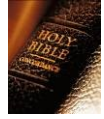


## The DEFENDER— February 2025

“... 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:

#### Calling All Christians

Are you a true Christian? I ask that because God desires fervent prayer. Nominal Christians don't usually do that. Nominal Christians typically only exhibit their faith when it's convenient. The Apostle Paul tells us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That would challenge even the strongest in our faith. But strong faith is what is needed from the righteous among us. Scripture tells us that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34) and that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much (James 5:16). Will our land pass the test that Sodom and Gomorrah failed? It may be up to the righteous in the land, the true Christian, for us to find out.

President Donald Trump said he believes that God saved him from an assassin's bullet so that he could make America great again. That remains to be seen, but if it's to happen, God's people will have no small part in it. In addition to James' exhortation, the Apostle John tells us that if we align our prayers to God's will, He will listen. And we can be certain that if He listens, He will give us a definite answer (1 John 5:14-15). Obviously not everyone in America believes in God, much less prays to Him. But God's promise isn't directed to everyone. Just to His people, who are called by His name. He said if WE humble ourselves and pray, if WE seek His face and turn from OUR wicked ways, THEN He will hear from Heaven and forgive OUR sin. Only then will He heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

There's no question that the Church has dropped the ball in recent years, as it regards the call to be salt and light in our darkened and dying world. We're to be a moral compass to all. Our Founding Fathers recognized our Judeo-Christian standards and tied our fledgling nation to them. But over the years we have drifted from those moorings, to the point where Barack Hussein Obama declared that we are no longer a Christian nation. And it's hard to argue with that. But God has given us a president now who has proclaimed that we will not forget our God, and that we can once again be one nation under God. We can once again lean on our First Amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion, to recognize the authority of the Almighty and commit to upholding the documents which were crafted in recognition of that Authority. We now have leaders who want to give us the opportunity to live quiet and peaceable lives so that we can spread the Good News of the gospel of Christ.

We know that tomorrow is promised to no one, so this may be America's last chance to please the Lord. And Donald Trump just may have been brought back for such a time as this.

Rev. David Lewis

**Repent: The Kingdom of God Is at Hand  
(Matthew 4:17)**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

Our Lord and Savior brought to fallen mankind a new hope of salvation. Those who come to God by His “Gift of Faith” will have “ETERNAL LIFE” (Ep. 2:8-10, 13). Teachers such as Noah Hutching have properly presented the “WORD OF GOD” as the “LIGHT OF THE WORLD” (John 8:12) and man’s way to “EVERLASTING LIFE” (John 3:16).

The simple most rudimentary message of faith for true followers of Christ is that “The only begotten SON OF GOD” brought us to reconciliation with our Holy Father through the LIVING FAITH FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE, and confirmed to us by His Cross at Calvary and His resurrection from the grave (Ps. 16:10; Matt. 16:21; John 5:28-29; Rom. 10:9-10).

The Apostle Paul was specially called by God to lead Gentiles through this “ERA OF GRACE” until this present AGE EXPIRES. We can read the words of the Holy Spirit of God that came through Paul to the saints at Thessalonica: “... this we say unto you by the WORD OF THE LORD, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (go ahead of) them which are asleep” (already deceased), “FOR THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel ... and the dead in Christ shall rise FIRST; then we which are alive and remain ‘SHALL BE CAUGHT UP’ together with them in the clouds to ‘MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR’: and so shall we be ever with the Lord; wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

The Apostle Matthew taught us to “... be sober, putting on the ‘Breastplate of Faith and Love’” ... in the God-blessed hope of salvation ... for God has NOT appointed us to ‘WRATH’” (Matt. 3:11; 1 Thes. 5:9; Rev. 3:10). Now we who are called by the “God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us all spiritual blessings ...” as He has “CHOSEN us in Him before the foundation of the World (earth) that we should at last be HOLY ... God HAVING PREDESTINATED US unto the “ADOPTION of God’s children by Jesus Christ and in the ‘GOOD PLEASURE of HIS WILL, NOT OURS’” (Ep. 1:3-5, 11; John 1:13).

The scriptures state emphatically that this present ERA OF GRACE (the mercy of God) is soon to end abruptly at the definite time that the Father alone knows (Matt. 24:36) “... be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh” (24:44).

Any called believer can read in a properly translated Bible that mankind (our first parents namely) fell into pride and rebellion and thereby became estranged from God alone with all their descendants. Next, we read Job’s question, “If a man die, shall he live again?” If we have only a short physical life to live, we are “most miserable” (1 Cor. 15:19). Thank God men like Job and Paul had personal experiences with the Spirit of Christ (Acts 9:1-22) who says, “call and I will answer” (Job 14:14-15). Paul was now content himself to be a prisoner for Christ in this ERA OF GRACE for God ... “hath saved us and called us with a holy calling,

NOT ACCORDING TO OUR OWN WORKS ... but by 'HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE' ... in Christ Jesus BEFORE THE WORLD (EARTH) began" (2 Tim. 1:8-9).

Now Paul received "mysteries" not previously known that believers may become "fellow-heirs" with the Son of God, Jesus Christ; things "hid in God" are revealed to Christ's Apostles (Ep. 3:9-11; Deut. 29:29; 2 Cor. 4:3-7).

We are taught by Christ's Apostles that we are to let no man "deceive us" (Matt. 24:4-5) "for many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many" (vs. 11). We are to "put off the OLD MAN" that previously lived in corruption and lust but to now "put on the NEW MAN" by the power of God for we are now "created in righteous and true holiness" (Ep. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-11) and now even little children may believe in Christ to the saving of their souls by Christ.

When an Apostle such as Paul refers to the "church in the wilderness Israel" (Acts 7:38) he points to Moses who was called to be a ruler and a deliverer by God. God appeared to Moses in a "Bush that would NOT burn" (Acts 7:30-39; Ex. 3:2-6) but he points NOT to the Jewish church of the Old Testament, but to the people chosen out of all races who are called to believe and be saved under the "Gospel of Jesus Christ" in the salvation during this dispensation or ERA OF GRACE that will end when the church of the New Testament is "Caught Up" to be with the Lord (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

Paul revealed another mystery hidden in the ancient past, "we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST TRUMP ... the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed" (1 Cor. 15:51-52; Phil. 3:20-21).

God made Adam from the dust of the ground and Eve from Adam's rib (Gen. 1:27; 2:21). The Apostle Peter was led of the Holy Spirit of God to speak, preach and write being "moved to do so" by God's promise of resurrection in the Gospel taught by the Son of God, Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:14; Phil. 1:27) and by the Apostles.

A rapidly approaching "DAY OF THE LORD" will come upon the world as "a thief in the night" (suddenly); "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise ... elements shall melt ... the earth shall be burned" .... Nevertheless, according to HIS PROMISE, we look for NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH ... by all who have "obtained like precious faith and live by the very faith of Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 1:1)

We read throughout scripture that God is Israel's Savior; the Jehovah who appeared to Abraham and the prophets has, in our era, appeared to believers as the "Good Shepherd" and the "DOOR" of Christ's flock for salvation, to all who believe (John 10:7-9, 14-18; Rev. 4:20). "I am the vine, ye are the branches" (John 15:5-7). "As the Father loves me ... I have loved you" (vs. 9) "who I have chosen ... and ordained you" (Acts 13:48). Now the New Testament Apostles of God speak the "WISDOM OF GOD IN A MYSTERY,"

ordained before the world unto our glory (1 Cor. 2:7-8) and now know that "...eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man the things GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE who love Him" (vs. 9).

Now believers come in the faith of Jesus Christ and can be assured of the things that are freely given us by God (Is. 64:4; 1 Cor. 2:7-9). Jesus came bringing the "Kingdom of Christ" as God's only begotten Son, so we can know that the "people that sat in darkness, saw great LIGHT, and Jesus taught all to Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is AT HAND" (Matt. 3:1-6, 13-17, 4:17; 10:7).

Soon the "coming Day of the Lord" will be upon us when many will stand before an absolutely Holy God to give account of themselves, "but of that day and hour knoweth no man, no ... but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36, 25:1-13). The Return of Christ is "near, even at the doors" (John 24:33), now is the time to come to Christ as the Apostle Peter preached, ... give diligence to make your calling and election sure ... "to be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation" for we were not redeemed by silver and gold, but with the "precious Blood of Christ" (2 Peter 1:10; 1 Peter 1:18-20).

Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

Source:	Rapture and Resurrection
Author:	Professor Noah Hutching
Publisher:	Hearthstone Pub., Ltd. P.O. Box 815 Oklahoma City, OK 73101 ISBN #879-366-27-4



## **An Exposition of Luke 5:32** **By Joseph Burghauer**

Luke 5:32: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance".

A superficial understanding of this verse is that our Lord did not come for "good people who do not need to be saved because of their own goodness" but that He came for "really bad people who are in need of salvation". This understanding is a grave misinterpretation of the possible meanings of His statement.

The setting of our verse is at a meal hosted by a former publican (hated tax-collector) named Levi (another name for Matthew as we see in the parallel account of Matthew 9:10-13). Levi invited other publicans and more "sinners" (disreputable people). This sight so displeased the self-righteous Pharisees (members of a sect of Judaism that included many leaders) that they complained to the Lord's disciples. We are not told if Christ overheard their complaint or if He knew of it by His Omniscience, but we are told that He answered their complaint. His answer ended with our verse.

What did our Lord mean by the word "call"? In the Bible "call" can mean either an official summons (command) or an invitation. An example of the summons usage is Acts 17:30 where God is said to "...now commandeth all men every where to repent." An example of the invitation usage is Matthew 11:28: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Please note, Christ's invitation is not to everyone but to those who are burdened by their sins. This is probably the meaning of "call" in Luke 5:32.

In our verse, Christ said He did not come to call the "righteous". He came to call "sinners".

Who are the righteous He does not call and who are the sinners He does call?

We know that the Bible teaches that after Adam's fall, no one is born righteous (except the God-man Jesus Christ): Romans 3:10-12. We are all sinners in need of the righteousness of Christ ( 2 Cor. 5:21). A sinner will be justified (declared righteous by God) who was chosen by God (Ephesians 1:4) to be granted faith and repentance (Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 11:18).

This justification is received as the sinner trusts in Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins, the Righteousness of Christ, and eternal life. (John 6:28-29; Acts 16:30-31).

So, the Lord may have simply meant that since "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), that He did not come to call the "righteous" because none are "righteous". He may have been rebuking the Pharisees since they should have this from Ecclesiastes 7:20 : "Surely there is no righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."

(The Lord rebuked the Pharisee Nicodemus in John chapter 3 as Nicodemus should have known of the new birth from the Old Testament.)

Although the above is true and may be a possible meaning of “righteous” as it is used in our verse, it seems more likely that the Lord is referring to the self-righteous. There are two well-known examples of the self-righteous in the Bible.

The first is that of the self-righteous Pharisee in the parable (and the Pharisees in His audience) of Luke 18:9-14. Verse 9 states, “And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.” (We are told by ancient historians that some of the Pharisees even called themselves “the righteous”!) The Pharisee in this parable believed his good works earned his righteousness. And in our parallel passage of Matthew 9:10-13, the Lord rebukes the Pharisees for their lack of mercy resulting from their self-righteousness. Mercy is the evidence of true righteousness.

The second example of self-righteousness is that of the rich ruler recorded in Luke 18:18-27. This man was self-righteous as he thought he had perfectly kept all of God’s Commandments! He was not convicted of his sins from God’s Law as he should have been (Galatians 3:24). Note that Christ did not speak to this man about repentance as he did not think of himself as a sinner. The Pharisees were also denounced by Christ in Matthew chapter 23 for their hypocrisy, and in verse 28, Christ said of them, “Even so ye outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.” So it seems that we should conclude that the Lord in our verse uses “righteous” to refer to the self-righteous (Pharisees and others).

What does the word “sinners” mean in our verse? Since the word “sinners” is used in contrast to the self-righteous (who, of course, are themselves sinners but they do not recognize their sinfulness), we can conclude that our Lord uses the word “sinners” in this verse to refer to those who are convicted of their sinfulness and miserable state before God.

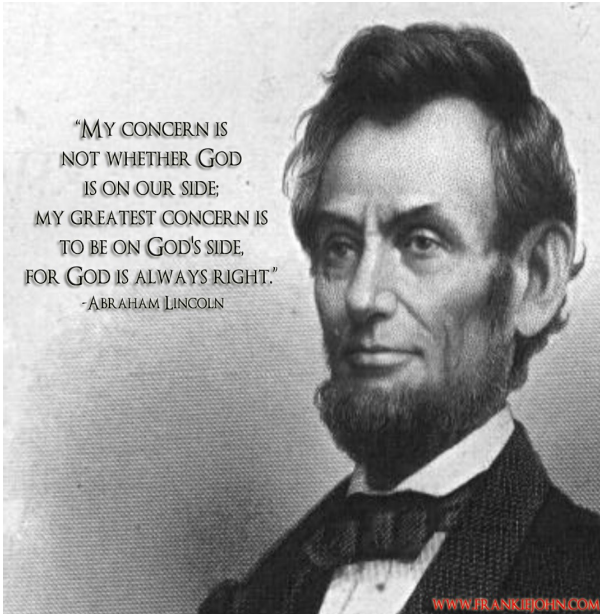
What is repentance? The Westminster Shorter Catechism Q 87:

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Sinners need to repent for eternal life: The Lord states in Luke 13:3: “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” God grants repentance (2 Timothy 2:25) and yet we “sinners” are “called” to repent. God is pleased to call us to repent, but ultimately it is something that only He can give. As the sinner trusts in Christ alone, he is declared righteous and then is granted the gift of repentance. A believer’s repentance is not perfect in this present life (1 John 1:8-10) but will be when he dies or is raptured and is present with the Lord. (1 John 3:2).

So, our verse tells us, if we know that we are sinners who need to repent, Christ came to call us to do so. If we trust in Him alone, He will grant us repentance just as He granted us faith (trust). If you do not know that you are a sinner, just examine the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 5 and see if you have perfectly obeyed them. If you are not self-righteous, you must admit that you are a sinner in need of a perfect Saviour. Jesus Christ, the God-man who rose from the dead, is able and willing to save you. Call on Him and put your trust in Him alone.

Presidents with February Birthdays

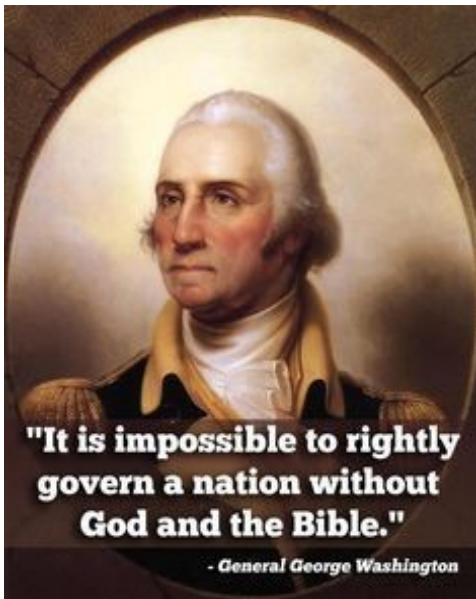


February 12th

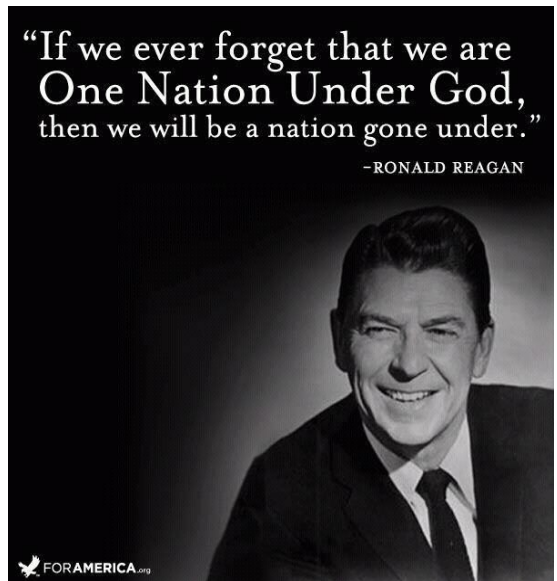


William Henry Harrison—February 9th

*"I deem the present occasion sufficiently important and solemn to justify me in expressing to my fellow citizens a profound reverence for the Christian religion, and a thorough conviction that sound morals, religious liberty, and a just sense of religious responsibility are essentially connected with all true and lasting happiness."*



February 22nd



February 6th

*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.*

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.  
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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#### **WRITE TO US!**

Rev. David Lewis &  
In Defense of Truth  
2927 Cub Hill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

#### **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