

# Haven Newsletter

November 2003

www.havenministry.com

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## True Religion

**J**ames 1:26 "True religion that God finds pure and faultless is this, taking care of widows and orphans in their distress and keeping oneself unpolluted by the world" is a verse which I have referred to many times in our ministry and in this newsletter. In the past I have emphasized the former part; now I want to examine the latter. What does it mean to keep oneself "unpolluted" from the world?

**O**ver the past two thousand years, Christians have interpreted this idea in many ways. Some have taken this to mean that one should not dress like the world does, and some that one should not entertain as the world does. In many ways I can agree with both trains of thought. If the whole culture is dressing immodestly, say like Britney or Madonna, than it is incumbent upon Christian women in particular here to dress modestly as befitting our understanding of God's design for us. But to some this has become culturally bound, as if robes that were common among 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews were the only

"acceptable" and "holy" garb for believers. One sees this in cults sometimes.

**O**ne can also see this mentality in the old line Amish and Mennonite Communities who believe that God's best for them came and locked in on the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This is not a plea for some sort of relativistic understanding of social norms, but rather a reminder that people do dress in different ways in all different parts of the world and over different times. A believer in Christ must always keep the sense of modesty that God has spoken to.

**T**he early church believed very strongly that any believer who went to the Coliseum to see the gladiator "games" would be kicked out of the church. They understood that Christians should not be entertained by the senseless and sinful behavior of the pagan culture. This too can be applied many ways but I think the central principle is that pagans will do what they do and our job is not to imitate or bless them in these activities, but rather speak the

truth in love and call them to repentance and faith.

**T**he major point of the James passage is not found in these common understandings in my estimation. It is rather found in the sense that Christians have seen illustrated so often throughout church history. Paul reminds us to beware of "empty philosophy" and John warns us to stay away from idols. Most Christians read no philosophy, though Paul obviously had, and hardly any would be so crass to have an actual idol, so what is the connection between all these passages? I believe that the argu-

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ment that James, Paul and John are making is that Christians must not THINK in the same ways that the pagan world thinks. This is very tricky here because it is hard for us as humans to separate us from our culture.

We are to be "in the world but not of it" the Scriptures remind us. My general thought here is that too often the Church has "wed" itself to the current philosophy, or current science of the world, only to find itself "widowed" in the next generation.

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## True Religion continued...

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A few examples of this will show you what I mean.

**W**hen the Medieval church "married" the authority of the Church with the astronomy of Ptolemy, it looked very foolish and to this day has the reputation of being "unscientific", because of the further discoveries of Galileo and Kepler, and the church's reaction to these Christian scientists. Ptolemy may have seemed so right for so long, but this was not a Biblical point of view in any way, and yet pagans throw this foolishness at the church as "proof" of the backwardness of believers.

**A**nother glaring example of this, still in play in the western world is the marriage of Christian faith with Modernity, as exemplified by the Enlightenment project of Descartes, Hume and Kant. People like Schliermacher, Harnack, and Ritschl married the anti-supernatural presuppositions of Hume and Kant with the "Church" and produced the country club mentality of liberal "Christianity". This might be seen in the neo - Orthodox as well, which perhaps was best seen in Rudolph Bultmann's famous quip that no one who works a transistor radio can believe in the miracles of the Bible, all at the same time calling himself a Lutheran Christian! Many Christians have wed the "wisdom" of Freud, Marx, Darwin, Nietzsche and

many other Non - believers to the Christian faith, all with disastrous results.

**T**oday, many seek to wed the Church to the Post-modern mindset, as if Derrida, Foucault and Heidegger have anything of eternal value to teach us. "Christians" are declaring that Truth is only subjective, morality is contingent upon the situation and community values, and that no story/narrative (including the Christian one!) is any more true or valuable than any other. This has and will have a tremendous impact on the church and culture. It ultimately destroys missions, apologetics and the prophetic voice that the Church should have in every culture.

**O**ne is reminded of the old quip that when one dines with devil, one should bring a long spoon! When the Church marries the science or philosophy of the pagan world, it is always we who are the losers. Pollution of the mind always leads to pollution of the heart. "Empty philosophy" has found a home in many Christian pulpits and schools. And idolatry lurks in every bookstore. Caveat emptor!

## Book Note

**I** still am encouraging everyone to read this book. It is heartbreaking in a way but sometimes harsh medicine is good for the soul. The book is entitled "A Matter of Basic Principles - Bill Gothard and the Christian Life".. It is written by Don and Joy Veinot and Ron Henzel and published by 21<sup>st</sup> Century press. You can find it at the website for the Midwest Christian Outreach at [www.midwestoutreach.org](http://www.midwestoutreach.org). Though again I know many of you respect Bill Gothard and were influenced greatly by his teachings, there are both personal and theological reasons to see him in a different way. Before you react, I would encourage you to read the book, check out the facts and then make your decision.



**T**wo movies have touched our hearts this year. The first "Gods and Generals" we mentioned before. The second was "Radio", which we saw quite recently. Terri and I wept and the kids admitted to being touched as well. There are some major parallels between the main person of the story and our son Andy. We are so thankful to so many of you who have taken Andy into your hearts and loved him. We can never repay, but only ask our Father to bless you.



## Website Update

**W**e have included some new papers and talks on the website. One of our goals this year is to fill out the index with the files which now clog up my garage, and make them accessible for any who visit the site. We also hope to have many more of my seminars and sermons on the site soon.



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## Prayer Requests

- 1) Please continue to pray for my family's salvation. Our son Scott has moved back to California and unfortunately he is still struggling with the same issues. Please keep him in your prayers.
- 2) Please pray for marriages that have been destroyed or damaged by sin and cultic activity. Included here are Bruce and Diane, Don and Peggy, Mike and Cheryl, Jen, Dave, Paul and Sheila, Jeannette and Brad, and too many more.
- 3) Please pray for many friends who suffer from chronic sickness, like Sherry, Rebecca, Liz, Julie and others. We still are not sure what Terri's health issues are. She has been through so many exams over the last several months. Please continue to pray for her and for the doctors to figure it all out.
- 4) We are so thankful that the kids have now been home for eleven months and are doing well. If you would like a new prayer card, please let us know. The picture is really great.
- 5) Praise the Lord! We are so thankful for the response in giving. Please continue to pray for our ministry support. We are currently at about 84%. We are so thankful for all of who bless us through your help. We still need to raise roughly \$1,000 per month. There are over 2000 people who receive this newsletter who are not regular supporters of this ministry. As we get close to the end of the year, please prayerfully consider becoming a part of what the Lord is doing here. **Also, remember that if you want a tax receipt for this current year, your gift must be postmarked by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>!** Thanks for much for your help.
- 6) Please continue to pray for those that we are talking too. I have had some great conversations with more Bahai folk recently, and Mark and I spent almost two hours with a New Ager from Castle Rock.
- 7) I just recently passed my second comprehensive exam. We put off the final one until February. Thanks for your prayers and please pray more as the Dissertation now looms!
- 8) We praise the Lord for finding reasonable dental help for Terri's mom and for the people who helped her replace her oven...
- 10) Our Bible study is going quite well. Pray that we can better minister in that venue.
- 11) We thank you again for your help and care in so many ways. Pray that Terri and I will mature as Christians, as husband and wife, and as parents. (We will always keep this request going!) :-)

## Non-Profit Update

**T**here is quite a stern warning issued in Jeremiah 23 for any who would say that they are the Prophet of the Lord. One wonders how many on "Christian" TV have ever read it? I always expect pagans to do pagan things, but it is always heart breaking to see so called "Christian ministries" do exactly the same things and watch Christian TV, Radio shows and Book-stores who promote the heresies, seemingly without a care in the world as long as the money keeps flowing. Lord forgive us all!

## Speaking Schedule

There are numerous other speaking engagements and ministry opportunities in the works. Please be in prayer for all of these.

- Nov 30 - Benahkah Bible Church - Jonesboro, GA - Postmodernism.
- Dec. 29 - "Minds in the Matrix" Christmas Youth Conference in Denver - Wicca/New Age.
- Jan 17 - Men's Prayer Breakfast - First Baptist Parker, CO
- Jan 19 - Haven Ministries Board Meeting.
- Jan 29 - Feb 1. National EMNR Conference in New Orleans.
- Feb. 12-14 Christian Ministries Conference in Denver.
- Feb 22 - 24. Swiss Mennonite Church in Sweetwater, KS.
- Mar 8-10 - Southwest Regional Conference for Calvary Chapel Pastors, Tucson.
- March 15-17 World Religion Mini-Conference for YWAM in Arvada, CO.

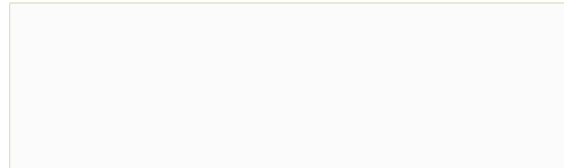
I will also be teaching the world religions course at Rocky Mountain Bible Institute this spring on Mondays. If interested please contact them at (303) 424-2121.

There are several other speaking engagements which are pending. Please periodically check the website for further updates and information.



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**A**gain please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry this coming year. We won't give you fine vials of alleged "holy" water, not little bits of cloth or packages of dirt allegedly blessed by the "prophets" you so often see on TV. We won't even promise you that you will get 100% returns on your "seed" gift! Ugh. But we do promise that we will do our best to faithfully fulfill our part of the Great Commission and seek out those with whom we can share the Lord's life changing Gospel. Thanks for your consideration in this.

We have been blessed by all of you. This year has been a year of major changes and growth. We thank our Lord for you and we pray that His blessing and love is abundantly clear in your lives. Always remember why we celebrate the

birth of our Savior!

God's blessing on you all,  
 Bill and Terri and the kids.

### Address Note:

*Address for Ministry Support:*  
 Haven Ministries  
 P.O. Box 460366  
 Aurora, CO. 80046-0366

*Address for Adoption Fund:*  
 Hand in Hand International  
 Adoptions  
 Lynn Klint  
 6523 S. Kearney Circle  
 Englewood, CO 80111

