us and He cares for us – and we covered all that. But then the summation of the Psalm (the end of the Psalm) says, ***Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God, (verse 19) depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.*** I don't want to be around people who are the enemies of God ***20 For they speak against thee wickedly...*** I don't want to be in conversation with people that speak wickedly against God. (Is that fair?) ***...and thine enemies take thy name in vain.*** I don't want to be around people who use Jesus name as a curse word, a swear word, in mockery – I don't want to be part of that crowd.

Verse 21. ***Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee?*** Well now, wait a minute. See, that's where everybody draws back. See, this morning we talked about how to love our enemies. And we are! And we are at the same time have God's perfect hatred for all that is opposed to His truth and His righteousness. I am to treat that drug dealer and that drug addict with the kindness and love of Jesus Christ and I'm to have nothing but hatred for what he does and how he promotes what he does and how he draws others into the web of what he does. See, this modern Christianity, they can't figure out how to be loving without endorsing. They can't figure out how to be kind and nice without participating. Some how or another you got to do both.

The Bible says in verse 21, ***Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.*** Now I bless them; but they are my enemy. I don't cooperate with them. I don't help them. I don't aid them. I don't comfort them. I don't promote them. I don't do anything that would make somebody think they're okay. ***23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*** Look. If God doesn't approve of wickedness (and He doesn't), then the first order of business is to make sure there is no wickedness in me.

Now one sure way to keep wickedness from getting into your heart and into your life and into your mind and into your family is to not hang out with wicked people. It's to not give ear to wicked people. It's to not participate in wicked practices. Now here's the problem. (This is my problem.) If I say that and I follow it up with drug dealers, child molesters, rapists, and murderers – a congregation like this will say, “Amen, brother, that's right...” But if I follow it up with admonitions to you, about the greatest enemies of our nation, preachers who don't preach the truth and ministers who dishonour the truth of the word of God, then people start drawing back because somehow or another in your mind, it's not as dangerous to sell lies in Jesus name as it is to sell drugs.

I'm telling you, somebody on drugs can get saved if they're presented with the real Jesus. Somebody on drugs are going to end up in hell if they're presented with a false Jesus. So the greatest enemy is not the drug dealer; it is the false minister. That's my belief! Having read the Old Testament, I find chapter after chapter after chapter devoted to those that bring false religion into Israel... and very little said about those who bring drugs and liquor and loose living into Israel. Why? Because if we had enough preachers standing for the truth, we could combat that stuff. But without it, we find ourselves in the condition we're in tonight.

Now, don't leave that Psalm – but look at Isaiah chapter 40. Verse 8. ***The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*** So where should you take your stand? With the word of God. Where should you not take your stand? With any man, woman, boy or girl who is nothing but grass. Isaiah chapter 8. Verse 20. ***To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.***

Now here's what we're going to do tonight. I'm going to have the audacity to illustrate for you exactly what I'm talking about. So that there won't be any mistake or any doubt in your mind as to what these scriptures are referring to. And your challenge is going to be to search your heart and ask yourself, “am I in agreement with God... or has this world had such an influence upon me that I feel uncomfortable siding with God against false religion because of the social implications. (And really, that's what it is all about.) And if there was nobody but you and God, you wouldn't have any problems standing with God. But when it's you and God

and your kinfolk and your neighbors and your co-workers then it gets a “little dicey” as the saying goes.

Alright – let’s pray. *“Father, help us to love our neighbor... to love our enemy... to love you... to love the truth of the word of God. And Lord, help us at the same time to hate that which was false and destructive as much as you do, in Jesus name we ask and pray, Amen.”*

**Exhibit One.** Hebrews chapter 10. If you have found Hebrews chapter 10, I will present exhibit number one.

*This week in Orlando, a University of Central Florida student began receiving death threat. Webster Cook struggled a Eucharist, a small bread wafer that Roman Catholics believe that has turned into the body of Christ after a priest blesses it. He smuggled it out of mass and didn’t eat it as was accustomed but instead he walked away with it. (Roman Catholics believe that once blessed, this piece of bread actually becomes the very body of the very Lord Jesus Christ and then He is eaten in order to receive salvation.) Cook’s friend who didn’t want to show his face said he took the Eucharist to show him what it meant to Catholics. Cook eventually gave the wafer back but the Catholic League a national watchdog organization for Catholic rights claims that is not enough. Susan Feney, a spokesperson for the local Catholic diocese said, (quote) “We don’t know 100% what Mr. Cook’s motivation was. However, if anything was to qualify for a hate-crime, this must be it.”*

You say, “well how can that be?” Well, the priest from the church where he took the Eucharist said (quote), *“This is kidnapping. (Commotion in audience) If someone took your son or daughter or a family member, would they not be prosecuted? This young man took Jesus Christ.”* “We expect the University to take this seriously,” Feney added, *“to send a message to just not to Mr. Cook, but the whole community that this kind of really complete sacrilege could not be tolerated.”* (end of quote)

Now to that church, you taking a wafer out of the building is sacrilege. *Them...* (now listen) *Them eating Jesus is not sacrilege.* Now do you think that... do you see a problem with that? You see, people say, *“Well, Brother James, I don’t think you ought to say anything against the Catholics...”* I didn’t say anything against the Catholics. I want you to understand the position of the Roman Catholic church with regard to Jesus Christ. They don’t believe He died to pay for your sins. They believe He continues to die, to continually pay for your sins. And the only way for you to get your sins paid for is not to trust Jesus Christ but to keep eating Him. That’s the position. Now, I’m not hateful to say that, but if I say that religious people say you’re hateful.

Hebrews 10. Verse 10. ***By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*** How many times was the body of Jesus Christ offered? One time. How many sins did it pay for? All of them. For how many people? All of them.

Now, the Roman Catholic church says one thing; the Bible says another. If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. How ecumenical should we be? How much shared participation should we have? The Bible says none! When you take the Bible position, professing Christians say you’re hateful. Psalm 139 says good for you.

**Exhibit Two.** Turn in your Bible to First Corinthians chapter 14. (We’re just comparing the Bible to church.) *“Well, my church says...”* Well, the word of God says...

*In 1992, the General Synod of the Church of England passed a vote to ordain women. Not everyone in the church was in agreement. In 1993, it passed the act of Synod, setting up an*

*official structure to enable parishes to refuse women's ministry. Male priests and their congregations could accept an alternative Bishop known as a provincial Episcopal visitor or (quote) "flying bishop" (end of quote) (whom Sally Field was the first... (Light Laughter) where's Jim when I need him.) ...who also rejected women as priests. This system although criticized as institutionalizing discrimination against women... (Now is that a Bible term or is that a worldly term? Well, what are church people doing using a worldly term to define a biblical principal... which is the greater influence in their lives? The political system of the world – not the truth of the word of God. Anyway...) ...discrimination against women has been credited with avoiding a split of the Church of England over the issue. Two other options were set up to allow male priests to reject women's ministry. First, the escheme was to allow men to leave the priesthood with the appropriate financial support until they resettled. Secondly, the Romans Catholic church allowed married and non-married Anglican priests to join its priesthood. (So if you want to get married and be a Catholic priest, you got to be an Anglican priest first, get married and then you can transfer over... which means they really don't believe it.) In 1994 in Bristol the first women priests were ordained. Now, more than ten years on, one in five Church of England licensed (not in the Bible) priest is a female. Pressure is growing now to allow women to be bishops, a working party setup by the General Synod.*

Okay – First Corinthians 14, verse 33. ***For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*** Such discrimination. Such intolerance. (See – that didn't go over as good as that eatin' Jesus did it?) (Audience Laughing) It would be a very quick church service, if you had a woman pastor who kept silence in the church. You'd be the first ones at lunch if you had a woman pastor who didn't speak in the church.

Now the Church of England ordains women pastors. The word of God says the woman is not to speak in the church. According to the Bible, the leadership of the Church of England has no light. They're walking in darkness. You say, "now Brother James, that sounds hateful..." Psalm 139 says good for me! I'm not hateful! I'm not mean! I don't steal from people. I don't hit people. I don't lie about people. I don't slash their car tires. But if you compare what the Bible says to what churches say, people call you hateful. Psalms 139 says you're just going to have to live with that.

**Exhibit Three.** Turn to Leviticus chapter 18.

*Many of the headlines regarding the Church of England since 2002 have regarded the rights of homosexual priests. The Church of England allows for the ordination of... (the article says) gay priests... (that's a misuse of the word. Gay refers to happiness. Gay refers to joy. Gay refers to good cheer. It doesn't refer to acts of indecency. So they didn't ordain gay priests – they ordained homosexual priests.) ...as long as they are celibate. (Well, if you're celibate it doesn't matter what you call yourself – why are you talking about it?) (Light Commotion in Audience) In 2003, Canon Jeffrey John was appointed as Bishop of Reading. (I don't know if he was a twelve-pound canon or a twenty-pound canon or just what kind he is.) Despite his pro-homosexual views, he made it clear that he was celibate. His appointment of the subsequent election of openly homosexual bishop in America prompted a national and international examination of the rights of homosexual clergy.*

Now, let me ask you something. *Rights...* Is that a Bible term or is that a worldly term? Seeking to establish someone's rights based on their sexual orientation... is that a worldly issue or a Bible issue? So my point stands. Churches are more influenced by the world than they are the word of God. Are our objective every time we meet together is to move God's people away from the world's way of thinking and get them to a Bible way of thinking. It's the only hope for our nation. It's the only hope for our young people. It's the only hope for our town. There's no other hope. The world is the problem. So people come to church and get what? More of the world. That doesn't fix anything.

*So they examine the rights to homosexual clergy. Canon Jeffrey Johns stood down as Bishop Elect of Reading but has subsequently been installed as Dean of St. Albans. (So we'll train the future generation since we can't have this church position.) Along side issues of homosexual clergy, the wider Anglican community has been wrestling with whether to sanction same sex blessings. (Now why are they wrestling with that? Does the Bible say nothing about it? If the Bible says something about it, what's the problem?) Isaiah 8, verse 20. ...if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. They are walking in the dark.)*

*Both of these issues could cause divisions within the Anglican communion with the provinces of the global south, Nigeria, Southeast Asia and South America threatening to split permanently from those sanctioning and blessing of the same-sex relationships... (In other words, those parts of the world that are least influenced by western education and western media still think it's wrong; and those that go to church and watch TV all day have decided it's right.)*

Alright – Leviticus 18:22. Let's see if this is confusing to anybody. ***Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*** Well, what would you compare it to? Verse 23. ***Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.*** You say that's disgusting! Why is verse 23 disgusting and verse 22 is not? Now, if your sole influence is the word of God, verse 22 would be as disgusting as verse 34. If your influence is modern secular thought, you're not sure about verse 22, but verse 23 is really bad. Come on - do you see where we are? The point (and it's always going to be the point as long as God keeps me on the narrow road), the point is if everybody says one thing and the Bible says something else. Everybody needs to change their way of thinking.

*"Well, that's so hateful..."* (Psalm 139 said you might say that.) And God told me to stay right there... stay right there.

**Exhibit Four.** Turn to John chapter 3. (Careful... we're heading for the rapids.) *(Laughing)* "Preach..." The water wasn't too rough yet... but I see some rocks up ahead.

*In a interview with the Houston Chronicle \_\_\_\_\_ says that he believes that Jews already have a covenant with God and a relationship to God and do not need to come to God through the cross of Jesus Christ. He told the newspaper (quote) "I believe every Jewish person who lives in the light of the Torah has a relationship with God and will know redemption." Certainly this is a shocking statement in light of the words of Jesus in John 14:6, no man cometh unto the Father but by me... First John 5:12, if you do not have the Son of God, you do not have life...*

Let's see what Jesus said to a Jew. John 3:1. ***There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:*** Verse 5. ***Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,***

***Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*** Who? A Jew! ...with a covenant relationship to God through Abraham, Jesus said, ***Ye must be born again.***

John Hagee went on to say (*Light Commotion*) (quote) “*I’m not trying to convert Jewish people to the Christian faith. In fact, trying to convert Jews is a waste of time. The Jewish person who has his roots in Judaism is not going to convert to Christianity. There is no form of Christian evangelism that has failed so miserably as evangelizing the Jewish people.*”

Acts 2. Three thousand souls saved – all Jews. Acts 3, 4 and 5. Two thousand more saved – all Jews. It’s incredible. You say, why would he say that? Well, once you start dabbling in politics, you have to start saying what the news media wants to hear or you can’t get bigger in politics. What’s the influence? Is a Bible influence? Or is it a secular influence? It’s a secular influence.

In summation, Hagee leaves no question at all when he states (quote) “*There are Jewish people who have a relationship with God right now according to election. Jewish people are judicially blinded to the identity of Messiah. If God blinded the Jewish people to the identity of Jesus as Messiah, He could not send them to hell for not seeing what He has forbidden them to see.*” Now what’s the problem? (A.) He doesn’t understand election. (B.) He doesn’t understand the new birth. (C.) He doesn’t understand the Jew and Gentile question.

“*Well, I really enjoy his program...*” Look. I’m not telling you to not really enjoy somebody’s program – I’m telling you, if the Bible says one thing and somebody else says another thing, you shouldn’t draw back like some of you are drawing back right now. You should say, “you know what? I’m sticking with the Bible if John Hagee and both his wives don’t agree with it.” (*Audience Laughing*) “*Preach...*”

**Exhibit Five.** First Timothy chapter 2. See – when I... if you just preach the verses, people don’t get it as clearly as they get it when you illustrate. However, when you illustrate, you take a good deal of criticism... from people who say we shouldn’t be critical. And you retreated very judgmentally by people who say, “you shouldn’t judge...” And people say things like “I hate you because you’re so hateful...” (*Light Laughter*)

Exhibit Five. Should we read the verse first? Let’s switch it around. First Timothy 2, verse 11. ***Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*** So the teaching ministry of the church belongs to the men. “*Well, I think...*” It doesn’t matter. “*Well, I feel...*” It doesn’t matter. “*Well, the way I see it...*” It doesn’t matter. God knew what He was doing. It’s not... “*well, you’re against women...*” I didn’t write this! It doesn’t say on the front...

This guy told me one time... he said, “*this isn’t the King James Version because you’re name is James...*” (*Audience Laughing Loudly*) That’s it... that’s it... I’m glad I didn’t name my son Amplified. (*Knox & Audience Laughing Loudly*)

Alright – Exhibit Five. The dust jacket of her latest book highlights her prominence and promises big things (quote) “*Joyce Meyer... (Audience Laughing) is the author’s best sellers Beauty For Ashes: The Root of Rejection in the Battlefield of the Mind and it taught on emotional healing and related subjects in churches all over the country.* Now look. If you put in the dust jacket of your book on sale in Christian book stores bought by professing Christians, “I, Joyce, have taught this in churches all over the country” and the Bible says that a woman is not teach in the church. Do you know what Christians in our day do? They say, “*well, the Lord led her...*”

*the Lord told her... well, the Lord gave her...*” Not the Lord who wrote the Bible! Some other lord that you’re listening to – but not the Lord who wrote the Bible. The Lord of the Bible said, ***if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.***

Anyway, the book cover goes on to say, “Her *Life in the Word* Radio broadcast aired on two hundred stations nationwide. Her 30-minute *Life in the Word with Joyce Meyer* television program is broadcast in the United States and Canada. She also travels extensively conducting *Life in The Word* conferences and speaking in local churches.” (end of quote) Is she supposed to speak in local churches? No. Well, if she had some *Life in The Word*, she’d know better. I don’t hate her! If her car was broke down, I’d help her. I’d give her a ride to the gas station. (Even if she had both her husbands with her... the first one and the one she’s got now, I’d take them both with her.)

Joyce said in a recent sermon, (quote) “*You know something? I liked myself before I had started studying on this because that something God had just worked in me the last seven years. I didn’t start out liking myself. I didn’t like myself at all. But I’m telling you after I studied the word, I got so excited about me that I hardly know what to do.*” (end of quote). Meyer can be classified as a word-faith teacher and as such as shown an inclination to waffle on major doctrines.

In her book, *The Most Important Decision You’ll Ever Make*, she said, (quote) “*Christ entered hell where you and I deserve to go because of our sin. He paid the price there. Jesus paid on the cross and later in hell. Finally God had to rise up from his throne and say to demon powers tormenting the sinless Son of God, let him go. Then the resurrection power of Almighty God went through hell and filled Jesus so He could be resurrected from the dead as the first born again man.*” (end of quote). Our Sunday school kids know better than that! Jesus wasn’t born again – He’s the one that gives the new birth! Jesus didn’t suffer in hell – He cried on the cross, it is finished! He was tormented by demons – first of all, there isn’t any such thing in the Bible. Secondly, Isaiah 53 says the Father ***bruised*** Him!

You say, “*well, how come she got so many followers...?*” Because people are more influenced by the world than they are the word of God, even if they go to church. And that’s why when you teach the Bible and you stand for the Bible and you bring your friends to hear the Bible, they think we’re hateful and mean-spirited and non-Christian. Why? Because they haven’t seen Christianity in their life! You say, “what is Christianity?” Well, it would honour Jesus Christ in His word.

Meyer said, (quote) (this is another from her sermons) “*I’m going to tell you something folks... I didn’t stop sinning until I finally got it through my think head I wasn’t a sinner anymore. The religious world thinks that’s a heresy and wants to hang you for it but the Bible says that I’m righteous and I can’t be righteous and a sinner at the same time. So I am not a sinner. It’s a lie from the pit of hell. That’s what I was but not anymore. I don’t sin. Amen.*” (end of quote). First John 1:8. ***If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***

The blood. Meyer teaches that Christ’s blood is something we’re supposed to use. I’ve read every verse in the New Testament on the blood. I’ve tried to memorize all the verses in the New Testament on the blood. There isn’t one thing in the entire Bible about *using* the blood of Jesus Christ. It’s not a tool. It’s not a toy. It’s not a weapon. It’s not an amulet. It’s not a charm. It’s something Jesus shed to wash your sins away. You don’t plead it. You don’t toss it. You don’t sprinkle it. You don’t shoot people with it. You don’t hide under it. You get washed in it and your sins are forgiven.

Meyer says, we are to use the blood and use Jesus name. These are her great doctrinal errors. Though Meyer says some things that are right about the blood of Christ. She lapses into the magical use of the blood and uses it like a relic or a fetish as was done by pagans in the middle ages.

For example, she writes in her book, page 100, (quote) *“One of the ways we can honour the blood is by singing about it, talking about it, studying about it, meditating on it... (sounds pretty good). (Page 101) I know the devil is afraid of the blood... (no scripture) (Page 109) We must learn to use the blood... (no scripture) (Page 111) (quote) “My husband and I stay in various hotels because of our travels in ministry (she didn’t say which husband, she just said, “my husband and I...” quite frequently when unpacking and settling into a hotel room, I will plead the blood or put the blood on the room... (no scripture – nothing like that in the Bible.) to cleanse or remove any wrong spirits that may be there from other guests... (Forget that – how about the guy that brushed his teeth and then got the water right out of the faucet without a cup... that’s what you need to worry about.) (Light Laughter) I do this by speaking the blood in my prayer (page 111) (no scripture)...*

Same book. (quote) *“We laid hands on the check and prayed. I went and got all of our checkbooks and my pocketbook and Dave got his wallet, we laid hands on them and put the blood on them, (You don’t have the blood.) ...asking God to protect our money and to cause it to multiply and see to it that Satan could not steal any of it from us...” (what – does Satan need a dollar for the drink machine? (Knox & Audience Laughing) The devil’s gonna come and get your wallet and take money out of it? Come on, Joyce...)*

Same book. (quote) *“You need to start praying the blood over your children, your car, your home, your body...”(quote) “if you were sick in your body, plead the blood over your body... the life is in the blood... it can drive out the death of sickness...” (end of quote).* There’s nothing about that in the word of God. There’s nothing about that anywhere in the Bible.

Joyce Meyer, in her sermon, Witchcraft and Related Spirits – Part 1 (Audio Tape 827, if you want to buy it) said, (quote) *“Now spirits don’t have bodies so we can’t see them, okay? There probably is, I believe there is, I certainly hope there is several angels up here this morning that are preaching with me. I believe that right before I speak some anointed statement to you that one of them bends over and says in my ear what I’m supposed to say to you.”* (Now if that’s true, that angel has a terrible problem with English grammar. Look. An angel whispered in her ear and said, *I certainly hope there is several angels up here this morning that are preaching with me.* Well, next time get the English speaking angel.)

So she says, I’m preaching in violation of the word of God. You’re listening to me preach... in violation to the word of God. But it’s okay because an angel is whispering in my ear and I’m speaking anointed words so that makes my false teachings okay because I got them from an angel. Galatians chapter 1. You say, *“Preacher, you’re just against everybody...”* No. I’m not against anybody. I’m against everything that’s contrary to the truth of the word of God, because when you finally get a person to seek the Lord, it’s a shame that a minister often stands in their way. If somebody goes to church looking for Jesus and they find a pick-pocketing devil, they would have been better off not going.

Galatians 1, verse 8. ***But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be \_\_\_\_\_.*** (coming from audience) *“...accursed.”* I didn’t say that... I didn’t even read it. I just left it there for you.

Now this might be one that Joyce and her second husband are worried about the devil getting after their money:

*IRS investigation and Jefferson County investigators have revealed that Joyce Meyer's ministry board of trustees which is headed by Joyce Meyer has agreed to pay her \$900,000.00 a year annual salary. The board agreed to give her husband, the boards vice-president an annual salary of \$450,000.00 for helping Joyce... (plead the blood over the hotel rooms.) The board agreed to provide the couple with free personal use of the corporate jet, luxury cars, \$2,000,000.00 home where all bills are paid by the ministry and a separate \$50,000.00 a year housing allowance. The ministry paid 1.475 million dollars to buy three houses for the three Meyer children and authorized Joyce and Dave control of \$790,000.00 fund to be used at their discretion for bonuses to executive management. The executive management is Joyce and Dave. The job duties of seven employees to the ministry are full time sorting gifts personally received for Joyce and Dave of cash and jewelry.*

(Let's read some Bible.) First Timothy chapter 3. (Now that really depressed you, didn't it!) (*Knox snickering and Light Commotion*) Here you are working for a living. First Timothy chapter 3. We hasten on to Exhibit 6. Verse 1. ***This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife...*** First Timothy 3:8... ***Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued...*** Verse 11. ***Even so must their wives be grave...*** And then verse 5, (***For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?***)

Now I'm not trying to put anybody in a bad frame of mind bringing up the marital infidelity of these ministers – I'm pointing out to you that God disqualifies ministers who can't guide their own house. If you can't direct one person, you're not to be entrusted with the directing of a congregation of people. To serve as a deacon, you got to have a wife (not a husband). To serve as a bishop, you got to have a wife (not a husband).

Now when confronted with these scriptures one of the defenders of female pastors and bishops and deacons do? They say, "the Lord led... the Lord called... the Lord instructed... the Lord gave peace..." Isaiah 40, verse 8 says, For ***if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*** You are living in the darkness and your ministry is placing others under that same darkness. That's why our nation is in the condition that it's in. People don't honour the word of God.

"Well, I think it's wrong to steal..." Well, is it wrong to steal the pulpit? "*I think it's wrong to lie...*" Is it wrong to lie about the qualifications for spiritual leadership? It's strange we give spiritual leaders a pass. Well, where is that going to leave the followers?

**Exhibit Six.** *Randy and Paula White, the pastors and founders of Without Walls International Church in Tampa are getting a divorce. The split was made public during a Thursday evening church service in Tampa, Florida. (What happened? Was it the money?) The couple shares a two million dollar home on Bay Shore Boulevard in Tampa along with a private jet. Some say the pastors have been spending more time apart as they buy property and pursue interest elsewhere. Paula owns a Trump Towers condo in New York City and a home in San Antonio. Randy is leasing property in Malibu. The Whites founded Without Walls International (whatever) in 1991 as a South Tampa Christian Center. Since then, the church has become one of the nations biggest, fastest growing churches boasting 23,000 members, \$40,000,000.00 in revenues... (Pretty good. 23,000 people coming every week to hear someone preach who God*

said shouldn't be preaching... to hear someone teach who God said shouldn't be teaching and calling it an evangelical church.

Now as I mentioned last week, if you go to Paula's web site, there are several references on there about how good looking she is and no mention of Jesus Christ. I couldn't find a mention of God. 23,000 people every Sunday. Now where we as a nation? And is it my fault because I'm mean? I'll not take the blame. I refuse to take the blame.

**Exhibit Seven.** Alright – anybody been down to Lakeland? A big deal going on down there. Revival. I go all over this country. People say, “*Have you been to the revival in Lakeland?*”

*The revival in Lakeland is a man with metal studs in his face, wearing a t-shirt and blue jeans... smacking people in the head with a miracle cloth and claiming to make them well. And they've had almost 500,000 people there in a meeting that's been running nightly since April. Todd Bentley believes that God acts through him to cure cancer and heal the deaf and raise the dead. So do hundreds of thousands of people who visited his rock-us revival meeting, now in its third month and broadcast nightly from a huge tent in the middle of Florida. The 32 year-old Canadian tattooed profusely puts the palm to the forehead of the sick, desperate and faithful. Bentley yells “bam!” They collapse. And he proclaims them cured. Attendees dance in the aisles, shout to heaven, laugh, shake violently and cry. (especially those he hits in the head. (Audience Laughing) No. I just... I just added that.)*

*Such revivals aren't new but Bentley's stage show has become a phenomena to the religious world. For both its pull and criticism, it has attracted in just a few months. He claims to have medical proof of mass healings but cannot produce any. His tactics sometimes violent have made skeptics even of Pentecostals (and he is one) who believe in concepts that aren't accepted by all branches of Christianity.*

*Some of the language used during the Lakeland revival has created almost a side-show atmosphere, wrote J. Lee Grady editor of the Pentecostal magazine Charisma in an on-line column. People are invited to come and get some... (That's the invitation. ...come and get some... Not God. Not Jesus. Not salvation. Not new birth. ...come and get some...) Miracles are supposedly popping like popcorn. That's the phrase in the advertising. “Such brash statements cheapen what the Holy Spirit is doing,” said Grady. He said, “He believes this Lakeland Revival could cause a Charismatic civil war.” (That'd be interesting.) (Light Laughter)*

*When Bentley performs healings wearing jeans and a t-shirt, aides bring the sick up both sides of an elaborate stage. The preacher's assistants tell the audience each person's condition and how far they've come to be cured. From Europe. The West Coast. Up the Northeast and beyond. Like a psychic, he will proclaim someone in the crowd as a particular kind of tumor, growth or affliction . “Someone's getting a new spinal cord tonight,” Bentley yelled in one service. (I'm going!)*

*Bentley gives the credit to God. The Christians critics say he doesn't open a Bible or preach about Jesus Christ. They worry he's too little about conversion and too heavy on his own hype and too focused on self-proclaimed miracles. Bentley's answer, “how can you be too focused on miracles?” (Well, if you're not preaching Jesus Christ, you're too focused on miracles. ) Critics are now circulating a video from Lakeland of him kneeling a supposed terminal stomach cancer patient in the abdomen saying God told him to. (There you go... “God told me to knee you in the stomach.”)*

*In another clip Bentley explains how he kicked an elderly lady in the face, choked a man, banged a crippled woman's legs on a platform, body-slammed a pastor and hit a man so*

*hard that it dislodged a tooth. (Well, I can see why people are going. It's wrestling! (Knox and Audience Laughing) People can't understand why God would tell me something like that. I don't know why God said, kick that woman in the face.) But Bentley said when God says it, I just have to do it.*

(You say, "*well I can't believe...*") Look. If God's going to tell you that's not in the Bible, that god is liable to tell you anything that's not in the Bible.)

*The incident where I did hit a guy so hard one time that he did hit the ground and his tooth did pop out... well, I need to explain that. What people don't know was that he was a dentist. (Well, that makes it okay.) There's a whole miracle that took place in his body. He was healed of cancer and became a ministry donor after the incident knocking his tooth out because he knew it was God that told me to do it to him. He said, I never felt a thing.*

*Bentley claims that he has not only healed tumors but he has healed one man who can now see out of his glass eye. (Knox and Audience Laughing) "Whether in the body or out of the body I cannot tell..." (Knox and Audience Laughing Loudly) He's getting ready to leave for work, he takes that things out and puts it on the table and says, "kids I'm watching you..." (Still Laughing) Wouldn't that be creepy? Got one looking forward and one looking back.*

*In more than twenty cases, Bentley says revival has even literally resurrected the dead even though none of the dead showed up to testify. Miracles and healings are evidence Bentley said. They are signs of the kingdom. And if we don't have signs and all we have is a bunch of theology. (There you go! "All you people have is the word of God... I've got these wonders.")*

Okay, now whose drawing the crowds? The person preaching the word of God or the person carrying on like Barnum and Bailey? So where are in this country? I'm telling you, the problem's not the school system... it's not the drug dealers... it's not the beer peddlers... Do you understand? The problem is God doesn't have a voice left in our churches, in our towns and in our communities. That's the problem!

**Exhibit Eight.** (Alright one more... just to get your week jump started.)

*A Michigan man is seeking seventy million dollars from two Christian publishing houses for emotional distress and mental instability he received the past twenty years because they print versions of the Bible that refer to homosexuality as a sin. (You say, he couldn't get away with that... Don't bet on it!) Bradley Lashon Fowler (the article says "a gay man...") If he's emotionally distressed and mentally instable he's not gay. Why not refer to him as the emotionally distressed, mentally instable Mr. Fowler? That's what his lawsuit says. )*

*Anyway, he says his constitutional rights were infringed upon by Zondervan Publishing Company and Thomas Nelson Publishing, both of which he claims deliberately caused homosexuals to suffer by misinterpretation of the Bible. (Look. If it's what the Bible says, it's not being interpreted. And they have a constant... "Hey, Mr. Fowler? They have a constitutional right to say it and to print it.)*

*Fowler, 39, is seeking sixty million dollars from Zondervan and ten million from Thomas Nelson according to USA Today report. Fowler's two separate suits against publishers claim the intent of the Bible that refers to homosexuals as sinners reflects an individual opinion or a groups conclusion. Fowler says the wording of First Corinthians chapter 6, verse 9 has caused him... (This is what the lawsuit says.) or anyone who is a homosexual to endure verbal abuse, discrimination, episodes of hate and physical violence including murder.*

Now look. What does Psalm 139 say? If you take the Bible position you will be labeled as hateful. Isn't that what it said? What did Psalm 139 say? "Lord, if they say you're hateful,

please let them say I'm hateful." Please let me side with you, not with them. Please let me side with the word, not the withering grass of humanity.

Now let's go back to Psalm 138. Now here's what I've done tonight. There is a method behind my madness. Here's what I've done tonight. I've forced you to examine which is more important to you. John Hagee. Joyce Meyer. Paula White. The Catholic Church. The Anglican Church. Your favorite woman pastor or the word of God. If it's not the word of God, you are caught in the bondage of darkness. You are in rebellion against God just as surely as if you were cheatin' on your husband, stealing from your next door neighbor or kidnapping somebody. That is what our professing Christians in our society don't get!

You have loved ones... you have neighbors... you have job-mates... who need Jesus. They don't need to get under conviction. Get up on Sunday morning and go to a church where they get falsehood, rebellion, defiance in the name of Christianity. They need the living words of a living God. So my opposition to these examples we've given tonight and a thousand others we could give is not because I personally dislike these individuals... I certainly wouldn't harm them. I wouldn't mistreat them. But I don't want those I love who need Jesus to get kicked in the teeth instead of being given the gospel. And I don't need them to hear some hocus-pocus that an angel whispered in somebody's ear instead of hearing the truth of the word of God.

Psalm 138, verse 2. *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*

Psalm 139, verse 19. *Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. 20 For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. 21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Recently a man came and said to me, "You're preaching against other denominations and you're preaching against homosexuality and you're preaching against..." and he named a number of things. "You're preaching against false religions... to me in evidence you don't have any love." And I asked him in the ten years that I had known him if I had ever acted toward him or his family in a way that showed a lack of love and he said, "No." I asked him if I had ever stolen from him – he said, "No." I asked him if I had ever lied to him – he said, "No." I asked if I had ever misused a dollar that he had given to this work – he said, "No." I asked if I had ever... and he said, "No."

Well, then, why would he leave making a statement that I don't have any love? Because he is so influenced by the thought and philosophy of this world that he finds the straight plain truth of the word of God offensive. He does not find rebellion against the word of God to be offensive, he finds speaking against that rebellion to be offensive.

I cannot join the ranks of the ministers who have given in to that kind of political pressure and rob one more town of the truth. I'm not going to do it. There's fifty places in town that guy can go and hear what he wants to hear. A non-biblical, pseudo Christianity that talks about what's good and never mentions what is bad and there's no hope for his family members and friends, if nobody's going to tell them to quit trusting what they are trusting, if they're not trusting Jesus Christ. So there you go...

We'll pray and we'll dismiss and you can go home and watch Paula White (light laughter) Or whatever woman preacher's on the Christian station tonight.

Now I have joy... I have peace... I'm happy... I have love. I mean, when I walk down the street flowers bloom. It's just... *(Audience bursts out laughing)* But you can't feel the same way about good food and poison. You can't feel the same way about a nice steak and rancid meat. You can't feel the same way about truth and about error. You can't just put the Lord's name on it and pretend it's all okay. But how do I know the difference? You go by this book. "*Well, I'm just waiting for the Lord to speak to me...*" He said all He's going to say. If you don't like this, the next message will be deception. If you don't want what God said in the word, you'll get something from a lord... you'll get something from a god... and all it will be is deception because this is all that God has to say right here.

So if you see Joyce, tell her I said hi... (and I can use some of that money...) *(Knox laughing)* Look. She's entitled to make whatever she can make. Paula's entitled to make whatever she can make. It's a free country. It's capitalism. But I'm telling you, you're going to answer to God if you're using the name of Jesus Christ to con people out of their money thinking they're going to get well or get rich or get to heaven because they gave you their cash, you're going to have to answer to that for that. You're going to have to answer for that. You'll be better off running a casino than running that racket. So.. Amen.

Well, we are glad to have our visitors here tonight... it's not always like this around here; it's just kind of half and half. You got to have a balance. You got to have an offence and a defence. You got to have day and night. You got to have high tide and low tide. There's right and wrong. There's good and evil. There's clean and unclean. And we wouldn't be treating you fairly or God fairly if we didn't cover both. So, Amen! I'm getting on a bus and leaving town. *(Audience Laughing)* I have an exit strategy. *(Knox Laughing)* I ought to be the president. I know how to get in trouble. I know how to get out of trouble.

Alright – let's pray together. "*Father, would you help us... would you help us to trust your word so completely that we don't trust anyone who goes against your word...*"

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