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# THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXIV ISSUE 3

MARCH 20, 2000

## *Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime*

In a mailing from a noted educator, long influential in the Christian school movement in this country—indeed, a pioneer in the modern rebirth of Christian education—the following statement appeared as a response to an letter inquiring the pas-

*As I read the statement, I was impressed by the wonderfully shallow nature of the answer printed.*

(Continued on page 3)

## *I'll Say It Again: A Reprint.* **WEARY IN THE JOURNEY**

### Are You Ever Weary In Your Journey?

Since the very moment that the LORD God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of

(Continued on page 8)



# this and that

Editors  
Jerald L. Manley  
Gary Roland  
Dorothy Gundersen

It is written "that in the last days perilous times shall come." 'Perilous' is a most potent word containing all the shades of the exposure to a potential that is unsafe because it is dangerous, hazardous and precarious, that is menacing because it is uncertain, treacherous and impending and that is real because it is known, evidenced, and predictable. A peril exists as a result of a particular course of action.

(Example: if one stays out of the water, one has no peril of sharks.) Once the action is engaged there is the explicit result of a specific, great, and imminent danger of injury or death, foreseeable in its cause and consequences, but beyond control or prevention once the act is begun. When Adam sinned, he was banished from the Garden to a land of peril. His descendents have exhausted themselves in trying to escape that existence, but all their efforts, individually and combined, have failed and will continue to fail. In the last days the peril that was implicit in Adam's transgression shall begin to increase its in-

evitable, crushing descent upon Adam's race. That final conclusion is certain and sure. The world will never be

Humanity cannot  
improve mankind.

(Continued on page 31)



# this and that

(Continued from page 2)

a better place in which to raise a family as long as sons and daughters of Adam are the rulers. Humanity cannot improve mankind. The progression is downward. The spiral may be wide, but it is descending and never ascending. Genhis Kahn was no angel, but he was much kinder and gentler than either Hitler or Stalin. Neither of whom approached Idi Amin's taste for his own people. Men beyond the capabilities of Amin rule in nations today. What lies ahead is described with sufficient detail in Daniel, the Epistles and Revelation that a thinking person would get sick reading it (read Daniel 8:27). In that perilous day of prophecy, "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse." So, it is guaranteed that things will not get better: UNTIL JESUS COMES.

—Pastor Manley



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## PLL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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and give Him a drink. He was, in all points, touched with the very feelings of all of our infirmities, even to the extent of Omnipotence becoming weary!

The Mystery of the Incarnation is so beyond our capability of comprehension that the Holy Spirit has the apostle Paul only record, "Great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh!" Yet in all of that greatness, let us not forget the simplest of all the details. He became so like His brethren that He even became weary in His journey!

Friend, you may be among the very weary today. The burden that you carry may seem beyond your ability to bear. Rest assured in this. He knows exactly how weary you are. He was under far greater loads of care and responsibility than you or I could ever visualize. He not only bore the physical limitations that you and I bear; He also carried the burden of all our sins.

He knows and, what is more, He cares!

Today, He bids you to cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you!

—Pastor Jerald Manley

## Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime

(Continued from page 1)

tor/educator's position on the King James Version controversy. After devoting fully three fourths of his response space to a vicarious jab at Dr. Ian Paisley, Irish statesman and pastor of Martyrs Memorial Church in Belfast, because of Dr. Paisley's 1997 Book, My Plea For The Old Sword, the pastor/educator proceeds to

pontificate that it is "logical" for the writer of the letter "likely [sic] eventually" to become a follower of Dr. Peter Ruckman. The evidence of an actual association of the letter writer or Dr. Paisley or his stated beliefs with either Dr. Ruckman or Dr. Ruckman's well-known position espousing both advanced revelation and renewed inspiration of the translators of the King James Version is not referenced in any fashion—nor, indeed, could

After devoting fully three fourths of his response space to a vicarious jab at Dr. Ian Paisley, because of Dr. Paisley's 1997 Book, My Plea For The Old Sword, the pastor/educator proceeds to pontificate that it is "logical" for the writer of the letter "likely [sic] eventually" to become a follower of Dr. Peter Ruckman.

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*Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime**(Continued from page 3)*

it be, since it does not exist. The defamation is merely a bold, biased accusation. In stooping to assassination by insinuation, this respected Christian educator repeats a hackneyed charge that, while frequently heard, is never validated. Though this banality certainly reflects a misconception held by many sincere individuals (as well as being used by others who, in my judgment, are anything but honest in its use), the charge in and of itself is pathetically and patently silly. It is simply the slick political/debate technique of constructing a straw man in the deliberate, intentional effort to sidetrack the unthinking observer while ignoring the unanswerable proposal of the other side. It is well known that in politics, a straw man is only used when one has no valid propositions to pres-

*It is simply the slick political/debate technique of constructing a straw man in the deliberate, intentional effort to sidetrack the unthinking observer while ignoring the unanswerable proposal of the other side.*

*(Continued on page 5)**I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT**(Continued from page 28)*

very daily bread that we labor to produce or to obtain!

*Our day is so far removed from the land that God is not in our thoughts.*

In days gone by, the farmer, by virtue of being so dependent upon the hand of God for rain or sun, was rarely an atheist. He may not have been "born-again," but he was seldom an atheist. The truth is that the farther from the ground humanity moves, the farther humanity moves from recognition of God's hand in daily living.

Our day is so far removed from the land that God is not in our thoughts. We devote our time to attempting to find some easy way to acquire "bread." We want to be comfortable and not to be weary. Most of all, we do not want to depend upon God!

Weariness in life is to be expected. The Lord Jesus Christ, Who took upon Himself the form of a servant and Who was made in the likeness of man, became weary in His journey. So weary did He feel that He sat down on the curbstone of a well and waited for the woman of Samaria to come to draw water

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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them merely to move their eyes.

Breathing is work; and when the body is weak, then the body will "sweat" just to breathe.

I have said all of this to focus your attention on this simple truth: *This life is not easy. It is not meant to be easy.* Life is intended to be a labor.

Before the Fall, recorded in Genesis 3, God required of man that he work to dress and to keep the garden. Since that Fall, God has caused life to be such that humanity is required to give sweat-producing labor in order to live. Have you wondered why the God of Heaven would will it to be so?

May I suggest that the purpose is presented in the prayer that the Lord Jesus taught His disciples? "Give us our daily bread." Though we labor, even to sweating, to produce or to obtain our daily bread, we are to understand that God gives us that

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This life is not easy. It is not meant to be easy.  
Life is intended to be a labor.

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## Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime

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ent. Thus, having created his diversion, the learned educator answers the inquiry concerning his own position in part as follows:

"You say that you do not believe in dual inspiration, but knowing Peter Ruckman's present position as I do and observing the evolution of that position from one in which he simply favored the KJV to his present position of the inspiration and infallibility of the English KJV, I can tell you that you and thousands of others will likely [sic] eventually have to accept Peter's [sic] position, for that is the logical conclusion of the road you have taken."

As I read the statement, I was impressed by the wonderfully shallow nature of the answer printed. Since this is a man whose life has been devoted to Christian education and whose academic credentials are nationally recognized, I find it most disturbing, even if it is amusing, to observe that he does not offer an intelligent exchange of information but resorts to ridicule, insinuation, and

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## Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime

(Continued from page 5)

vilification by distasteful association to taint the letter-writer's stated preference for the King James Version. Here is an educator who ignores the opportunity to educate—if his personal position can be intelligently taught, he should do so. Especially is this so, since the door was opened and a proper and ample opportunity was provided for a meaningful, reasonable presentation of the educator's position. It was his own paper in which he was responding. Yet, the educator chose not to educate. He appears, by his action, to be much as the proverbial old preacher whose sermon notes had the marginal notation, "*point weak, shout louder and pound the pulpit.*" It would assuredly be refreshing to find some honest preachers who will defend spiritual positions without resorting to carnal, old nature weapons.

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*It would assuredly be refreshing to find some honest preachers who will defend spiritual positions without resorting to carnal, old nature weapons*

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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your heart ever has is between "beats." When one realizes that the heart of the average person beats between 60 and 70 times a minute, there is not much opportunity for the heart to rest.

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*I write it again, life itself is weariness. Living results in weariness--weariness of the flesh and of the mind.*

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As for the working of our lungs, respirations vary widely; however, the figure 16 to 20 breaths per minute is a likely normal range. Mediate on all the muscles required in taking a single breath. The body is involved from top to middle in every single breath!

I write it again, life itself is weariness. Living results in weariness--weariness of the flesh and of the mind.

So often, I have heard someone, as he or she approached death, say, "I am just so tired." I have watched these individuals become too tired to raise a hand or even to talk; so tired that it was an effort for

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## *ILL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT*

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side never ceases its labor to exist. Organs, the heart, the liver, the lungs, the brain and those certain muscles required by those organs to function never take a vacation.

When they begin to "shut down" in their operation, then the body is not going to live for very long.

When does the brain ever take the day off because it is Labor Day? Even if we are not conscious of thinking, the brain is functioning nonetheless. The central nervous system never closes for the Fourth of July. What holiday does the liver or kidneys or pancreas or spleen or thyroid or circulatory system ever have?

When the functions of the body begin to cease, the body is failing and life is ending. Until then, the body never stops "working."

Think about this: life itself is weariness. Living results in weariness. The only rest

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*When the functions of the body begin to cease, the body is failing and life is ending. Until then, the body never stops "working."*

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## *Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime*

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Such tactics reflect negatively upon the tarbrushing tactician and bring whatever belief he might express on a given topic into question. This brother has the God-given right to hold a different understanding of the issue, but if he cannot convincingly explain his understanding to a 'weaker' (in his eyes) brother then he ought not to use the fleshly tactic (one that his dreaded Dr. Ruckman has practiced unto perfection) of sarcastic ridicule.

I make no claim to be a scholar. I hold no list of advanced degrees. However, my mother taught me to read, and for well over fifty years I have worked at reading. Good books provide experience without the expense of time and labor, impart knowledge without the employment of an instructor or trainer, and expand vision without the engagement of travel or danger. The printed page is a powerful resource. After all, when Almighty God determined to reveal His will to humanity, the infinite, omniscient Deity

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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Eden, life for humanity became and has remained of such a nature that the simple accomplishment of living, the effort required to be alive, produces, in and of itself, a weariness. Living results in weariness.

We usually restrict this association of fatigue with the physical and mental labor expended just earning a living. While this labor is not the only kind of toil producing weariness, it certainly does produce weariness.

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*In the purpose of God for fallen humanity, the ability to "eat bread" requires the expenditure of "sweat" to produce or to obtain the "bread."*

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"Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face

shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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ness. Living results in weariness.

It requires serious effort just to live. Healthy, energetic individuals never stop to realize this basic truth. Since they do not "feel" the labor required they do not credit its existence. It is very real!

In the last several months, I have often been at the bedside of many very ill patients who were exhausted by the simple act of breathing. Just expending the required effort to take a breath was a labor that consumed all of their energy.

Certainly, as a pastor for all these years, I had observed and understood this as fact; however, I have only taken "serious notice" of this, as I say, in recent months.

I confess that I had never before really recognized the heavy labor required just staying alive. The body in which we re-

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*Of course, good, decent, moral, devoted, godly mothers are even more of an endangered species today than are farm families.*

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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bor, seeking knowledge and wisdom, produces its own weariness. One of my early teachers used to challenge us to "make your brains sweat." It may not be the same fatigue as that produced by hoeing corn or chopping cotton all day, but it is physically tiring.

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*If my own decades of observation is considered as a reliable gauge, then motherhood must be named among the heaviest labors of all.*

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If my own decades of observation is considered as a reliable gauge, then motherhood must be named among the heaviest labors of all. From the day of the conception of a child, as long as she lives, a mother "carries" a special burden of labor. Of course, good, decent, moral, devoted, godly mothers are even more of an endangered species today than are farm families.

Physical or mental exertion to produce or to obtain the necessary food, shelter and clothing unquestionably does produce weariness. However, in the last year, I have come to take serious notice that life itself is wear-

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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shalt thou return."

In the purpose of God for fallen humanity, the ability to "eat bread" requires the expenditure of "sweat" to produce or to obtain the

"bread." (Yes, I do know about welfare; however,

the "bread" given through welfare is there to be given because someone produced the necessary sweat to produce the "bread".) It is a fact that this generation of Americans knows much more of "obtaining" than of "producing" our "bread." It may well be that the majority of Americans could no longer describe all the individual actions required in the production of their daily bread. Most people today probably only know how to unwrap the pre-sliced, ready baked loaf of 90% air and 8% chemicals, flavorings and 2% grain. (If you doubt that, take the slice and "squeeze" it into a little ball and you decide if it is even 10% of its original size.)

The percentage of the American work

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*It is a fact that this generation of Americans knows much more of "obtaining" than of "producing" our "bread."*

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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force connected with the actual production of "bread," which term conveys the meaning of all that is part of the necessary daily food supply, continues to shrink. Family farms and farm families, *where they still exist*, are a vestige remaining from days past and continue only in a very tenuous existence. They

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*Family farms and farm families, where they still exist, are a vestige remaining from days past and continue only in a very tenuous existence.*

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are, in my opinion, an endangered species. This is particularly sad when one considers the great leaders of our own land that have "come from the farm." Blessed is the land whose leader is a true farmer at heart.

That there are fewer farmers in America today is, in one sense, readily understandable. The ever escalating cost of equipment combined with the always uncertain effects of weather and politics when coupled with the endless hours of hard work required makes an investment in farm-

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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*pay our taxes so the government can fund foreign aid.*

America the former breadbasket of the world, the former industrial leader of the nations, has become fat and lazy. We are now a nation of constituted almost entirely of consumers rather than remaining as the world's leading nation of producers as we were in the past.

The majority of non-government related employees in America today are in service industries, not the least of which is "entertainment." Strangely and sadly, it is now recorded that government, including public school employees, provides the single greatest category of paycheck providers. No wonder the *taxing* burden of paying for government is becoming backbreaking.

Yet, even all of these efforts do not constitute the full extent of the labor that results in weariness.

Wise old Solomon re-corded that "much study is a weariness of the flesh." Mental la-

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## Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime

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far fewer who have drifted into the positions as held by the Drs. Ruckman, Hyles, Grady and Riplinger than those who believe as does he and are now in the position of Fuller Theological Seminary, Wheaton College, Moody Bible Institute, and sundry other one time followers of truth.

No dear brother, I do not believe you are destined to become a compromiser or a liberal solely because you do not prefer the King James, even though you have adopted a text that the evidence might suggest is far more friendly to those doctrinal deviations than is my King James to Dr. Ruckman.

(By the way, [and for the record] as I understand the writings of Dr. Ruckman, Dr. Ruckman would, I believe, dispute the notion that he has changed one inch in his position on the King James Version as having advanced revelation and having been conceived under divine intervention/inspiration. Certainly, I know of nothing in print that would indicate such a change.)

—Pastor Manley

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

(Continued from page 10)

**Blessed is the  
land whose  
leader is a  
true farmer  
at heart.**

ing a "high-risk" venture for individuals. Granges, combines and associations of past decades have been replaced by professional food producing corporations. In fact, multi-national conglomerates now control most of the production of food for our nation.

The total number of individual Americans actually involved in "farm labor" continues to decline and an increasing amount of the food destined for the collective American stomach has an origin in some distant foreign land. *Someone reported that the pen stroke creating NAFTA instantly "moved" several million tomato plants from south Florida to Mexico.* The result is that all across America, what was once among the richest farm acreage is now the site for subdivisions and shopping centers. That farmland, an exclusive treasure of this nation among all nations, is gone forever and is be-

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## I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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yond any replacement!

There also must be labor to create the equipment that produces and processes the

food. Then, additional labor is needed to provide

the other living requirements for those involved in making that equipment. So the American

farmer (producing the

food for his own family and the families of others) also produced the need for others to labor to provide his needs. This is obviously an ever expanding circle. However, it is an eye-opener to visit any grocery store and read the labels denoting the origin of our current food supply. Most of our food chain seems to have it's first link beyond the borders of America.

Is there any wonder then, that there is evidence showing that this nation is losing manufacturing jobs. It has astounded me to find figures that, when compared side by

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## Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime

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*If such foolishness were not suggested by such a respected individual, it would be dismissed as Clintonian rhetoric.*

sions that they do. If his stated belief is true, they all "likely [sic] eventually" ended up compromising the truth, the doctrines and practices of Scripture, solely because of the versions they preferred and

used.

Perhaps that explains was why old Harry Emerson Fosdick of Nels Ferre really became modernist. They may have ended up on the liberal road solely because they used the Revised Version of 1881 and the subsequent versions that have flowed from it. Their apostasy may not have been the result of a rational rejection of truth, but merely an acceptance of "superior" translations.

While not as educated as is this educator, while not having pastored as long as has he, and, while perhaps, not having known of Dr. Ruckman as long as has he, I believe that among those who believe as do I *there are*

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## *Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime*

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estly not see the intellectual failure of that method of reasoning?

I reject, and do so categorically and unequivocally, the assertion that if one 'prefers' the King James Version, he or she must irrevocably become a follower of Dr. Peter Ruckman. That is absolutely absurd. If such foolishness were not suggested by such a respected individual, it would be dismissed as Clintonian rhetoric.

But, let us assume for the moment that the irrational is rational and the mere choice of a translation will determine the ultimate belief system of an individual. If he is correct and the single choice of which Bible is used "will likely [sic] eventually" determine the final beliefs of the person, then, I must say *I am in much better company than is he*. If he is right, if translation determines destiny, then he is in clear and present danger of becoming a Billy Graham, a John Mac Arthur, a Jerry Falwell, a Bill Hybels, or a Robert Schuler. He prefers and uses the same ver-

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## *I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT*

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side, show both farming and manufacturing are not only on the decline, but that the numbers for manufacturing are dropping in a more rapid fashion than those for did farming. *What took over a generation to happen in farming has been accomplished in a single decade for those in manufacturing!* The number of people actually employed in the origination of any American made product is decreasing at a stunning rate. Also, do not forget that America has no Merchant Marine left. Foreign farms produce our food; foreign ships deliver that food; foreign workers make the equipment that farms, the ships that sail, and the cars we drive to get the food we eat.—so we have the strength to write the check to

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*Foreign farms produce our food; foreign ships deliver that food; foreign workers make the equipment that farms, the ships that sail, and the cars we drive to get the food we eat—so we have the strength to write the check to pay our taxes so the government can fund foreign aid.*

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## *Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime*

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*If that effort does not convince a person that the word of God was written and transmitted from one generation to another, then the person is predisposed to a untenable concept and unable to discern truth.*

had it written down. "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing" Hosea 8:12. Which writing, the Lord Jesus held to be the full, final and sole authority for all matters of faith and practice—"It is written, Man shall not live by

bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). I would encourage, as an excellent afternoon's project for anyone, the careful pursuit of the word 'written' through Scripture through the use of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. If that effort does not convince a person that the word of God was written and transmitted from one generation to another, then the person is predisposed to a untenable concept and unable to discern truth.

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## *Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime*

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worthy milestone deserving to be honored and respected.) Am I to assume, however, that because of the event of his geographically southern birth and his deliberate choice of living in the deep south, that likely, eventually, logically he *must* become a cross-burning, white-hood-wearing, red-necked segregationist? Would he appreciate that association? Would he consider such a conclusion to be logical and inevitable? I believe he would be offended unto anger at the suggestion itself. Yet he has made exactly such a leap of logic as regards another's preference of the King James Version. How does one honestly make such an illogical 'logical' assumption in the one case and sincerely deny it in the other?

Can he or you hon-

*Am I to assume, however, that because of the event of his geographically southern birth and his deliberate choice of living in the deep south, that likely, eventually, logically he must become a cross-burning, white-hood-wearing, red-necked segregationist?*

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## Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime

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trate. Am I to understand that it is his position that

*He, and others, did write it and he, and they, may preach it; but it is intellectually impossible to defend such a silly statement.*

every dispensationalist must logically become an O'hare-ite?

—that every fundamentalist must eventually become a snake-handler?

—that every pro-lifer

must likely become a

clinic bomber?

—that every covenant theologian eventually must be a hyper Calvinist?

—that every pre-trib rapturist likely must be a date setter?

—that every Baptist must become a member of the church of Christ?

—that the traditional Christian School and the ACE type must eventually become one or the other?

The educator in reference was born in the very county in the state of Florida in which he has pastored for nearly fifty years. (A

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## Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime

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Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. drilled it into my student heart (as he would have done for any who listened to him with any desire to be taught) that even a fellow like me could borrow brains. And, for the over thirty years since he taught me, I have made it my life's work to borrow all the brains that I could. Those who know me know that I seriously needed to do such. I have sought and read books on subjects that interest me or whose subjects seemed important. I own (and have also read) a few hundred titles that discuss the word of God, concentrating on those that discuss inspiration or that provide information on the transmission of Scripture from generation to generation ("preservation," by whatever name it goes). I have expressed in this twenty-four-year-old publication a consistent position on those doctrines. The February issue of this past year carried a reprint of an article from 1977 that is as valid (and as needed) today as it was then. It's title was "To Nut Or Not To Nut." The call was a plea

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## *Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime*

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for a balance on these very matters.

In the journey through the subsequent years from that article, I have found that not all nuts fall from the same tree—indeed not all nuts fall from trees. A nut may be a nut, but there is a difference in the origin of the nut. A walnut is not a peanut. A nut they both be, but different nuts they are. However, just because walnuts appear on the ground does not mean that every tree in the field is a walnut tree. Nor does the presence of peanut plants transforming all the other vegetables in a garden into nuts. Are there nuts who claim to ‘prefer’ or to use the King James Version? Absolutely! Are there also nuts who do not ‘prefer’ or use King James Version. Yes. But, it is intellectually dishonest to accuse every person expressing something similar to what either of these nuts express as being equal in position or practice to the nuts themselves. Nor is the Book Itself fairly judged solely by the presence of the various species of nuts who ‘prefer’ it or who quote it. Baptists and Catholics alike believe in the Virgin Birth, but that apparent agreement in

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## *Tarbrushing a Straw Man Is A Silly Pastime*

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belief does not lead to an inevitable merger. Charismatics and Baptists believe in the Person of the Holy Spirit, but that similarity in belief does not equate the two positions. The intellectual equation that the brother is promoting is not intelligent.

In the swollen pride of decreed wisdom, some like the brother cited above, have decreed that for a person to ‘prefer’ or ‘favor’ the King James Version forces that person to “likely [sic] eventually have to accept Peter’s [sic] position, for that is the logical conclusion of the road . . . taken.” I humbly submit that neither they nor this educator/pastor cannot rationally believe that proposition to be true. He, and others,

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*In the journey through the subsequent years from that article, I have found that not all nuts fall from the same tree—indeed not all nuts fall from trees.*

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did write it and he, and they, may preach it; but it is intellectually impossible to defend such a silly statement. Taken a face value the remark itself is as absurd as I have already attempted to illus-

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