

# *Key West Church of God*

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Dear Friends,

I send you greeting in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! We have just celebrated Easter. It was a day like no other in history, on that day Jesus rose from the dead. He conquered death for all who believe in him. John 5:24 KJV "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

It has been a busy month, many things are happening that have great significance, one which is the election of the first Jesuit Pope, Pope Francis who is calling for everyone to unite. Uniting with Rome will be to come under the authority of Rome. Most have forgotten why the Jesuits movement came into being. They in short were a counter measure to the Protestant Reformation. Their main mission was opposing the Reformation. If this is the final pope, "Peter the Roman" then he would quite naturally oppose true Biblical Christianity. If the Jesuits had been successful in turning back the Reformation there would have been no English Bible, nor would the Bible have been translated into the language of the common people around over the world. The Bible in the language of the common man brought light to a world that had been suffering through the Dark Ages. The Reformation came and men tasted freedom. America and its freedoms were just one side effect of the English Bible. The King James Bible enlightened men and lifted their souls. Missionaries spread throughout the world proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible translated as the divine author intended has the power to transform a man and the society he is apart of.

The Devil, yes there really is a devil, hates the Bible. He has mounted a major attack on the Bible. He knows it is the one thing that keeps him from plunging men into the depths of depravity. It prophecies shine light upon the darkness of our times, it gives us understanding of the events that are taking place. That light causes some to resist Satan's plans. There are those who suggest that the Bible is merely an allegorical book. Most of what is said in it is not literal. Here is an example of such thinking.

Headline - **Bill O'Reilly: The Bible contradicts itself** - WND - Joe Kovacs· February 28 at 5:27am - <http://mobile.wnd.com/2013/02/oreilly-proclaims-the-bible-contradicts-itself/>

"Fox News anchor Bill O'Reilly, . . . proclaimed on his program Wednesday night that "a lot of the Bible is allegorical," and the New Testament Gospels contradict themselves." O'Reilly made the remarks during an interview with. . . Roma Downey and her husband Mark Burnett, executive producers of "The Bible."

"Look, a lot of the Bible, Mr. Burnett, is allegorical, and we know that in creationism and things like that," Reilly claimed. . . O'Reilly followed up by asking, "Are you telling people that they should believe in Adam and Eve? That they should believe in Noah's Ark? Jonah and the whale? Are you telling people that this is the way to go?" End Quote

This is a major attack on the Bible. It is not a new one. This has been the way that the Roman Catholic Church and Reformation era Churches have looked on the Bible. Thought I do not think they took it to the extreme that O'Reilly took it in discounting Adam & Eve and other Biblical characters and events. The allegorical method of interrupting the Bible is to take literal prophecies, passages and events and turning them into mere fables and then mine them for spiritual principles that will support the Church's doctrinal stand. This became necessary to support another major doctrine of the church, "Israel Replacement Theology." The short definition of this doctrine is that because the Jews rejected Jesus, God has rejected the Jews and replaced them with the Church. Now the Christians are the true Jews. As such all of the promises and reference belonging to the Jews have been transferred the Church. Jesus called this concept a lie in his letter to the Philadelphian church, Rev. 3:9.

By alleging that the Bible is largely allegorical Mr. O'Reilly has robbed himself and all who believe such a thing of the literal Word of God, whose words reveal man's past, present and future. It shows man's true condition. It gives us the cure for what ails the human soul. It reveals the future of mankind. It gives a plain outline of the last day events. It shows us the drama that will take place with Israel at its center. It is a warning to all who read it. 2Ti 4:4 KJV "And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." A man who views the Bible as largely allegorical or mythological has turned his ears away from the truth and has only fables to turn to. He is now depending on the theologian for the hidden meanings. That is not what God intended. God meant for the very simple to be able to read it and understand it.

There is recorded in the last chapter of the Bible a prophecy and a warning, which if ignored will bring upon those who do not heed it unthinkable damnation. Rev 22:18-19 KJV "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book."

This verse tells us that just before the Tribulation there will be those who would be taking liberties with the Bible. They will feel that they are entitled to add to it what they want and take out of those things they do not think suits them or the society that they are wanting to please. God has given the Bible in the form that pleased him. We are warned not to add to the Bible or subtract from it. Pro 30:5-6 KJV "Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. (6) Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." God has carefully chosen every word. He has chosen the order of the words. Nothing is in the Bible without divine purpose, "Every word of God *is* pure,!" We are not to add to the Bible. Neither are we allow to diminish it in any way. The Prophet Jeremiah was given strict instructions concerning the God's Word, Jer 26:2 KJV "Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, **all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:**"

The reason I know that adapting, rearranging the Bible to suit a sinful culture will be happening just before the Tribulation is because of this promise, "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:" If one is to experience the plagues of the book, these are the plagues of the Seven-Year Tribulation as they are revealed in the Book of Revelation, then it stands to reason that a person would have to be living at the time of the Tribulation. To handle the Bible in a careless manner is dangerous to the person doing it and to those who read or see the diminished Bible. It is certain that those who do such a thing will not experience the Rapture of the church. Those who feed on their work will be denied truth that could have made a great difference to their soul.

The second thing one must notice is the warning to those who take away from the Word of God, “. . . if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, . . .” To take away from the Bible is to have your name taken out of the Book of Life, it is to be denied entrance into Heaven. That is a very serious warning. It is to lose one’s soul. What happens to those who have their name taken out of the Book of Life? Rev 20:15 KJV “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

The attack on the Bible is a prophetic sign that we are not far from the Rapture and Tribulation. If it is a fact that new Bible Translations are flooding the market, all competing for popularity and sales. Often translated to be pleasing, acceptable, rearranging text to remove any offensive part. The Bible is truth. The truth is a narrow concept by definition. Just how much rearranging and adapting to the culture can the truth take before it becomes a lie?

Let me share with you a case in point. This month the History channel has been running the miniseries called “The Bible.” I received an advanced DVD set. I had read some reports and reviews, so I was interested to see what I might find. I had one handicap, I have actually read the Bible, that fact kept me from enjoying the series. I found myself arguing with it all of the time. I was saying things like, that not in the Bible, they changed that, they left that out! I should not have been surprised they did warn me that this was an adaptation of the Bible. Just what is an adaptation? Webster - “**ADAPTA'TION**, n. The act of making suitable, or the state of being suitable.” Merriam-Webster - “Adaptation - 3: something that is adapted; *specifically*: a composition rewritten into a new form.” So the Bible I was watching had been made suitable and rewritten in a new form. Who is it being made suitable for? Evidently it had been rewritten in a new form to make it suitable to today’s culture. It has been a huge ratings success. Most who watch have never spent much time reading the Bible. This will now become their source of Biblical knowledge.

Adapting to the culture was clearly seen in the episode dealing with the destruction of Sodom. All references to homosexuality were erased from the adaptation. The two angels that were sent in to rescue Lot and examine Sodom were a strange pair. They seem to be afraid and weak. When they meet Lot, they beg him to help them. The one angel has blood running down the side of his head. Lot goes out to confront the crowd of Sodomites who have come looking for the Angels. It is at that time that the angels drop their robes and they are now ninja type warriors pulling out their swords and slaughtering the Sodomites. The Angels fight their way out of Sodom, with Lot and family in tow, as the fire falls. If you read the text, you will realize that homosexuality was a major component of that night. It is completely gone. Why was it removed? I would suspect that it is because a sinful culture is being conditioned to accept homosexuality and gay marriage. The text concerning Sodom has always been a warning to the us to reject that life style. It reveals God’s mind set toward that lifestyle. Those who endorse homosexuality tell us that the story of Sodom in the King James Version was a bad translation and that homosexuality was not a part of the reasoning of Sodom’s destruction. The new miniseries “The Bible,” seems to confirm that point of view. Why was the account of Sodom and its destruction given to us by God? The Bible gives us the answer, Jude 1:7 KJV “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, **are set forth for an example**, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” “Strange flesh,” is that which is different from the normal male and female sexual relationships. The book of Romans leaves no doubt as to what was happening, Rom 1:26-27 KJV “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: (27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence (*payment*) of their error which was

(due) meet.”

God gave a warning in order to save mankind from a terrible error that would have terrible consequences. That warning was simply erased because it would not have been culturally acceptable. Jesus uses Sodom and Lot’s escape to warn us that the same conditions would exist at the time of the Rapture of the Church, Luk 17:28-30 KJV “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; (29) But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. (30) Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” In the following verses of Luke 17 Jesus will explain what is meant by “revealed,” some will be taken, some will be left, those that are taken will meet him in the air, via the rapture of the Church. Sanitizing the Sodom episode is a victory for the Gay Marriage crowd and a lost for humanity. A warning sign has fallen. The true believer is closer to leaving Sodom and Sodom is closer to the fire falling!

**Message of the Month** - Is entitled **“ENCOURAGEMENT”**. It is taken from 1Sa 30:6 KJV “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.” David was going through a time of great discouragement, you may be going through a time of discouragement. If you are, you could use this message. I believe it will encourage you. To get it all you have to do is request it.

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Your Friend in Christ,

Raymond L Shockley