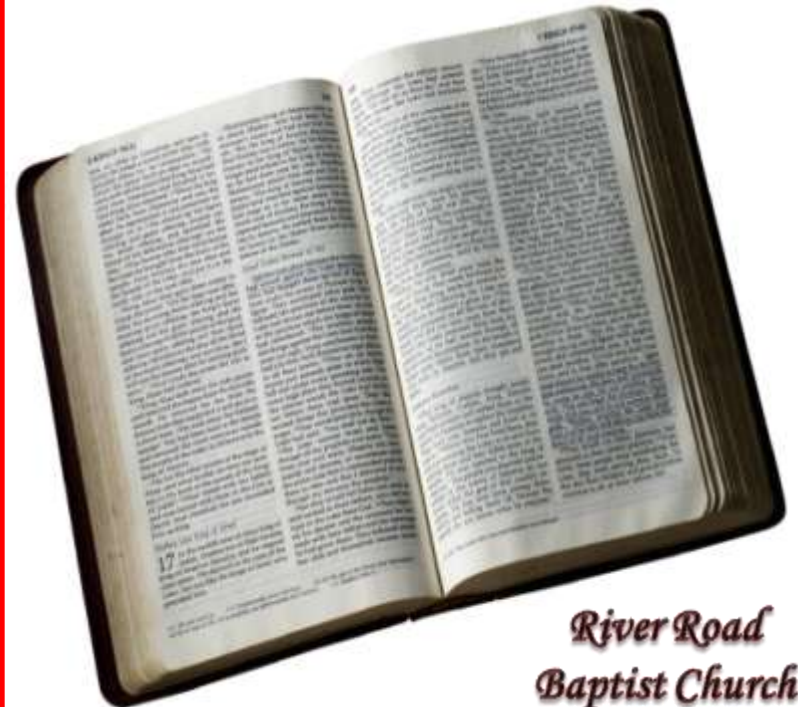


Reflections

The Bible
Under Assault



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Reflections

REFLECTIONS?

I recently received a forwarded e-mail in which I read the ABC television network's response to a viewer's complaint in regards to their program subjects and characters. The complaint dealt with their obvious agenda regarding TV programming filled with their "politically correct" focus on sexual immorality, their fascination with homosexuality, and their ill treatment of characters, who are written into the programming as "typical" of people who adhere to more conservative views, these being portrayed as stupid, narrow, and misguided. The writer mentioned the Bible as the basis for his concerns and ABC responded by denigrating the Bible as an archaic book of stories that constituted a "lame crutch" for his unenlightened position.

Even considering the harsh and derogatory nature of their reply, it was actually somewhat mild compared to other sources of condemnation for the Bible that have recently been part of the national trend away from truth, from Christianity, and from Jesus Christ. Various atheistic sources have become very vocal in books and other media regarding their disbelief in God, the Bible, and Religion in general. Terms like myth, legend, superstition and others are used to denigrate the Bible into being merely some ancient writings that have nothing to do with reality, especially in today's world.

Students in our schools are often told that they cannot use the Bible in their writing assignments because it is not true and that using it would be unconstitutional in a public school. Failing grades have been given to papers using Jesus as the student's personal Savior or referring to their faith in a written work even though the assignment was left open to a topic of the student's choice. This is all very troubling, but the most disappointing of all the recent trends regarding the Bible, truth, and Jesus Christ, is the number of churches and religious groups that have abandoned the Scripture as too "outdated, unreliable and culturally irrelevant".

Some "churches" have declared that the Bible is not the

inerrant Word of God, that it is full of errors and contradictions and that it can't be trusted as the foundation for life, spiritual truth, morality or relationships. One wonders why they call what they do church. Paul warns his protégé Timothy that in the last days truth will be abandoned. *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, (1Ti 4:1 NAS)* Jesus warned His disciples that many would fall away during the difficulties of the last days. ¹⁰ *"And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. ¹¹ "And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. ¹² "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. (Mat 24:1 NAS)* Peter also warns about where people will be, again, in the last days. *Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, (2Pe 3:3 NAS)*

We are assured that God's Word is true, inerrant, and inspired. Paul explains to Timothy... *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2Ti 3:16 NAS)* We also can see that God's Word has been under assault since the beginning. Satan (the serpent) asked Eve a question concerning what God had said and when she answered inaccurately, he then provided her with his first lie in order to get her to violate God's Word. *1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, ..." ⁴ And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! ⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:1 NAS)*

Since that lie in the Garden of Eden, man's choice to listen to the enemy of God has brought the entire creation under the curse of sin. As a result we are now seeing the foolishness of men who reject the truth and who have declared themselves to be wise while refusing God's position as creator in their lives. It should not surprise us that the Bible, God's Word, should come under assault in a world under the control of Satan, the god of this world, because he knows that the truth has already defeated him. He wants nothing more than to rob mankind of salvation in Christ, and to accomplish this goal he convinces sinful men that God's Word is not true, powerful, or relevant. Let's not be fooled into believing that lie. God's Word is the truth and it speaks of Christ who is our salvation. **Pastor Doug**