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FOR PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUTH

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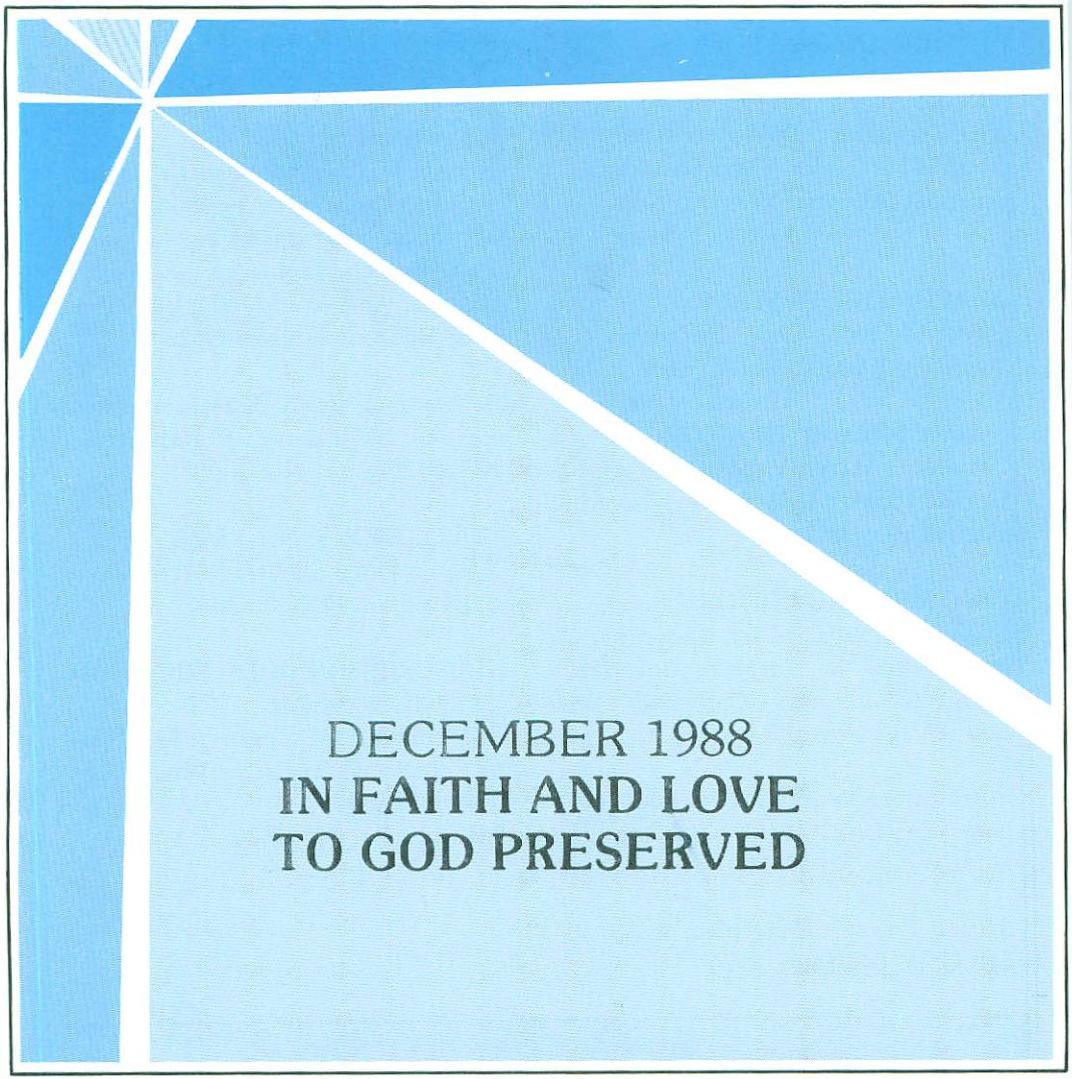

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Joel Zandstra, 6157 Balsam Dr., Hudsonville, MI 49426

Second Class Postage paid at Jenison, MI (USPS 046-840)

EDITORIAL OFFICE: David Harbach
4930 Ivanrest Ave. S.W., Apt. B
Grandville, MI 49418

NEWS EDITOR: Ruth Bleyenberg
3581 Peck, Grandville, MI 49418

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Scholarship Fund Treasurer: Howard Pastoor, 5511 Bauer Rd., Hudsonville, MI 49426

COLLECTIONS: Doug Dykstra
7928 Parklane, Jenison, MI 49428
Subscription Price $5.00

SUBSCRIPTION DUES: MICHIGAN
Lisa Van Koevering
3810 100th Ave., Zeeland, MI 49464
OUTSIDE MICHIGAN: Pam Kuiper
4127 40th Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

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EDITORIAL
LETTER TO MY GRANDCHILDREN

by John M. Faber

Dear Teenagers:

Yes, that's right, I am writing this letter to you teenagers this time. Of course, you pre-teens may take a peek at it in order that you may see what your older brothers and sisters are up to.

By now you have become accustomed to your new grades in school - some of you having moved up to high school! What a great change that was! But even you junior highers have moved forward into an advanced discipline. Discipline. Just a casual glance at that word and you see the word, disciple. As our Lord had twelve disciples, so your teachers, too, have disciples. That word means, learners, and so you are. Did you ever think of yourself as being a disciple?

I wonder if you ever think about your parents' part in your schooling. I am sure that I did not think of that at all in my days at school. I had to go to a public school where parents had no control of the teachers' materials. But you are blessed that your parents have a great deal of authority over your education. They serve on school boards and have a voice in school society meetings. And let me tell you why your parents are concerned. Years ago they presented you for baptism, and at that time they promised God, through the minister of your church, that they would teach you all they knew, and beyond that, would send you to catechism, to church and Sunday school. AND, they would send you to a Christian school to learn to know all about God, His creation, His providence and the rest of His virtues. They, with the help of your pastor, the catechism teacher and the school

teacher feel the awesome responsibility before God.

I know you don't often think about these things; that's why your old Gramps is reminding you.

Again, I want to remind you (even though you know it) what the writer to the Hebrews (possibly Timothy) wrote to the teenagers of the Hebrews in the 13th chapter of that letter. There he reminded the kids (grownups too?) to obey those who had rule over them. I think he was thinking most of all of their parents, he told the young people that their parents were watching over their souls; that those parents realized that in Judgment Day they would have to give account to God, Himself, of the teaching and ruling over their children. The Holy Spirit, through Timothy, said he hoped that those children would obey and be submissive so that the parents might give that accounting with joy and not with grief.

So now I ask you teenagers, will your parents have joy in that Great Day?

I'm sure I don't have to tell you that life in High School is different. Some of you have had a year of it; others but a few months to experience that change. I will just remind you to give thanks for your Christian teachers and fellow Christian students. That whole atmosphere is conducive to your spiritual growth and welfare.

Another reminder: you are more responsible for your best efforts to do your best in your studies. You are more and more responsible for your behavior; you are now grown up! Carrying with this responsibility is your witness to your personal Christianity. Yours is the opportunity as Christian "teenagers" to stand far above the opprobrium connected with that designation as found in the world! Use it!

I feel I must warn you kids who are at the first year at college. Look out! Be on the alert! Be on your guard! Yes, you should be reminded that your attire should be clean, that you well-to-do girls do not compete in your dress that the poorer girls feel dowdy in comparison; that you, boys and girls do not wear such exotic hairdos that make your grandparents cringe.

But I see another "lookout" in your first year in college. I know you go to be taught by your professors, but sometimes you have to reject some of their teaching. In one of your classes you will be taught "creationist-evolution". They will teach you (for they believe it themselves) that God created the whole universe, with all life that inhabits it, **by way of evolution**. In the Book of Hebrews the Spirit tells us "By faith we believe that the world was formed by the Word of God" And many other references are given us to believe "In the beginning God spake". Well, what are you going to do about the tests you will have to take in that class? To be a witness to your faith, you may give the answer they taught you, but in addition you can tell him what you believe to be the truth. He will have to mark you correct for your answer; and will be faced with your witness! Was this an unneeded warning? I'm sure it was, because teenagers from our churches have been taught quite thoroughly in the Creation account in Genesis.

So far I have been centering my reminders around the keeping of the 5th commandment. But when you are away at college you will be tempted to transgress the 4th by treating Sunday as any other day; the 6th by hating a fellow classmate; the 7th by "unchaste

actions, gestures, words, thoughts, desires, and whatsoever can lead men thereto", and the 8th, that you refrain from theft of any kind, and neglect to promote the welfare of the members of your crowd; the 9th, when you gossip about your buddy in polite backbiting, judging your friend unheard. Wow, but the devil enjoys that kind of behavior! We wouldn't want to give that Serpent any pleasure, do we? Take it from gramps, he's seen it all.

"But, you say, it sound like you don't want us to have any fun." No, no, I want you to have lots of fun. That's the special privilege of a teenager.

But I would also remind you of the many ways in which you can help people. You younguns can offer a bright spot in the day of an elderly man or woman in your congregation - the shut-ins. About once a month pay them a visit; talk about your everyday activities. They will enjoy it. You boys can volunteer running an errand, hop on your bike to the grocery store, or bring back an ice cream cone.

I am glad that I did not have to warn you about self-abuse, either by alcohol or doing drugs. That belongs to the world, not our teenagers.

Love, Gramps

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY
IN FAITH AND LOVE TO GOD PRESERVED

by Rev. John A. Heys

It is a wonderful thing to be alive. And we may be sure that when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, four days after he was buried, his sisters and friends considered it wonderful, and were very thankful. However, some time later he died again, and has now been in his grave for hundreds of years.

That will never happen to the child of God, as far as his spiritual life is concerned. He came into this life spiritually dead. And we noticed, the Scriptural truth is that we come into this physical life totally depraved, which means that we are spiritually dead. God said to Adam that the day he sinned, he would die spiritually. Physical death began in his body that day; and he labored in the sweat of his brow from that day onward. As the years went by, he became physically weaker and weaker. Then after nine hundred and thirty years he died physically. But he died spiritually the moment that he rebelled against God and chose Satan's words rather than God's. All his actions after committing this sin reveal that although there was fear in his heart, there was no sorrow for that sin; and there was no seeking of deliverance from it. He did not want that punishment; but one can have that without wanting salvation from sin and the devil's spiritual hold upon the soul. And boldly as well as sinfully Adam blamed God for giving him a wife who induced him to disobey.

God, however, that very day caused Adam and Eve to receive a

spiritual life. He caused them to be born again, because unconditionally He had chosen them in Christ. That gift of spiritual life is limited to only some of the human race, because the atonement which Christ realized is only for those whom the Father eternally gave to Christ. Did Jesus Himself not say? "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep." That is a very limited salvation. For there are besides sheep not only wolves, but numerous wild beasts that want to kill the sheep. And it is in irresistible grace that God brings this life into the sheep of Christ's fold, on the basis of the work which Christ accomplished through His cross. The spiritually dead man has no desire for that new life. In that life they have no interest. And Satan tries with all his power to keep Christ's sheep from being born again. He cannot. But he wants to do so and uses all his strength and ingenuity to try to take it away, when he finds it in them. He strives constantly to get those spiritually dead to mock and ridicule us, to make us feel ashamed - rather than thankful - for our new, spiritual life. Yet the glorious, comforting truth is there that God's will is always done, and therefore that those whom He chose in Christ will get a new life, a spiritual life they never had before, and a life they will NEVER lose.

That is the awesome and comforting truth which we need to hold on to; and we must never let Satan even try to take it from us. This is the truth of the perseverance and preservation of the saints. We have no assurance as to how long our physical life will continue. We have undeniable evidence that it will come to an end. That happens all around us, and its coming we quickly begin to feel in our own bodies, after the days of our youth with its strength and enthusiasm. But once we are aware of being born again, and now, with a new spiritual life given us by Christ and His Spirit, we have undeniable evidence that this life will never be taken from us, and that with it we will enter into the kingdom of heaven, where all that sinful, physical and spiritual life will be completely gone.

Jesus Himself tells us in John 10:28, 29: "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand." Now that word man is in italics, because it does not appear in the original Greek version. We may translate it then as "no one", so that Satan and his host of fallen angels likewise are unable to pluck us out of God's hand.

In John 17:11, 12 Jesus states: "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee, Holy Father, keep through thine own name, those whom Thou hast given me, that they may be as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those whom Thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled." And in John 18:9 we read: "That the saying might be fulfilled, which He spoke, of them which Thou gavest me have I lost none." And somewhat later Paul wrote in Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ." There are many other texts which clearly teach that once being born

again with a new spiritual life, we will never die spiritually.

Now it is true that sometimes it looks that way. After Peter denied Jesus three times, and even in Matthew 26:74 is presented as one who cursed and swore that he did not know Christ, and after the cock crew wept bitterly, it is plain that he did not lose his spiritual life which had been given him. Look up Luke 22:31, 32. Jesus says, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." When Christ prays for us, His prayers are heard. For notice Jesus speaks with conviction that he will be converted, that is, turned from this sin; and then he is to go and strengthen his brethren in the faith.

This incident in the life of Peter reveals that in this life the reborn child of God still has his old nature, and therefore commits many, many sins. This is also so very evident in the life of Noah, who became drunk after his glorious salvation by the waters of the flood; in the life of Abraham, who lied to try to avoid the hand of the Egyptian king, who wanted his wife; and in David's life when he committed adultery and murder. But all this does not deny the comforting truth of the perseverance of the saints by the preserving power of God's grace.

Take note of that fact, young people. Preservation makes perseverance possible. What God does for and to us in His grace gives us assurance of persevering and of not losing our faith. To persevere is to persist. It is to continue in that which you have begun. And theologically it means that we continue to have faith, do not lose our love to God, even though it may be hidden from the eyes of others, and even from our own eyes at times, because of our gross sins. But preservation means that God keeps us in the faith. His elect children will never lose their faith and new spiritual life. For it depends not on their strength. It depends on God's faithfulness to His promises; and you cannot find a more faithful and more powerful Person than our covenant God.

It is true that some look as though they have faith and really do not. Perseverance does not mean that all who look like believers are believers, and will by God's grace enjoy all the blessings of salvation in the day that Christ returns. In Jesus' day the Pharisees looked that way to many, so that they were even jealous of them. And we must examine our own lives to see whether God has truly given us saving faith. We must find in our lives works of true love to God; the sincere desire to be delivered from Satan's power; unshaken, strong faith that Christ died for our sins; and that we are saved by grace and not by our works. Perseverance means that we have begun. It means that in the deepest recesses of our hearts we do hate sin and that our sins bother us. If your sins do not bother you. If, young people, you can laugh at them and you persevere in that kind of life, the perseverance of the saints is not a comforting truth to you. But - even before you make confession of your faith, and surely afterward - when you do want to have the victory over sin, and walk in love to God, the perseverance of the saints is a tremendously comforting truth. For it teaches us that it does not depend upon us. It hold forth the truth that God's preserving

grace will keep us in Christ, from the moment that He engrafted us into Christ by our rebirth, and by that spiritual bond of faith.

Jesus speaks of that in John 15 when He presents Himself as the true vine and His people as the branches. Once engrafted into Him we will never, no never, be cut off or plucked out of Him. No one can do that. The devil, if he would come himself and with ALL his fallen angels against one child of God, he could not get the victory. Remember that, young people, if you presently enter into the days of the antichrist, who is not far away, as the signs of the times given us in Holy Writ make very plain; and remember that God said, the day man fell into sin, that the seed of the woman would have the victory, not Satan and the seed of the serpent. Those who belong to the church here below in name only, and who put on a front that makes them look like believers, will be plucked out of that vine, cut off and cast into the fire of hell. But those unconditionally elected, irresistibly called and fully atoned by the blood of Christ will, even though they came into this world totally depraved, be preserved in their spiritual life.

And it is so important, young people, that we hold to these five truths of total depravity, unconditional election, limited or particular atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints. Believe these truths, and it is plain that you are a child of God, who will be preserved all through this life, and be brought into the new Jerusalem by Christ; because God chose you in Him, and eternally decreed that you would be delivered from your total depravity.

Our churches throughout their sixty four years as a distinct, separate Reformed denomination, have held to these truths. Your calling is to continue to maintain them in our churches, and to hand them down to your children, when it pleases God to give you them. You, young people, have an awesome responsibility. You do not need to please us, although, indeed, we rejoice to see you hold fast to these truths, but to please God. You are going to have to maintain these truths in a far more difficult time than we, your parents and friends, have gone through and were called to hold fast to these five points of Calvinism.

God's church is going to be preserved. The elect believers, even in that awful period of time when the antichrist rules the whole world, will persevere in their faith, and show this by a walk of faith and obedience. No matter how severe the times become as far as the flesh is concerned, let it be seen that you persevere. Severe times cannot keep the true child of God from persevering. God's preserving grace will keep them serving Him.

Put then your trust in Him; and do not for one minute think that you can stand by your own strength. Sing it with the psalmist·

His saints shall not fail, But over
the earth Their pow'r shall prevail;
All kingdoms and nations
Shall yield to their sway,
To God give the glory
And Praise Him for aye.

Truly we are kept safe by God's grace. He will preserve in us the spiritual life which He gave us. On Him, not on us, depends our salvation. What He begins He always finishes. Preserved by Him we shall persevere.

TRUTH VS. ERROR
APOSTASY IN THE LAST DAYS
24. Perilous Times Shall Come

by Rev. Robert C. Harbach

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (II Tim. 3:1). Jude had spoken of the apostasy in the last days already having occurred. Paul, too, spoke of heretics and apostates active in the church in his days. But here he prophesies that worse days are coming, both in and outside the church. Since the time he wrote this epistle, his warnings have been passed on to us. As we would expect, the apostasy (the falling away) today has become worse than ever before, and we are to expect it to become worse and worse. This Pauline perspective and prophecy of apostasy in the last days is not merely Paul's, for it had been foretold by the Holy Spirit. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the later times some shall depart from the faith. . . ." (I Tim. 4:1-3). Let us give attention to these words before going on with II Timothy 3.

The source of all prophecy is "the Spirit." This does not mean that the Spirit spoke directly to the apostles in an audible voice entirely apart from the Scriptures. The Spirit caused all Holy Scripture to be written by holy men of God. Further, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (II Tim. 3:16). Now that we have all canonical Scripture, in order to hear what the Spirit saith to the churches, it is required that we read and hear His Word from its infallible Source, God-breathed Scripture. Quakers and charismatics claim direct speaking of the Spirit to them **apart** from the Bible, in **addition to** the Bible. God's Word denies this, for, literally, "speaking **expressly**" means "speaketh explicitly **in words**," i.e., in "words which the Holy Ghost teacheth;" and those words appear exclusively in "all Scripture." For example, "the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake concerning Judas" (Acts 1:16). Since the Spirit speaks explicitly in **words**, divine revelation is **verbal**. It is all **written** in the Book of Scripture. Rev. 22:18-19. Jesus always appealed to the Word of God written: Matt. 4:4, 7, 10. The Lord, indeed, had spoken objectively, directly, and with His own voice from heaven. But we have a more sure Word of prophecy, which now is all cast into **writing** and recorded in **Scripture** (II Peter 1:17-21). In that **inscripturated**

Word of the Spirit we have all the divine revelation we need, all that there is!

"That in the latter times," generally, refers not to these last days, but to later times, not only later than when Paul wrote, but to the later seasons of the last days. Then "**some** shall depart." Paul warns Timothy of **some** who will depart (apostatize) a little later, which came about in the later days of the oldest apostle, John (I John 2:18). There are always **some** like this. Those "some" are always showing up in the church; so the church must be ready for them. They apostatize "**from** the faith," which implies that they were once of the church. "**The** faith," being objective, means the **Christian** faith, **Christianity**. In those times, Christianity was in the form of the teaching of Jesus, as in His discourses, the Sermon on the Mount, the Bread of Life discourse, John 6, and the eschatological discourse of Matthew 24; and in the form of the Gospel according to Paul, as in Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, etc. Now Christianity is best and most beautifully expressed in the Presbyterian Westminster Confession and catechisms, and in the Reformed Confessions and Forms of Unity. There are also important summaries and emphases of Christianity in the Apostles, the Nicene and the Athanasian creeds. **Many** today apostatize from the faith as represented in these creeds, by corrupting, mutilating and abandoning them. Since there is so much at this hour of what we might call a "Modern Christianity," we would warn of "The Hidden Dangers of 'Christianity Today'." Certainly we must ever warn against "The Corruption of Christianity," which is resulting in "The Impotence of American Christianity."

"Giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (demons)." "Giving heed to" means, literally, "holding the mind to." This brings almost immediately to mind one of the dangers of Transcendental Meditation where one assumes a relaxed position attempting to empty the mind of any thought whatsoever. This is to hold the mind out and open to seducing (deceitful) spirits and doctrines of demons. The deceitful spirits are apostate teachers (I John 4:1-3). "Doctrines of demons" is not doctrines **about** demons. "All Scripture" contains that. But false doctrine (pseudo theology) comes from demons. Cp. I Kings 22:20-23; Rev. 16: 13, 14, 16.

Today modern universities put much stock in the occult, but they have no stock in Scripture truth. It was not always so. About two generations ago they were too Sadducean to believe in the human spirit, the evil (fallen angelic) spirits; and all the occult was beneath their contempt. Now they are deeply into parapsychology (telepathy, the clairvoyant and related avenues of the occult) and the occult arena of Eastern (heathen Hindu) mysticism. They soo ought to cease charging Calvinists and Reformed believers with being "witch hunters" or "heresy hunters," while they are laboring to produce degreed witches and shamans, and deliberately, of choice, pursue (hunt), openly, heresy of the most Satanic nature. Formerly they had raged over the witch-burning of the Dark Ages; now they are the doctors and scholars of the occult in our New Age of **Enlightenment**.

"Seducing spirits. . .speaking lies in hypocrisy." False prophets speak lies in their hypocrisy. Pseudo pro-

phets, to be successful as such, must be clever hypocrites; and they are, for they lie behind a mask of piety. Some of the biggest hypocritical liars on the contemporaneous scene are the self-styled "evangelists" who preach that not only spiritual salvation, but also physical healing, along with earthly riches, may confidently be sought in the atonement and claimed from the promises of God. For the popular line of the pseudo prophets is that of a wealth-motivated religion. Naturally they must wear a mask, like the ancient stage-players, to play the hypocrite in order to palm off their lies on a dulled, duped and gullible public (II Cor. 4:3, 4).

"Having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:2). They have gotten a seared conscience from their pseudo prophets and demonic teachers, (James 3:15, Gk.). Their damaged conscience has been cauterized so many times that it has become hardened, and so no longer responds as the sounding board of the soul. An example of the "seared conscience" we have in the ancient and modern heathen, not only as those heathen are found in so. called "third world" nations, but as found in our own nation. See Eph. 4:17, 19. But then the hardened heathen out there in the world are not hypocrites, are they? Indeed not; but hypocrites in the church are capable of concealing their hardened consciences. That's what makes them such clever hypocrites, their ability to present themselves as very human, caring, loving and tender-hearted shepherds of their flocks. Thousands flock to them and readily swallow their "pitch," their "line," to "hold their (empty) minds to," and their (full) pocket-books to them, to make their adored idols rich.

"Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats" (v. 3). This prophecy is fulfilled in the negative hierarchical and monastical impositions of the Roman Catholic Church, another sign of apostasy in evidence today. As a result, "forbidding to marry" meets with more resistance, resentment and dissatisfaction on the part of priests and nuns in this country than ever before. Also there are still certain die-hard ascetic dietary laws which dictate what Christians are not to eat and not to drink.

Such is the way of the apostates and their departing from the faith. They are as conscienceless and callous as circus barkers and "con men", yet they are far more professional than these crude bilkers and "bunco artists," having far more talent in attracting crowds, gaining huge followings, and in amassing riches. They roll in wealth, reminding us of the unbelievably opulent "life style" of former Philippine President and Mrs. Marcos. Is it any wonder then that it finally comes to public eye that for years they have been guilty of shocking violations of Christian morality?

It is true that from the riches of His providence God gives these apostates from the faith, these seducing spirits, these lie-speaking hypocrites, their allowance and affluent allotment. But that does not sanctify their avarice, greed, lust and ingratitude. For the Lord will call them all to account for the scandalous abuse of their stewardship. Then let us not fail to notice from Paul's words (I Tim. 4:4) that nothing will be good to us, unless by guileless prayer we seek the Lord's blessing on our use and enjoyment of it.

BUMPER STICKER WITNESSING

by Agatha Lubbers

Do they catch your attention? I'm talking about those signs hung in the windows of passing automobiles, those license plates with special messages, and the bumper stickers advertising a radio station or some place of amusement.

When I was a child and had the opportunity to travel with my parents, we often would see automobiles announcing places that the owners had visited. **WALL'S DRUG STORE**—that sign sticks in my mind. Another was **CAVE OF THE WINDS**. I remember the feeling of anticipation. I hoped that we would stop and that we too would be sporting one of those bumper stickers on our 1935 green Chevrolet (the model that had front doors that opened from the front.)

Times have changed, but we still see vehicles that display special messages—some religious in content and others vulgar and repulsive. What do you do when you see the vehicle that says, **HONK IF GOD LOVES YOU?** How do you react to the sign that says, **IF THIS CAR IS DRIVERLESS, THE DRIVER HAS BEEN RAPTURED?**

Witnessing is an important aspect of the calling of the child of God. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven." The witness of Christians is so important that it is an integral part of the good works that flow from their life of thankfulness and gratitude. The Heidelberg Catechism teaches that Christians must testify by the whole of their conduct their gratitude to God. The Catechism also teaches that by the godly conversation (life style) of Christians others may be gained to Christ.

I can hear you saying it now. Since what you have said is true, "Shouldn't we do Bumper Sticker Witnessing?"

Bumper sticker witnessing or advertising can neither be condemned nor advocated. It is neither right nor wrong. It is obviously a trite means to tell and display the great message of redemption. Every creature of God is good but not all the means that are available to the church are necessarily the kind of means that the church and its members ought to use. Let us presume that you want to announce to all observers that you are a Protestant Reformed Christian. In order to do this you attach to your vehicle a sign which says, **I AM A PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN**. Would you be witnessing concerning the truth that is in Jesus or would you merely be announcing to the reader that among the many other denominations that call themselves Christian and Reformed, you belong to one that is called Protestant Reformed. I think the latter. You would merely be identifying yourself as a member of a certain denomination. This in itself cannot be condemned or condoned. It is a matter of your personal discretion.

A true statement of faith that would witness concerning the truth in Jesus would have to include important doctrines. We should have to say that we have an only comfort in life and death. This comfort is that we belong with body and soul to a faithful Saviour

Jesus Christ who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all our sins. We would mean that only the sins of God's people are taken away. We should have to say that we believe the doctrines of the Scriptures confessed by the Apostles Creed. This would be a condemnation of all Modernism and those who deny that Jesus is truly God and a real righteous man. We should have to say that we believe the neglected and maligned doctrines of the Scriptures that have been summarized and explained in the great Canons of Dordtrecht. This would be a condemnation of all Arminianism and Pelagianism.

If a person is a Jehovah's Witness and announces what he truly believes, he must say more than "I am a Jehovah's Witness." He is obliged to say, "**JESUS IS NOT GOD.**" This is anti-Christian. This is false. This is the lie of the Devil.

If one is a Mormon, it would not be sufficient for that one to say that he is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. That would be a form of identification but it would not be the kind of witness that would be a truthful statement of the beliefs of the Mormons. He should have to say, "**YOU CAN BECOME A GOD AND POPULATE YOUR OWN PLANET**" This is one of the lies of Mormonism but it is the kind of witnessing that any Mormon should do.

The real issue is not the method but the content of the message. Does the sign in the window, the sticker on the bumper, or the license plate on the car say that which is scriptural or does it teach the lie? Bumper sticker witnessing in order to be part of the sweet incense that arises before God must have a content that is true to the Word of God.

I can think of many such short scriptural statements that would witness the truth. Here are just a few.

-GOD IS LIGHT AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL
-THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH AND THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE
-LOVE NOT THE WORLD NOR THINGS OF THE WORLD
-YE ARE IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT
-LITTLE CHILDREN, IT IS THE LAST TIME
-JESUS SAYS, "YOU LOVE ME BECAUSE I FIRST LOVED YOU"
-GOD DOES NOT LOVE ALL MEN ONLY HIS REPENTANT PEOPLE

We must condemn with all our hearts the witness of the lie. We may not advertise or represent that which is false and repulsive. It is contrary to the calling that we have as children of the light. Those who have been renewed by the Holy Spirit after the image of Christ have a special calling to witness concerning the truth that we have in Christ. We may not cast pearls before swine, but we must testify by the whole of our conduct that we are grateful to God for His blessings. This means that we cannot and may not say that which is false and demeaning to the cause of Christ.

What is the purpose for the bumper sticker on your car? Is it intended to attract attention toward yourself or is your intention to bring glory and honor to your Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? No one can judge your motives when you display your bumper sticker. God knows the heart.

Bumper stickers belong to the area of Christian liberty that the Christian must use with sobriety.

LEAVING CHRIST OUT OF CHRISTMAS

by Greg Holstege

Here I am, sitting in the living room of my house, on Thanksgiving Day. My appetite has just been satisfied with plenty of turkey and stuffing and the rest of the Thanksgiving Day dinner. The radio is on, the table is cleared, dishes washed; a perfect time for a snooze.

Almost nodding off, my ears picked up "Jingle Bells" from the radio. Jingle Bells? On Thanksgiving Day? The aroma of turkey was still in the air and the radio stations are playing Christmas songs already?

Yes, once again, we hit that special time of the year where the kids write out their Christmas lists for Santa Claus and bring them to jolly St. Nick when he shows up at the local mall. Those same malls are filled with frantic shoppers looking for that elusive Christmas bargain. On the weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas the streets are filled with these money-spending gift-givers.

Back at home, everybody is decorating the house for the Christmas season. Inside the annual decorating of the Christmas tree is taking place. The ritual started with a trip out to the local nursery to find the "perfect" tree for the living room. Once it gets home, out come the ribbons and streamers to adorn the tree. The presents are then placed underneath it. On the outside of the house Christmas lights are draped on the bushes and outline the frame of the house. Many neighborhoods are famous for their light displays.

If you are a child with a television at home, this time of the year is filled with exciting Christmas specials on television. Such classics like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", "Frosty the Snowman", and "Santa Claus is Coming To Town", fill the airwaves. Oh, I almost forgot one more of my favorites, "The Night the Grinch Stole Christmas". If you are a grown-up, this is a time of year filled with Christmas parties. You and your friends go out and sing Christmas carols until the wintery cold sets in. Others get involved in the Toys-for-Tots program to see that the needy children are not left without an empty Christmas.

Before you know it, it's Christmas Eve. The children scramble to get their Christmas stockings up by the fireplace for Santa Claus to fill with goodies. The last remaining presents are wrapped and placed with the others underneath the Christmas tree.

Finally, Christmas morning arrives. The family arises from its slumber and the kids rush over to the tree to unwrap their treasures. Junior gets a new basketball, a GI Joe space station, and a BMX bike. The girl receives a new Barbie doll, a new dress, among other things. Grandpa and Grandma come over for the huge Christmas dinner. The day is filled with Christmas spirit.

However, before you know it, Christmas has passed and gone for another year. We look back on it with fond memories of all the joyous

occasions that went on during the holiday season. It almost makes you want to wish that the Christmas spirit would last all year long.

I almost forgot something. Christmas is also the time we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

WHAT'S HAPPENED

by Ruth Bleyenberg

THE LORD RICHLY BLESSED:

-Mr. & Mrs. Doug Kooienga of Hope, Walker with a son, Michael James, on September 22.

-Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Lubbers of South Holland (Northwest Mission) with a son, Jordon Dewey.

-Mr. & Mrs. Peter Zandstra of South Holland with a son, Bret James.

-Mr. & Mrs Ron Koole of Loveland with a son, Jason John, on September 1.

CONFESSIONS OF FAITH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-David Jessup and Karen Hanko of Hope, Walker made public confession of faith on September 18.

-Jennifer Engelsma, Jon Haak, Jeremy Lubbers, Roxanne Maatman, Amy Van Baren, and Rose Zandstra all of South Holland made public confession of faith on August 28.

-Patricia Kraima, Cheryl Feenstra and Marcia Van Baren of our Soutwest Church made public confession of faith on August 14.

-Wayne Buiter of our Randolph Church made public confession of faith on September 11.

MEMBERSHIP PAPER TRANSFERS:

-The membership papers of Mr. & Mrs. Earl Kamps were transferred from Southwest P.R. Church to South Holland.

-The membership papers of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Griffioen were transferred from our Hudsonville to Southwest P.R. Church.

-The membership papers of Mr. Martin J. De Vries were transferred from Randolph to our church in South Holland.

-The membership papers of Mr. Larry Dykema were transferred to Holland P.R. Church from the Pine Creek Christian Reformed Church.

SINGSPIRATION SCHEDULE

February 19	First
March 19	Southwest (Easter)
May 21	Hope
August	Pre-Convention
September 17	Southeast
November 19	Faith (Thanksgiving)
December 17	Hudsonville (Christmas)