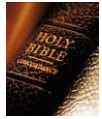


The DEFENDER—October 2026



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: Don't Be Fooled

The prophet Nahum knew that the destruction of Nineveh was near [Nahum 3:7]. Bible believing Christians also know that the destruction of America will also come [Zechariah 12:3, 9]. And just as Nahum told the Ninevites what God was about to do, we who are the Lord's people in our time of trouble are called to do the same.

The most important election of our time is next month. The Communists have already started making inroads. If the GOP loses both houses of Congress, President Trump will lose much of his ability to govern. Even losing one house will hamper his effectiveness. So, what can we who are Christian by faith and conservative philosophically do about it? Prayer always comes first. But with prayer also needs to come action. We are Christ's hands and feet in the world. Nahum spoke for God and we are called to do the same. Nahum's warning was a message of comfort to any who lived in fear of a powerful and godless nation. His message revealed the other side of the attributes of God. God is love, but God is also holy and righteous and good. Translation: an evil nation will pay the price of disobedience to God's Word but the righteous are exalted above His wrath. But even though we are not of the world, we're still in it.

With the presence of the Democrat Socialists in this year's election, we who are discerning need to understand that this mid-term battle is more about a mission or a crusade, a movement, a shift in thinking to achieve a particular goal to move our country forward and into the future. Rather than voting **for** an individual whom you like or voting **against** someone you dislike, think of it in broader terms, as in voting for the traditional status quo versus the progressive assault. The actual people involved don't ultimately matter as much as moving the torch forward does.

Iran is the point of no return for President Trump. If Iran falls before the election, prices at the gas pump and the grocery store will start to return to normal. And the status quo will be safe. If not, the movement to hold onto the country as founded is set back considerably. Ben Franklin's words to Mrs. Powel's query on what type of government the Founders have given us will prove prophetic: a Republic, if you can keep it.

We need to call out the Christians who occupy influential positions— be it political office, church pulpits, media access, etc. We need to call them out of hiding. If they don't come out for this, calling for the saints to actively get involved, then I don't know what would cause them to stir. Perhaps the battle has already been lost and we've just been fooling ourselves.

Rev. David Lewis

The Forbidden Book – Part II From Wycliffe to Wittenburg

Compiled by Robert Luthardt, Sr.

God, by grace and providence, preserved His soul-saving Word despite centuries of theological darkness and men's apostasy. John Wycliffe, known as the "Morning Star" of the Reformation, had been a Master of Balliol College at Oxford in England (1362-1372). Wycliffe was an honorary Culdee after the influence of Columba who established a Bible College and led an evangelical movement from the island of Iona off N.W. Scotland in 563 A.D. Columba influenced Europe for over 700 years. Wycliffe, in turn, with his writing, teaching, and preaching influenced Europeans with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the 14th Century. There had been other reformed-minded clerics before Wycliffe just as there were Christians before Antioch (Acts 11:26).

The Lord has never lacked for a true witness from believers able to penetrate the alien accumulations of unscriptural theologies and practices (Matt. 16:18) through reliance upon the forbidden book. There were notables throughout history who trusted and preserved the scriptures and made them available. Peter Waldo (1176), a rich merchant, gave his money and the gospel of Christ to the poor. He and his followers learned scripture by heart and went about, two by two, preaching. They discarded the non-biblical concepts of purgatory and masses for the dead. They taught that prayer in a house or barn was as effective as in a cathedral and any knowledgeable of Christ's gospel could preach and teach.

To oppose this preaching, new orders were formed in the established church, such as the Franciscans and Dominicans, which became armies of the Pope. The followers in the evangelical movement founded by Peter Waldo became known as Waldenses and were so numerous in parts of France and Spain that armed troops were sent to annihilate every man, woman, and child. Waldenses fled for refuge into the valleys of the Alps. They took the forbidden book with them.

Around 1350 there arose in the Netherlands and Germany another attempt to reform the "Church." Gerhard Groote formed "The Brethren of the Common Life," and these men and women were strong believers in education especially in that of the Bible. Martin Luther spent time in one of their schools in Magdeburg. So, too, did John of Wessel, Thomas A. Kempis, and the highly renowned Erasmus of Rotterdam. These schools pointed to the errors of such unscriptural doctrines as purgatory, transubstantiation, indulgences and, most significant, that the Pope was the direct apostolic successor of Peter.

Various of these Christian educators and their political patrons had their conflicts and intermittent struggles with kings, emperors, and popes and were many times able to take advantage of these to restore and republish the recovered original teachings of Christ and His Apostles. Particularly fortuitous was the decline in the power and prestige of the Papacy when popes resided in Avignon, France (1309-1377), a period known as the "Babylonish Captivity." Louis, King of Bavaria, allowed the advance of various principles of reform that

greatly aided those advancing the evangelical teachings of the forbidden book. The concept of “sola scriptura” (the Bible alone for doctrines and practices in Christianity) was, and is, binding on every Christian, including popes. Scripture gave no greater power to Peter over other Apostles and was silent as to any line of successors for Peter alone.

Indeed, there is no conclusive proof that Peter was ever in Rome at all (see Paul’s epistle to the Romans wherein he greets by name 30 individuals and never mentions Peter and makes no mention of Peter as Bishop there). Christ alone is the rock of the Church and only He holds the keys of His Church and Kingdom. Peter indicated that we are each a part of “a royal priesthood” of “lively stones” set upon the true rock of Jesus Christ the “chief cornerstone” in the spiritual edifice of the TRUE church, the “body of Christ” (1 Peter. 2:4-10; Rom. 16; Matt. 21:42; Ep. 2:19-22; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Ep. 4:12, Col. 1:24).

Our elders, deacons, and preachers are our Fellow-Servants and not exalted rulers. Scripture knows nothing of princes and prominent potentates in Christ’s Church. Our pastors administer the two sacraments established by Christ (Baptism and Communion) for us but never OVER us. God alone can forgive sins so that man-made absolution is a delusion. No reprobate can receive forgiveness from men’s pronouncements nor can a born-again Christian lack God’s blessings without them. The “middle wall of partition has been broken down,” the “veil rent in two,” and we come to God by Christ’s finished work that we rely upon through repentance of our sins (Heb. 6:19-25, 10:17-23; John 14:6; Heb. 9:11-15).

The heroes of the faith, such as John Wycliffe, were ahead of the time when God would cause a general, widespread return to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Wycliffe saw the dire need for scripture to be published in the people’s language. Although only in longhand, Wycliffe was able to survive and thrive because of Edward III’s opposition to papal demands. Wycliffe assailed the errors and abuses in the visible church.

Wycliffe particularly stirred the controversy regarding transubstantiation. He called this invention of men as more analogous to the ancient pagan Babylonian rituals of blood-practices condemned in the forbidden book (Acts 15:20, 24-29). In 1408, the Archbishop of York convened an assembly of church authorities to condemn Wycliffe and his English Bible. This action initiated an era of repression, torture, and murder of Christians that continued until the reigns of Henry VIII and his children. Men were burned at the stake for teaching their children the Lord’s prayer and the Ten Commandments in English. After 40 years from Wycliffe’s death, church princes had his bones exhumed and burned which was ordered by Pope Martin V. Yet the “gates of hell” will never prevail against the true Church of Christ (Matt. 16:18).

Next to strive for reform was John Hus of Bohemia who was burned alive at the stake at Constance after his “safe-conduct” guarantee was treacherously broken. Savonarola in Italy suffered a similar fate by an outraged pope. Still the pages of the forbidden book continued to enlighten, and God raised up giants such as Erasmus of Rotterdam (who caused the New Testament to be published in scholarly Greek) and Martin Luther in Wittenburg who published the Bible in the German language. Luther went further than Erasmus and the saying was, “Luther hatched the egg that Erasmus laid.” These men both testified that they had, at the outset, no idea how far God was going to use their efforts. Luther said had he known the full

extent of his nailing the 95 Theses to the Church door, he simply would not have had the courage to do so even though he knew he had the truth of God's Word as his guide.

Finally, the entrenched darkness in the medieval church began to be dispelled by the light of the forbidden book which now had many patrons willing to see God's Word in the hands and hearts of the common man who now knew more of truth than the village priest.

For the English-speaking world, the next great voice and educated author was, in the tradition of John Wycliffe, William Tyndale who was born in North Tibley in England in 1484. He, like so many others, was blessed to possess the Greek/Latin New Testament made possible through the work of Erasmus of Rotterdam.



Mark 3:28-30: “Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.” –KJV

Unbelief and Blasphemy Against The Holy Spirit

By Joseph Burghauer

The “blasphemy against the Holy Ghost” also appears in Matthew 12:22-32 and Luke 12:8-10. This pronouncement by our Lord happened after He had healed many (Mark 3:10), including healing a man on the sabbath (Mark 3:1-6). Then, as He and His 12 disciples were in a house, “the multitude cometh together again, so they could not so much as eat bread” (Mark 3:20). Previously, as recorded in Mark 1:39, “He preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.” Mark 3:22 relates that some of the religious leaders charged against Christ: “He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth He out devils.” (The Jews used the contemptible name of a Philistine god to refer to Satan.) These leaders were incensed over Christ’s healing of the demon possessed and said that He was possessed by Satan. The “scribes” were experts in God’s Law and they had no excuse for their unbelief. The Old Testament foretold of One Who would heal and deliver: Isaiah 35:4-6 (see Matthew 8:17); and Isaiah 61:1 (see Luke 4:18).

Christ began to answer these charges by asking, “How can Satan cast out Satan?” (Mark 3:23). Our Lord included logic in His defense by saying that Satan does not work against himself. This helps us to understand that we are to use logic properly in making deductions as we study the Scriptures. Matthew 12:27 adds Christ’s argument that some of “your children cast them out,” and the Pharisees did not consider those exorcists to be demon possessed.

Blasphemy may be defined as “defiant irreverence.” This includes cursing God, attributing evil to Him, or failing to attribute good to Him. It usually refers to a verbal insult showing contempt or lack of reverence for God, although in Job 1:5, Job knew that his children could blaspheme God in thought, as well as in their speech.

“All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men” does not mean that God will forgive the sins of all of mankind (except for the sin of blasphemy of The Holy Spirit). We are told throughout the Scriptures that forgiveness must be preceded by faith and repentance, which only God can grant to the sinner. This forgiveness of “all sins” is only for God’s elect, who in time become believers after they are regenerated (Psalm 103:2; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17). God even chose as His people some of those who demanded or carried out the Crucifixion of Christ (Luke 23:24). Even blasphemy against Christ (Matthew 12:32) is a sin that can be forgiven, but not blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout Church history, there have been various interpretations of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. The best interpretation is that it is attributing to the power of Satan the sign-miracles done through the power of the Holy Spirit. In our passage, the scribes committed this blasphemy by saying that the miracles that Christ performed were done through Satan's power.

In John 3:2, the Pharisee Nicodemus stated the obvious truth of Christ: "Rabbi, we know that Thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him." Those who denied the undeniable knew this truth but rejected it. The scribes and Pharisees had sinful motives in their blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. God chooses to allow such blasphemers to remain in their depraved condition.

We do read in the Bible of miracles performed by the powers of darkness. God allowed Egyptian magicians to perform some of the same miracles that He did through Moses (Exodus chapters 7 and 8). The magicians were unable to discredit God's supremacy over the gods of Egypt. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 states that the Antichrist will perform "signs and wonders." The Antichrist will attempt to take the place of God through such performances but will fail. These miracles were and will be shown to be satanic: done in opposition to God.

So, this "blasphemy against the Holy Ghost" is best understood as attributing the power of Satan to the miracles given by the Holy Spirit. This included those sign-miracles given through the apostles (Acts 3:1-11; 8:5-7; 9:32-42; 19:11-12), as well as through Christ. During the future Tribulation, the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-6 will perform such miracles that will cause some to blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

Sinners may not be able to blaspheme the Holy Spirit today, because He is not giving sign-miracles, but many still do "always resist the Holy Ghost" (Acts 7:51). The reprobate continue to reject God's general call to faith and repentance. His effectual call of His elect cannot be resisted (John 6; Romans 8:28-30). If one dies in unbelief in Christ, there is no hope for heaven: John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Even those who are saved are instructed to not "grieve the Holy Spirit of God" (Ephesians 4:30).

Since men spoke of the sinless Christ, after viewing all the miracles He performed, as acting through the power of Satan, faithful Christians should expect the same, since "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12).

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12: "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

John 15:20: "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..."

Be Careful Little Eyes What You See – Guard Your Heart

By Nancy Long

Romans 12:1-2 – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

How many of you Defenders remember the Christian song, “Be Careful Little Eyes What You See,” sung over the years by children, and even adults, in Sunday Schools and Vacation Bible Schools as well?

Verse 1 – “Oh, be careful little eyes what you see. Oh, be careful
little eyes what you see; For the Father up above, Is looking
down in love, So be careful little eyes what you see.”

Verse 2 – “Oh, be careful Little ears what you hear, ...”

Verse 3 – Oh, be careful little mouth what you say”

Verse 4 – “Oh, be careful little hands what you do”

Verse 5 – “Oh, be careful little feet where you go”

Verse 6 – “Oh, be careful little mind what you think”

Verse 7 – “Oh, be careful little heart what you love, Oh, be careful
little heart what you love; For the Father up above, Is looking
down in love, So be careful little heart what you love.”

Children’s song, yes catchy tune, yes easy to sing, and simple to learn, yes, but as adults, are we still able to benefit from it, or are we beyond the wisdom held within the repetitious words of this little children’s chorus?

Careful, as defined by Webster: “cautious in thought, speech, or action, conscientious, prudent, sober, vigilant, wary, watchful, guarded, on the alert, trying attentively to avoid danger or risk.”

Now, let’s look to Scripture for divinely inspired guidance: **“Be sober, vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Peter 5:8). We must be aware, and never forget, that Christians are in a spiritual war! The apostle Peter warns that our enemy is one who is crueler, and more relentless, and merciless, than any human could ever be. He, the devil, targets the soul!! He knows our “Achilles heel”, better than we know our own weaknesses. He will work to bring our testimony down and will use all the “bells and whistles” this world has to offer, to accomplish his goal!! Don’t be lulled to sleep by his cunning and devious ways! Of course, if we’ve truly been saved by the precious and perfect blood of Jesus, our salvation is not in jeopardy but our walk with Christ can be tainted, our testimony and example to those we touch can be vitiated, the quality of our Christian walk will be impaired, thus joy will be lost, and God’s “perfect peace” will gradually wane and slip away.

The aforementioned song was written for children, but the message, I believe, is for everyone. Believers have been exhorted to **“love not the world, neither the things that are in the world”**, and also **“seek for, and set affection on things above, not on things of the earth”** (1 John 2:15 and Col. 3:2). The word “affection” is mind. In other words, think on spiritual things! Intentionally focus on that which is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good --- the things of Christ (Phil. 4:8). Life is full of temptations, struggles, and trials. In order to be able to successfully, and effectively, live the Christian life, we must allow Jesus to live His life in, and through us, allowing the Holy Spirit full reign, molding and shaping us, as only He can do, into the person we’ve been predetermined and purposed to be.

“Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s (1 Cor.6:19-20).

The body, mind, and spirit of a Christian belong entirely to God, thus concluding that our eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, mind, and heart have been consecrated and set apart for His use. Is it not then our responsibility to keep our temples clean and fit for the Master’s service? It’s been established that we are **“not”** our own, so we should no longer even desire to follow the **“pleasures”** of this world but yearn to do everything according to His will and for His glory!

“Keep thy mind with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23).

This is a serious charge to the believer! Think of it --- each one of us who names the name of Christ carries the Holy Spirit within. He travels with us everywhere, sees what we see, hears our audio choices, and what comes from our lips. Do the words we speak edify or tear down? Do they draw people closer to Jesus, or push them away? Are they self-centered or God centered?

Yes, God the Holy Spirit, inhabits every Christian! Perhaps we believers need to ponder on, and dwell more on that truth! It’s important that we think before we act to guard our hearts from worldly contamination! If one of God’s children is viewing or reading pornography on the internet, within the pages of a magazine, or in a novel, I believe the Holy Spirit is grieved. If we select movies, whose actors use offensive or crude language, or worse yet, speak God’s name derogatorily (no matter how we attempt to justify it), I believe we willfully and deliberately sorrow the Spirit (Eph.4:30). Why would anyone want to do that??

Christians are to be a light in a world that is full of darkness: **“Ye are the light of the world Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”** (Matt. 5:14 and 16). What a high and holy calling we’ve been given, to be representatives of our Creator God for all our appointed days here on this earth! We Christians are the only view of God that some will ever see! Should we not be more careful and prayerful about the image we project?!

The common thread that runs through all our actions must be the glorying of God: **“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1**

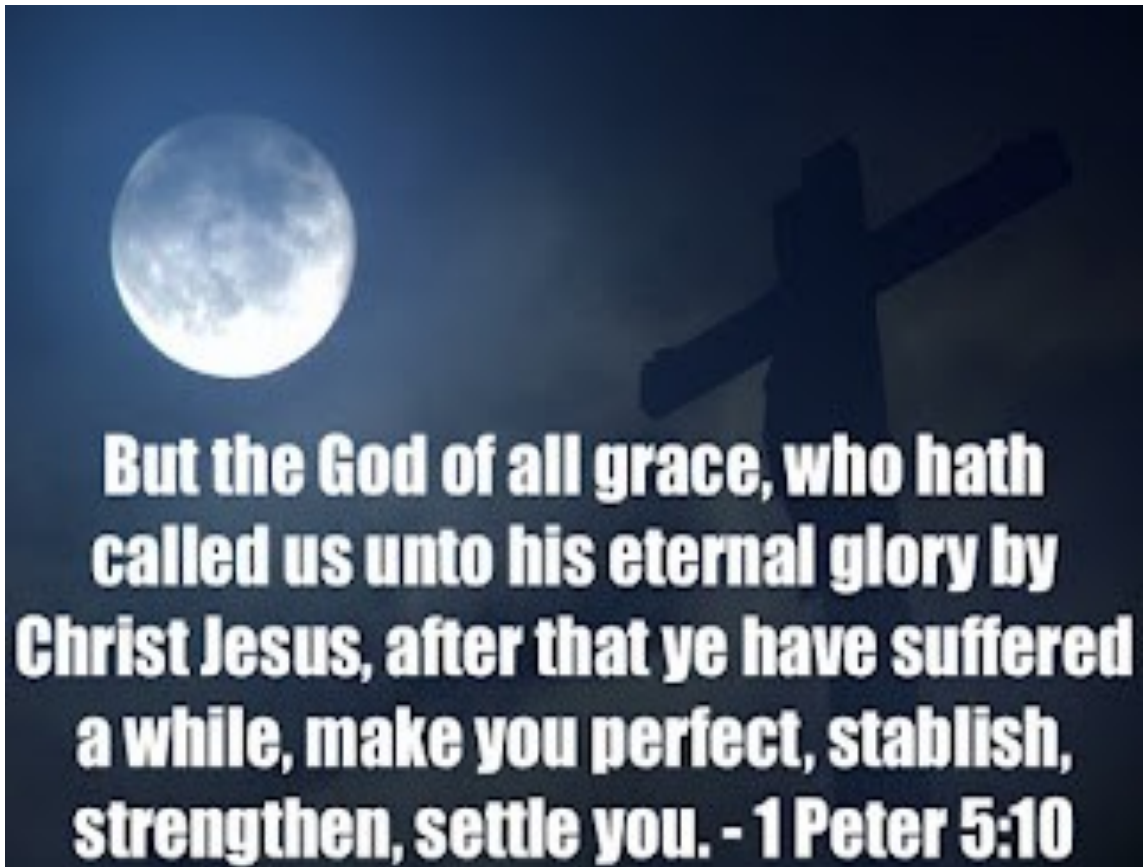
Cor. 10:31. **“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him”** (Col.3:17). Regardless of what we choose to see, or hear, or do, if God is not glorified in it, then perhaps we ought to rethink our behavior, always being mindful of our testimony to the world.

Col. 1:19 – **“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”**

Consciously desiring to please the Lord and not the flesh, leaning on Jesus and being sensitive to the urgings of the Spirit, will guard and protect our hearts and ultimately bring His “perfect peace” to our souls (Isaiah 26:3).

“My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. The Lord is your keeper; The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.”

(Portions from Psalm 121)



Civilization and the Protestant Reformation

Excerpts From John W. Robbins

In the small east German town of Wittenberg, a 34-year-old Augustinian priest walked to Castle Church and nailed 95 theological propositions for debate on the door. The debate Martin Luther began over 500 years ago turned the world upside down. Democracy, civil rights and liberties, constitutional government, religious liberty, and the free market all find their roots in the Reformation

The occasion for the debate was the fundraising practices of the pope's representatives in Germany. As a Catholic priest, Luther was concerned that a representative of the pope was telling his parishioners that they could purchase forgiveness for their sins. Luther knew that God alone could forgive sins, and that salvation could not be purchased for any amount of money. It was a free gift of God.

What began as a debate over fundraising quickly turned to a more fundamental and serious issue: How is salvation obtained? Luther's answer—that men are saved by the righteousness of Christ alone ascribed to them through faith in Christ alone—shattered the entire medieval structure of ecclesiastical and political authority. Luther's appeal was to "Scripture and clear reason," not to the statements of church councils, nor to the decrees of popes, nor to the hierarchy of the church. Unless an idea or a practice is taught by Scripture, Luther argued, it has no authority and is anti-Christian.

No one in all of Christendom was more fervent in seeking salvation than the monk Luther, yet he could not find the required righteousness within himself. All his prayers, masses, penance, fasting, and good works could not merit the favor of God. Luther was a lost soul, and he knew it.

Then while studying the Bible, Luther discovered the idea that men are not saved by church rituals or good works, but through faith alone: "The just shall live by faith." He read the Apostle Paul's letters to the Romans and the Galatians, where Paul taught that "a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." Now Luther understood how God provided salvation for his people, and his understanding would change the world forever.



Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm
Bonfire Saturday October 9	7:00 pm