**ARE WE LOSING THE WEST?**

**Chapter 1**

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

I was on Operation Mobilization’s first trip out to India. I arrived in New Delhi on January 1, 1964. After nine months in India the Lord led me to go back to my home in the States to get more people in back of me with prayer. To get back to the States I went to Calcutta and went from one American ship to another until I found one going back to the USA that would hire me.

For the next month we sailed to Bangkok, Thailand where we picked up cement and brought it to Saigon, Vietnam. The war in Vietnam was just beginning. We are entering into a new-year (2014) known as the year of the ‘open door.’ Larry Edelson, who has studied 19,000 wars over the past 5,000 years states that there are cycles to these wars brought on by economics and government. In his study he says the time is ripe for a cycle of war to start in 2014 and reach its peak in six or seven years.

When we look at the situation in the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Egypt) as well as the Far East (Japan, China, Philippines) we see the real possibilities of war breaking out. Also we have the rise of militant Islam and communal riots in India as well as China. We see that there are danger spots all over the world that desperately need prayer and the Gospel of peace to penetrate hearts.

God is opening doors in many parts of the world, but here in the West and especially in Europe we see a decline in our Western culture. I have been reading a book called “APOSTATE,” about the men who destroyed the Christian West. The Apostle Paul told us that our weapons can and should be pulling down strongholds. These strongholds have been built over a period of time. They did not pop up over-night, but we will see that in one period of time a seed (an idea, philosophy) was planted and in the next generation another thought was built on the previous one until there is what we have in our society and culture today.

I sense a need in my own life, and I hope in the lives of others as well, a desire to understand the philosophy and ideas that has brought us to the place where we are today in our society. Who would have believed that a generation ago we would be redefining marriage as well as family? That we would be tolerating the things that we hear in our music, see on our TV screens as well as movies; that we would be in the situation described by Isaiah: “So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.” Isaiah 59:14-15

Over the next few chapters when we look at some of these men who were instrumental in destroying the West; that they were intellectual giants with a wicked twist that has brought about the decline that we have in the Western world today.

If, according to 2 Corinthians 10, we are to destroy strongholds then it is imperative that we understand what the strongholds are. So often we are putting on band-aids when what is needed is surgery, a cutting out of the cancer that is eating away in our society.

When we look at these men, who through their ideas, had such a tremendous influence on billions of people around the world over the centuries it is truly amazing.

A question that we need to ask ourselves: Is God, God, or not? Are we taking the God-ness out of God believing that man is becoming God? Because man makes a really ‘bad God!’ This is why we have some of the atrocities that have taken place in the 20th century which has become known as the century of genocide. Because man has not done a very good job acting as God he needed to turn to something else to become God to him, and this is where he comes to the ‘state.’ Isn’t this what we are seeing in Europe and here in the USA today?

I was asked to speak in a men’s retreat and they asked me to speak on the subject: Being a Christian Man in the Post Modern World We Live In. Often in this spiritual warfare the way we fight is to produce the opposite spirit of what is being manifested. If there is a prideful spirit we show humility; if there is falsehood then we reveal truth, etc.

Once we begin to understand the philosophy behind the decline in the West then it will also show us how we should live.

**Chapter 2**

Psalms 111:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.”

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”

Colossians 2:3 “Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

When we look at the West (this would be true of any country in the world) we see that the battle lines are drawn for the mind of man on whether we will go with man’s thinking and reasoning, or that of God's.

We see from the Scripture verses listed above in both the Old and New Testament that wisdom and knowledge begins with God and not anyone else, or any government, or any group of ‘know-it-alls.’

That is why intellectual growth and spiritual growth go together. The Lord tells us to take every thought captive to obey Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5) Yes, we have a Savior for our souls: God, but we also must remember that He is the Lord of all creation and because of that we must interpret every aspect of creation in the light of His revealed Truth. Our problem has often been that we look at Christianity as a collection of truths, but not as the TRUTH.

When there is no "Christian mind," no shared, biblically based set of assumptions on subjects like law, education, economics, politics, science, or the arts, we then have a choice to make and the Bible teaches us that the overriding factor in the choices that we do make bring out our ultimate belief or religious commitment. In other words, our lives are shaped by the god we worship whether the God of the Bible or the one of our own making.

Since God is the Creator then God must be the premise or foundation of all that we do. When it comes to law, education, economics, politics, science or the arts - where is God and His thinking? We have cast God out. How did this happen? It is not something that happened over night, but over several centuries and we will be looking at these men and their philosophies that have brought us to the place where we are.

To understand a culture we must understand something of the underlying belief system that is there. We take the axiom that the Lord laid down for us in His Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 7:17-20) “Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”

When I consider what the West has become, it is because of what they, the leaders believe; it becomes their belief ‘system.’ This is what we need to change. It starts with us as individuals in seeing our transformation taking place through the renewing of our minds (developing a biblical worldview).

In these weekly letters we will be looking at some of the man-made belief systems that have been brought in through human reasoning and how brick upon brick or idea upon idea a fortress has been built that is keeping us enslaved within that fortress. We are first prisoners in our own minds.

This is why we must develop a biblical worldview. God’s view is not an option as if we consider it among other views; it is a “must.” Nancy Pearcy said in her excellent book called TOTAL TRUTH: “Word (worldview) was later introduced into Christian circles through *Dutch neo Calvinist* thinkers such as Abraham Kuyper and Herman Dooyeweerd. They argued that Christians cannot counter the spirit of the age in which they live unless they develop an equally comprehensive biblical worldview, an outlook on life that gives rise to distinctively Christian forms of culture with the important qualification that it is not merely the relativistic belief of a particular culture but is based on the very Word of God, true for all times and places.”

When we look at the morals of the West we must realize that they stem from its worldview. In order to be effective for Christ’s Kingdom, we have to understand and take on the underlying worldview.

ALBERT WOLTERS said: “A Christian worldview involves three fundamental dimensions: the original good creation, the perversion of that creation through sin (the fall), and the restoration of that creation in Christ.”

In the next few weeklies we will look at this: the creation, fall and restoration - before getting into the ‘reasoning’ or ‘philosophy’ of man starting with Thomas Aquinas.

**Chapter 3**

Creation

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

Before we can look at some of the men that have been instrumental with their ideas and philosophies that have had an impact upon Western Civilization over the past few centuries - there are some other aspects we need to consider first. Every philosophy or ideology has to answer the same fundamental questions:

1. CREATION: How did it all begin? Where did we come from?

2. FALL: What went wrong? What is the source of evil and suffering?

3. REDEMPTION: What can we do about it? How can the world be set right again?

Nancy Pearcy said: “Every worldview starts with an account of Creation, which shapes its concepts of the Fall and Redemption. Whoever has the authority to shape a culture's Creation myth is its de facto "priesthood," with the power to determine what the dominant worldview will be.  To break the power of today's secular "priesthood," Christians need to have a basic grasp of the origins controversy, with its wide-ranging impact on American thought.”

The Christian message does not begin with "accept Christ as your Savior;” it begins with: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The Bible teaches that God is the sole source of the entire created order. Thus His word, laws and creation ordinances give the world its order and structure.

One way to examine every philosophy that comes our way is to see how they frame the same grid of Creation, Fall and Redemption.

Francis Schaeffer said that if we want to understand the Bible we need to have a grasp of the first ten chapters of Genesis and the Book of Romans. In both we see the biblical worldview being laid out.

**CREATION**: When we think in terms of creation we have to think of origins. Every worldview has to have a start of origins. Where did it all come from? Also, who are we and how did we get here? Did it just happen? Was there a first cause?

We are told from John 1:1 that God spoke the entire universe into being with His Word, called the Logos. The Greek word “Logos” not only means “Word” but also “reason” or “rationality.” The ancient Stoics used it to mean “the rational structure of the universe.”

This is why the Psalmist (under the influence of the Holy Spirit) said that the “heavens declare the glory of God.” In other words, the entire universe reflects the mind of the Creator. What does this mean to us practically? It means that we are to look at every aspect of creation or any subject area of study in the light of its relationship to God.

Jonathan Edwards explained that God communicates not only "by his voice in the Scriptures to us but also in creation and in historical events.” This is important because human reasoning is not a repository of infallible truths. We will look later at some of the men whose philosophies have had a derogatory effect upon the West. Especially in our universities and higher education we see that any human reasoning must have a premise. So the question with human reasoning is: What is the premise? What do they base their reasoning on? Whatever premise we accept forms or shapes everything else that follows.

So, if you take any idea or philosophy and go back far enough you come to some starting point; something that is self-existent, and is their source of everything else.

Nancy Pearcy went on to say: “For the materialist, the ultimate reality is matter, and everything is reduced to material constituents. For the pantheist, the ultimate reality is a spiritual force or substratum, and the goal of meditation is to reconnect with that spiritual oneness. For the doctrinaire Darwinist, biology is ultimate, and everything, even religion and morality, is reduced to a product of Darwinian processes. For the empiricist, all knowledge is traceable ultimately to sense data, and anything not known by sensation is unreal.”

Every system of thought begins with some ultimate principle and if it is not God then it is some dimension of creation such as material, biological, etc. So when examining these different ideas the question is: Which is true and which is false? This is why we as believers cannot just abandon the so-called ‘secular subjects’ to the non-believer, but with godlywisdom and love we must examine the intellectual idols that have been set up and to be able to construct biblically based alternatives.

Later we will be looking at some of these intellectual idols that have been set up especially here in the West and have brought us to the place we are today. Like I said before, it did not happen overnight but over several centuries, precept upon precept, until we have the strongholds we have today.

**Chapter 4**

The Fall

Genesis 3:1-7 “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,’ but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”’ ‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”

In this passage we see several things. First, we see the Fall that took place and why this world is in the mess that it is in. Secondly, we also see the battle lines that are being drawn that we are faced with today.

We see this type of human reasoning coming out in the Garden of Eden with Satan's philosophy called "DiaPrax." This philosophy comes from two Latin words dia: to dialogue to reach agreement and prax: to practice.

There are three parts to this philosophy:

1. Thesis: what God says

2. Anti-thesis: human reasoning

3. Synthesis: result, which one of these two do we choose?

This to me is where the real battle is being fought today, especially here in the West. Our battle is not over homosexuality, abortion, humanism, postmodernism, socialism, etc., but whether we choose to go with God's revelation or man's reasoning.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s philosophy, we will look at in later weeklies, probably did more damage to what we faced in the 20th century than any other set of ideas.  If we examine his philosophy of the FALL, or why we are in the mess that we are in, he would say that the source of oppression and suffering (the Fall) is the society or civilization itself. His philosophy was to revolt and with revolution overthrow the entire social order and build a new one from scratch and create the “THE NEW MAN!” This is what led to some of the ‘isms’ today where millions were killed including the bloody French Revolution which France today is still recovering from.

His philosophy was that we are autonomous beings with no social contract including families. In his opinion, the reason we are in the mess we are in is because of oppressive relationships not of our choice. So all moral bonds of families, spiritual bonds of church and even genetic bonds of clan and race are the reasons why we are in such a mess. So the only bond for Rousseau is where the people choose for themselves the bonds they want, or do not want.

This is why we have the values we have today:  Our values used to be: SACRIFICE, LOYALTY, MORALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, but they have changed to INDEPENDENCE, PERSONAL HAPPINESS, TOLERANCE, COMFORT, INSTANT GRATIFICATION, RIGHT TO MAKE ONE'S CHOICES. We see in our society today the result of the choices.

So when we compare Rousseau’s worldview of the FALL with the biblical worldview of man through his own human reasoning choosing to go his own way - we need to ask ourselves which one is right and which one is wrong?

**Chapter 5**

Redemption

Genesis 3:14-15 “So the Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’”**

Romans 3:21 **“But now a righteousness from God**, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.”

Every philosophy and worldview must have a solution to the problems that we face, or the mess that we are in. There must be an understanding of not only what the problem is, but also what the solution is.

In the biblical worldview we see that not only is God the Creator of our universe, but that He is also giving us the answer to why we are in such a mess. This is laid out by Paul in Ephesians 2 where he describes what the Ephesians were like before they came to Christ.

First, they were dead in the sense that they were incomplete, with something missing in their lives. This is why you find people who seem to have everything, yet they commit suicide. No amount of fame, wealth or success can compensate for a dead spirit.

Second, they were slaves led away by their own lusts and unable to break the chains that held them. Paul later on said that he was:  “….sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.” Romans 7:14-20

What is the biblical worldview solution? Two words: **BUT GOD**. Paul was showing us in Ephesians that there is nothing that can deliver us - no education, money, fame, success, etc. Paul was showing that from man there is absolutely no hope. However, we read: “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (for by grace ye are saved).” (Ephesians 2:4-5 KJV) “Not of works, lest any man should boast.  For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:9-10 KJV)

What are some of the other worldview solutions?

Karl Marx, a German philosopher, economist, sociologist, historian, journalist and revolutionary socialist: For him the ‘original sin’ was ‘private property,’ therefore it stands to reason that the solution is ‘destroying the private ownership of property.’ And, ‘redeemer,’ as he believed, is the proletariat, the urban factory workers, who will rise up in revolution against their capitalist oppressors.

Nancy Pearcy: Total Truth. Rousseau: Rousseau’s work, The Social Contract, states "Man is born free, and ever is in chains."  In my later weekly letters we will know that for Rousseau oppressive relationships like marriage, family, church, and workplace was the problem. Redemption for Rousseau was the STATE. This is one of the reasons why the 20th century was one of the bloodiest ever because people adopted a worldview based on faulty ideas of creation, fall and redemption. Rousseau’s writings were centered around the individual.

Hannah Arendt points out in “The Origins of Totalitarianism,” that “disconnected, isolated individuals are actually the most vulnerable to totalitarian control because they have no competing identity or loyalties. That's why one of the best ways to protect the rights of individuals is to protect the rights of groups such as: families, churches, schools, businesses, and voluntary associations. Contrary to Rousseau’s belief, that to protect moral, social, and kinship bonds actually protects individual freedom.”

Isn’t it interesting to see the spiritual battles being fought today over the family, the church, rule of law, etc.

Just to give one other example that is affecting us today in the West - is Margaret Sanger's ‘Religion of Sex.’ She is the founder of Planned Parenthood, and like Nancy Pearcy describes Margaret Sanger: “She is a committed Darwinist, a champion of Social Darwinism and eugenics, which was very much in vogue in the early part of the twentieth century. Her goal was to construct a ‘scientific’ approach to sexuality based squarely on Darwinism.”

For Margaret Sanger, the problem for the mess that we are in is “the rise of Christian morality” and the solution is to free our bodies through sexual liberation. We saw this coming to its fruition in the sixties when sexual revolution became a moral crusade and Christian morality was the enemy. This is what is leading us into pornography, abortion, birth and death control, homosexuality, etc.

So when we look at these different solutions we need to ask ourselves: what is real and what is false?

**Chapter 6**

CAN WE TRUST OUR OWN JUDGMENT?

Psalm 12:4 “those who say, “By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us---who is lord over us?”

Psalm 12:6 “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.”

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”

Can we trust our own judgment? An unknown author said in regard to if we can trust our own judgment: “Only if our judgment has been shaped by a relationship with God.” He went on to say: “The way in this verse suggests a road apart from the wisdom of God. Our own sense of what is right and wrong, apart from God is not always reliable. That is why we have been given a guide that is perfectly reliable: God’s Word. From it we acquire wisdom to walk down the right path.”

When I look back over the 20th century I think of all of the "isms" that we had in the 20th century that has resulted in millions of deaths. For example and just to name a few:

Communism

Statism

Nazism

Socialism

Humanism

God has given us His Word in the Bible and how true it is what the Bible says about ‘words;’ that they have the power to carry death or life. This is so true today with those who want to change the definition of marriage. They have used words to do just that. They have come together to frame their arguments in such a way that people have believed them and are for changing this institution from God that has been here from the beginning of man. Endorsed by every major religion, we see “marriage” now includes man with man and woman with woman which the Bible calls depraved.

I have said many times that people who use words to make a living are the ones who are framing public opinion. In order to get their way they have had to get rid of the Word of God and which over the course of many years this we see that this is happened; a famine of God’s Word. The Word of God is banned in our schools, in every public domain and in our government structure.

All we are left with are the words and thoughts of man which to them seem right but lead to death and destruction. The question that comes to me is: What are we (the church) going to do about this? We read in Psalms 12:6: "The words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times."

One of the reasons why the supporters of “same sex marriage” have succeeded is that they are united in their cause and they have put all of their energy, time and resources to breaking through the barrier of the past that kept them outside society without any honor.

We, the Body of Christ, have been divided and consequently have not upheld the truth and done everything to win the lost. This brings me back to John 17 with the Lord's Prayer; that we might be one as they (the God-Head) are one.

How do we bring this unity about?

First, we need to see and understand what Satan must do to bring people to doubt God's Word. This is being achieved today when one looks at what is happening with the Word being kicked out of anything that has to do with the public. Even with our oath taking in court. It used to be with our hands placed on the Bible we stated: “…so help me God,” but not anymore because *God and His Word* has become irrelevant. This is where the real battle is being fought today. It is not dealing with homosexuality, abortion or anything else. It is a battle over the Word of God and its relevance in our personal lives and society as a whole.

We are finding, like AW Tozer said: “We should note this curious mark of our own age: the only absolute allowed is the absolute insistence that there is no absolute.” In the weeklies to follow we will be looking at some of the ideas, philosophies, ideologies and the stronghold that they have built.

Secondly, we must see the danger of ‘accommodation.’ “Tozer went on to say: “Here is the great evangelical disaster - the failure of the evangelical world to stand for truth as truth. There is only one word for this - namely ACCOMMODATION. The evangelical church has accommodated to the world, spirit of the age. First, there has been accommodation on Scripture, so that many who call themselves evangelicals hold a weakened view of the Bible and no longer affirm the truth of all the Bible teaches....This accommodation has been costly, first in destroying the power of the Scriptures to confront the spirit of our age; secondly, in allowing the further slide of our culture.”

We must keep in mind that God’s Word will never pass away. When we look back in history, in the Old Testament days and since the time of Christ, we as God’s people have not looked upon God’s Word the way we should with fortitude and faithfulness in complete obedience to it.

A.W.Tozer said: “God's Word has many times been allowed to be bent, to conform to the surrounding, passing, changing culture of that moment rather than to stand as the inerrant Word of God judging the form of the world spirit and the surrounding culture of that moment. Obedience to God's Word is the watershed. And the failure of the evangelical world to take a biblical stand on the crucial issues of the day can only be seen as a failure to live life under the full authority of God's Word.”

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, may our children and grandchildren not say about us that we did not take a biblical stand on crucial issues; failing to live our lives under the authority of God’s Word.

**Chapter 7**

Duck Dynasty Debate

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”

When this debacle came out about the Duck Dynasty I was motivated to put down a few thoughts.

I have never watched the reality series Duck Dynasty, but I have listened to the testimony of Phil Robertson, the patriarch of the series. Like my text says, “There is a way that seems right to man, but it leads to death.” In the 20th century, which is known as the *century of genocide*, we have seen where some of our governments have killed over 150 million people. This does not include war killings. Why did this happen? I believe it happened and will continue to happen because man is trying to take the place of God and thinks his way of living is better than God’s way. One thing that I have learned from history is that man makes a very ‘bad god.’

A question that comes to my mind is: What is the real debate about? Is it over homosexuality, abortion, government control, or what? I think it is a debate on whether we are going to follow God’s way or man's. Are there two ways of thinking or two sets of knowledge or truth? Let me try and explain what I mean.

Thomas Aquinas born in Italy in 1225 was not only a Dominican Friar and priest, but an influential philosopher and theologian. He was considered one of the top proponents of natural theology; which is a branch of theology based on reasoning and ordinary experience to be distinguished from revealed theology based on Scripture and religious experience.

Kevin Swanson in his book APOSTATE says: “His influence on Western thought is considerable, and much of modern philosophy was conceived in development or refutation of his ideas, particularly in the areas of ethics, natural law, metaphysics, and political theory.”

Aquinas, with his idea of natural theology, opened the door for other philosophers to join in and this in the 21st century eventually has brought us to the place where human reasoning and ordinary experience is competing with God’s Word - the Bible, with man taking the place of God. This to me is where the real debate is. Can we trust only human reasoning and experience? Looking back in history, and just in the 20th century, I would say “Absolutely NOT!” Because, as I stated, “man makes a very ‘bad god.’

Are homosexual men/women sinners and going to hell? Yes. Is the practice of homosexuality sin? Yes! Are there heterosexual men/women sinners going to hell? Yes. Is sexual intercourse outside of marriage sin? Yes!  The book of Romans is very emphatic about it, saying that “we all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) THIS IS WHY WE ALL NEED THE SAVIOR; WHY GOD HAD TO MAKE A WAY FOR US THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN AND AMEN!!!

We celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior, but we need to keep in mind the following verses:

Acts 4:12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

The real debate is between man’s reasoning and personal experience verses Holy Scripture and religious experience. Right now in our universities it is man’s reasoning that is winning the debates. This is why there is such a war against the Word of God. We are not allowed to quote it in any of our public discourse in courts, schools, etc. We often hear the pundits say that because there are some who do not recognize or accept Scripture - we cannot use it. Ridiculous! I say, I do not accept man’s reasoning, so then we cannot use man’s experiences either in determining right and wrong, lie and truth.

God’s word is: “Living and active; sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”  Hebrews 4:12

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11 KJV

Paul tells us in Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

We as God’s people need to be so saturated with the Word of God that the principles of the Bible not only come out of our mouth in our daily discourse, but also will be seen in our daily living.

The opponents will always try and change the debate by looking at ‘religion’ and the damage that has been done by Islam, Hinduism, Crusades, etc. When I was in Nainatal (India), a hill station in the Himalaya Mountains, I was asked to speak in a Hindu college. They told me that they did not want me to speak about religion. I said that was fine because I did not want to speak about religion, but about the life of one solitary figure that has impacted the world like no other: Jesus Christ. When they heard that they said, “Oh! that is fine.”

My prayer is that we, who say we follow Christ, be so filled with His Word that out of our mouths (out of the abundance of our hearts) will come forth God’s wisdom, that weakens and humiliates man's. I for one, have had enough of the puny wisdom of man. We need God’s great wisdom for living out our lives in the fullest, the way God intended for mankind. Like I said, men make terrible gods and we have all the inhumanities to prove it.

**Chapter 8**

Proverbs 30:5-6 "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.”

“Soft days for evangelical Christians are past, and only a strong view of Scripture is sufficient.” (Quote from Francis Schaeffer)

We read that for any offense:  “A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (Deuteronomy 19:15) This is good for most things that come our way. If a prophetic word is given to me I want it established by the testimony of two or more witnesses. Often the Lord has brought a thought to my mind about a certain thing, subject, etc. The thought does not contradict Scripture, but before I speak it or publish the thought I want two or more witnesses to back it up.

Is this foolish or is it wise? I think it is the latter and when we look at some of the ideas and philosophies that have shaped our culture over the centuries it would have been good to stick to this advice. Most of the men that we will be looking at in the weeks ahead are men who have had a Christian background.

For example:

Rene Descartes – Roman Catholic

John Locke – Puritan, Protestant

Jean-Jacques Rousseau – Calvinist, Protestant

Jeremy Bentham – Anglican, Protestant

Ralph Waldo Emerson – Congregationalists, Protestant

Charles Darwin – Anglican, Protestant

Frederick Nietzche – Lutheran, Protestant

Karl Marx – Lutheran, Protestant

John Dewey – Congregationalist, Protestant

Jean-Paul-Sartre – Roman Catholic and Protestant

Nathaniel Hawthorne – Congregationalists, Protestant

Mark Twain – Presbyterian, Protestant and

Ernest Hemingway – Baptist, Protestant

One thing that we need to keep in mind is that not only do ideas have consequences, but they can be good or bad and we need to be able to discern whatever comes our way. First, if an idea cannot be backed up by Scripture then we need to be wary of it. We see this today with some of our so-called prestigious universities that have ruined the faith of our children who attend these places.

As I mentioned before, Thomas Aquinas born in Italy in 1225 was not only a Dominican Friar and priest, but an influential philosopher and theologian. He was considered one of the top proponents of natural theology; which is a branch of theology based on reasoning and ordinary experience, to be distinguished from revealed theology based on Scripture and religious experience.

As I stated before, Kevin Swanson said in his book APOSTATE: “His influence on Western thought is considerable, and much of modern philosophy was conceived in development or refutation of his ideas, particularly in the areas of ethics natural law, metaphysics, and political theory.”

Thomas Aquinas is honored as a saint by the Catholic Church as well as honored as a Doctor of the Church. Core teaching for new priests is the study of Aquinas’ works.

Thomas Aquinas gave us many good things, but like Kevin Swanson brings out that one flaw in his reasoning is when he suggested that there could be a second method of thought built on human reasoning apart from Scripture. This thought eventually gave our secular universities the open door to kick God out of higher education; which is what we see today. It is said that just before he died he made a statement to his friend, Reginald Piperno: “All I have written seems like straw to me.”

What does Scripture say: “My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:1-6

The apostle Paul said: “I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:1-4

We know that in back of all these worldly philosophies is the sinister, warped mind of Satan and his hatred towards anything that pertains to Jesus Christ. What we see is how brick by brick, idea upon idea - a system was built that tore us away from the reality of Scripture; from the truth. Because of this we find that evil strongholds have taken over the higher education and is taking us back to paganism; a pagan society where God is not worshipped or obeyed.

**Chapter 9**

John 14:6: “Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Colossians 2:2-4: “Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Thomas Aquinas, when he suggested that there could be a second method of thought built on human reasoning apart from Scripture, laid down the first brick that others could begin to build on.

The next brick layer in building the stronghold that is destroying Western Civilization is Rene Descartes with his famous saying: “I think therefore I am.” Descartes was born in 1596 in France, went to a Jesuit college at the age of 8 and then earned a law degree at the age of 22. An influential teacher set him on a course to apply mathematics and logic to understanding the natural world.

Rene Descartes, living in Holland at the time, compartmentalized his life. He did not hold to the fundamental beliefs of the church. At the age of 38 he committed fornication with a woman. In this day and age we would not think much about it, but in Holland that was not something that was done. It is estimated that the illegitimacy rate was a low 0.69%; that is before humanism came in and began to destroy the fundamental Scriptural truths. Now some of the illegitimacy rates in the Western world are as high as 60%.

Francis Schaefer (who spoke in some of our Operation Mobilization conferences back in the late sixties) said that one of the problems we have today is that our Christianity is compartmentalized. He used the illustration of the upper and lower floor. In the upper floor we have our spiritual life and in the bottom floor is everything else, and there are no stairs in between.

I have seen this in Europe. Even my own father-in-law (from Finland) would say that his religious life is a private affair. He would never talk about it. Even today, not only in Europe but also in the United States, we have politicians who advocate for homosexuality, gay marriages, and abortion on demand and still have a standing in the churches.

When we do not begin with Christ as the source of all knowledge and wisdom we then either begin with ourselves or try to find some 'truth' outside of ourselves, and in doing so we miss truth and reality altogether. We miss our entire purpose in life.

Rene Descartes took the first approach to build his philosophy by trying to seek some ultimate truth within himself and the ‘great book of the world’ and eventually came up with his famous statement: “I think therefore I am.”

He let his doubts about God bring him to make this statement. Through his demented reasoning he goes from doubting his existence to proving his existence, and from there, to proving the existence of God. I am sure that God is relieved that Rene has proved His existence!

Rene Descartes starts with himself and goes from doubting to proving his existence and then to the fact that God exists. If this seems confusing then join the club because this is what you get when you do not start with God. But, no matter how you try to disprove God’s existence, the fact remains that God created life and established foundations, and He laid down the law for mankind to live by.

The Bible teaches us that there is only one way to build our foundation of knowledge and that is “in the fear of the Lord.” (Proverbs 1:7) Without knowing that God exists it can be said that we cannot know anything for certain. It is ridiculous to prove our own existence without first knowing that God exists. We are told in Acts 17:28: “For in him we live and move and have our being.” This is truth and faith on our part gives truth its life.

So what we are seeing is a fast moving away from what the Bible teaches. What we see coming out with Rene Descartes’ thinking is that man’s intellect is the great judge concerning what is believable and certain, and that Scripture is not the truth or the judge of our thoughts. Man is becoming his own self-made 'god' thinking what he wants to think, according to his own evil heart.

Descartes was trying to come to a knowledge of God through his own existence and reasoning, but for those of us who adhere to the teaching of the Bible we realize the existence of God is seen through the Father revealing Himself through His Son Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ revealing Himself through His indwelling Spirit.

Matthew 11:27: "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

When we look at the bricks laid down over the centuries to build the evil stronghold that is destroying Western Civilization we begin to understand why today in the 21st century the name of Jesus Christ is so hated.

**Chapter 10**

John Locke 1632-1704

2 Chronicles [1:10](x-apple-data-detectors://1) “Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

We see from Scripture that Solomon started his rule of Israel on the right foundation of wisdom and law: God, who is the source of all knowledge and wisdom, and established the laws for mankind. But, later on Solomon forgets God, he sets aside God’s commandments and laws personally, and so we see the result of this until he comes to the end of his life and returns to his God. In Ecclesiastes we understand how Solomon is very persistent in his teaching in order to convince his son Rehoboam not to make the same mistake in setting God aside.

Another brick in the stronghold was being laid by John Locke, who in some way is looked upon as being the father of ‘modern education.’ John Locke is the one that said that if our minds were like a blank sheet of paper, how would it be filled? His answer: “through experience.” In other words, as we experience life we fill that paper with the knowledge we acquired. This is what the book of Ecclesiastes is about; which is what Solomon learned from what he lived out in his life.

Our “Christian” knowledge should come through the revelation of Jesus Christ through Holy Scripture and personal experience of His presence in our lives. In Scripture we are taught how to live, or in other words, we are taught morality; the principles and laws we are to live by. However, John Locke’s philosophy would be that we understand life and morals through experience, determining your own definition of good and bad.

Psalm 119 is one of the great Psalms that exalt the Word of God. Look what is said: “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.”  (vs. 9)

I have two grandsons ages 18 and 14. How will they keep their way pure? Through experience, or, by the direct revelation that comes from the Word of God?

“Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.” (vs. 24) I told my two grandsons to choose their friends wisely, but their counselors even more wisely. God’s Word revealed by God’s Spirit - is our best Counselor.

“Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.” (vs. 98-100)

During the 18th century John Locke was a key figure in seeing humanistic rationalism beginning to replace Holy Scripture in Europe and then soon afterwards, here in America. About mid-1650 these radical ideas began to over-take the universities in England and soon also began the downward course of universities like Harvard in America. Originally Harvard was established to be a training base for pastors, but it soon succumbed to the radical ideas put forth by men like John Locke.

Because of what was happening at Harvard, conservative churchmen opened up Yale University in 1701 and the college of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University in 1748. However, the breakdown of the Christian faith at university level was done by John Locke and some of his fellow colleagues.

Historians Charles Taylor and Jerrold Seigal claim that Locke's "essay concerning human understanding" marked the beginning of the modern Western conception of the ‘self.’

“Wall[builders.com](http://builders.com/)” comments, "It is not an exaggeration to say that without John Locke's substantial influence on American thinking there might well be no United States of America."

Like I said about Thomas Aquinas, from him we received many good things and this is true of John Locke as well. John Locke was raised as a puritan protestant, but later his confidence in human reasoning led him to doubt

the doctrines of the Trinity, the sovereignty of God, the atonement of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ; which are essential to the Christian faith. This “human reasoning” moved him little by little into the camp of what was known as the Latitudinarians.

The Latitudinarians were a group of Anglican Christians active from the 17th through the 19th centuries and who were opposed to the dogmatic positions of the Church of England. They allowed ‘reason’ to inform theological interpretation and judgment.

When one looks at John Locke’s ‘philosophical system’ in addressing knowledge, God is completely out of the system. However we, who have a Biblical worldview know that God, and in particular Jesus Christ, is the source of all knowledge and wisdom.

“Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Colossians 2:3

If the mind starts out like a blank sheet of paper, like John Locke states, then how does it process the first data that enters it? If it is not God and His revelation from Scripture, then how do we know that what or who is interpreting - is correct? Eventually we begin to process information in a wrong way that leads to a disintegration of our social systems like economics, education, marriage, law and justice, etc. This would seem to be what is happening today in the West, in America. True knowledge, and the wisdom that knows how to use our right knowledge, comes from God.

We read that: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:13) If we depend solely upon our mind and reasoning then how do we know that something is true or not? In our public education system today we are being taught that our mind of reason is sufficient to discern ‘truth’ apart from God’s word. What has been the result of this in our society? Decay; the crumbling of a godly society!

**Chapter 11**

                Jeremy Bentham AD 1748-1832

             John Stuart Mill AD 1806-1873

             Bertrand Russell AD 1872-1970

Psalm 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart there is no God.”

When we read the history of Modern Missions we see the continuation of the Book of Acts or the moving of the Holy Spirit. What is interesting is to see how God can take one man and use that man to touch someone else who in turn touches someone else.

For example, we have John Newton who not only corresponded with John Wesley, but also communicated with Thomas Scott and Thomas Scott preached the Word so powerfully that a young man by the name of William Carey was so quickened by the Holy Spirit that he brought in what is now known as the “Modern Missionary Movement.”

What we see in the spiritual realm with the Holy Spirit - we also see in the natural realm with some of the so-called philosophers and their ideas that were passed on until evil strongholds were built.

One such man is Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)  who is probably not as well known as some of the other philosophers that we have been looking at or even one of his disciples known as John Stuart Mills. Jeremy Bentham was an atheist as well as an apologist for homosexuality. Both of these men rejected Biblical law and advocated ethical theory based upon human reasoning.

Both of these men set the stage for what we today call liberalism or what is now known as the “progressive movement.” Bentham was the original liberal who was dead set against the Christian order and English Common Law as represented by Blackstone. It was during this time that all English speaking countries followed Blackstone's commentaries and his support of English Common Law. I remember seeing Blackstone commentaries of Scripture here in the USA, but they have now been set aside.

Bentham set himself against the Apostles of Christ, Scriptures, and 1700 years of Christian heritage. Some of the philosophers before him did not go as far as Bentham in denying the existence of the Christian faith. It was Bentham who penned: “Religion has inflicted the deepest injury upon humanity,” Religion for him was the Christian faith. For Bentham, “if God does not explain Himself to the satisfaction of human reasoning then He loses His right to exist,” and because God does not explain Himself to the satisfaction of human reasoning then he does not exist for Bentham and so it is man (Bentham) who sets the standards of what is right and wrong.

Bentham was also the driving force in the introduction of homosexuality, according to him, if it did not produce 'bad consequences.'

Just like John Newton influenced Thomas Scott and in turn Thomas influencing William Carey and bringing in the Modern Missionary Movement, so it is with Jeremy Bentham. Although his disciples - John Stuart Mill and Bertrand Russell eclipsed him in being well known, it was Bentham who set the stage for what we call “political liberalism.”

Although Bentham went only as far in confessing his atheism, but his disciple John Stuart Mill let it all out and before he died became the god-father of Bertrand Russell who died in 1970.

It was John Stuart Mill who was a proponent of “feminism” and “gender equalitarianism.” It was Mill who laid the groundwork for free sex, no-fault divorce, abortion and the destruction of the nuclear family.

Bertrand Russell, godson of John Stuart Mill, is probably one of the most famous atheists of all time and wrote the little pamphlet called: Why I Am Not a Christian. Bertrand Russell was a prime mover shaping the worldview that we now have in the Western world.

It was Bentham who took Thomas Aquinas' idea that human reasoning was another path way to gaining knowledge and building a platform for ethics built on human reasoning. Bentham operated on the premise that there are two things that mankind is faced with: pain and pleasure, that he calls “sovereign masters.” So in his twisted reasoning there is no personal Creator, but only nature operating under *pain and pleasure*.

This reasoning has led to the breakdown of moral standards that we see now in our language, movies, art forms, news casts, dress, bill boards, etc. Now we call the murder of children “a choice,” the killing of the elderly “humane,” miserable unnatural perversions “gay” and witchcraft sold to our children as “harmless fun.”

Scripture tells us in Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”

The problem we face today is if all that is evil is good then what is left to call evil? This is why our modern society finds it hard to define evil. This is why Christians are called “homophobes” accused of hating homosexuals and who face heavy fines if they speak against certain sexual sins according to God's laws.

This is why we find in our political, legal and social systems today - the required action is what produces the greatest amount of pleasure. How true that when we reject God and His moral standards - anything goes, because there is no ultimate standard to judge what is ultimate good and true.

The separation of human reasoning from the influence of sacred doctrine will create an atmosphere where anything is accepted and then honored. This is what we are seeing in our Western Civilization today.

**Chapter 12**

 2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

When we read the history of the spread of the Gospel we see that Satan was there as well - spreading his lies and errors. Satan was also at the birth of our nation (USA) bringing in his heresies.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, born in 1803 in Boston, Massachusetts was another figure to build upon the evil stronghold bringing in the humanistic philosophy that was seeking to destroy the Christian faith.

At this time in America’s history, latitudinarianism (people allowing latitude, especially in religion, showing no preference towards worship or creed) and Unitarianism (a religion rooted in human rationalism) stood strong with resistance to the mysteries of the Trinitarian God.

It is interesting that Harvard University had started to produce godly pastors, went on to produce a Unitarian pastor by the name of Charles Chauncy who from 1727-1787 was pastor of a church in Boston. We soon see that pastors coming out of Harvard were typically used in the theological decline.

It was Ralph’s aunt, Moody Emerson, who introduced to him Hinduism and Neo-Platonism. It was through her leanings that prepared Ralph’s thinking for polytheistic and pantheistic ideas that would eventually form the new religion called “transcendentalism.”

At a young age Emerson wrote in his journal: “Who is he that shall control me? Why may not I act and speak and write and think with entire freedom? What am I to the Universe or, the Universe, what is it to me? Who hath forged the chains of wrong and right, of opinion and custom? And must I wear them?”

In other words, what Emerson was saying at a young age is if God is the Sovereign ruler over the universe and the source of ethics, etc. then Emerson wanted nothing to do with God.

When we read something like this we cannot but think of another being who had the same mentality. “You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’” Isaiah 14:12-14

The American literary critic, Harold Bloom, calls Emerson, “The prophet of the American Religion.” Harold Bloom also points out that the liberal mainline churches as well as Mormonism and Christian Science owe a great deal to Emerson’s ideas. Harvard in 1866 awarded him a doctorate degree and elected him to their board of Overseers. This gave Emerson the opportunity to teach students graduating out of Harvard his anti-Scriptural ideas. Whatever is taught in our universities will soon penetrate the everyday society. It would take another 150 years to finally penetrate into our other levels of schools and churches and the culture. One could say that in the 19th century under the influence of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the Christian Worldview began to disintegrate.

With Emerson we see the beginning of the moral and social collapse of the Western world. In his book Apostate, Kevin Swanson brings out that what they wanted was the destruction of a civilization.

Because the philosophers in our universities and colleges replaced God with man-centered ideas we now find our culture and literary leaders writing and speaking about things that a few years ago would have been unthinkable.

One example is the culture that we have today with homosexual clubs in schools, as well as indoctrination of our kids in schools, entertainment on television and in the movies. We saw in our last weekly that Jeremy Bentham, the progressive philosopher, introduced the acceptance of homosexuality.

Emerson was committed to Eastern philosophy and today we have what is known as “New Age Thinking.” The *Pew Forum Research Center* estimates that a quarter of Americans believe in reincarnation and that there is spiritual energy located in things such as mountains, trees or crystals. We can thank Emerson for this.

The lesson here is that when we turn away from God and His Word then we open ourselves to all types of erroneous ideas. With Emerson’s philosophy man becomes a part of god. The same subtle idea that Satan gave Eve in the Garden of Eden regarding the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that if you eat it: “You will be like God.”

I was listening to a television personality sharing how she makes decisions. She said: “I trust my heart.” Often we hear this being said that “I trust my heart,” or “I follow my heart.” Where did this come from? Ralph Waldo Emerson! Emerson would look within himself for truth. He completely disallowed anything that would come from Scripture and therefore leaving man himself as the only possible source of truth.

In our Post-Modern world today what do we have? No such thing as absolute truth. Man makes his own truth. Again it brings us back to what Isaiah saw: “So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.” Isaiah 59:14-15

Emerson was a “relativist thinker.” He thought the universe was in constant flux and because of that - truth and ethics must also be in constant flux. This is why the progressives will always be replacing the old virtues with new so-called virtues, and why they say that our American Constitution is a   
“living document” and needs to adjust to the culture of today. But, is this right? No! Why? Because our constitutional document is based on Absolute Truth and Truth does not bend to the ‘fads’ and ‘whims’ of today’s culture.

**Chapter 13**

KARL MARX AD 1818-1883

Matthew 7:16-20 “By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”

When we look at the philosophy and ideas of these men it would be good to keep in mind the axiom that the Lord laid down in the above verse. Can a bad tree bring forth good fruit? Or, to put it in another way: Can bad character produce good results or good fruit?

According to Paul Johnson (a historian of the modern age), Karl Marx (born in 1818 in Germany), had more impact upon the minds of men and women than perhaps anyone else in modern history. His writings inspired men like Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, Pol Pot and Fidel Castro - just to name a few. It is said that the Roman Empire killed between 8-10 million people over a period of four hundred years, but these men (inspired by the writing of Karl Marx) killed far more than that in the 20th century alone. What will the 21st century hold?

Here is a man that did not deny the existence of God, but denied the supremacy of God, and thought of himself as god. Kevin Swanson brings out that when reading a record of his writings and personal thoughts one is struck with the language, words and actions of Satan himself. (Isaiah14:12-15; Matthew 4:10; Cain in Genesis 4:1-8 as well as Judas in Matthew 26:49) Looking back one wonders if this man was possessed by the devil himself.

When he was young he wrote in his poem called Invocation of One in Despair: “So a god has snatched from me my all, in the curse and rack of destiny. All his worlds are gone beyond recall. Nothing but revenge is left to me. I shall build my throne high overhead.”

What does Satan say in Isaiah 14:14? “I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian Pastor who was put into prison and suffered persecution under his government, wrote the famous book Tortured for Christ where he tells about his experience. In the late sixties soon after his release from prison I heard him speak in one of our Operation Mobilization conferences.

In his book Satan and Marx he said this about Karl Marx’s religious commitments: “Lunatcharski, a leading philosopher who was once minister of education of the U.S.S.R., wrote in Socialism and Religion that Marx set aside all contact with God and instead put Satan in front of marching proletarian columns. It is essential at this point to state emphatically that Marx and his comrades, while anti-God, were not atheists, as present-day Marxists claim to be. That is, while they openly denounced and reviled God, they hated a God in whom they believed. They did not question His existence, but rather challenged His supremacy. When the revolution broke out in Paris in 1871, the Communard Flourens declared, ‘Our enemy is God. Hatred of God is the beginning of wisdom.’”

In a work called The Last Judgment Marx mocks God and in another poem called The Player Marx speaks in the first person and says: “The hellish vapors rise and fill the brain. Till I go mad and my heart is utterly changed. See this sword. The prince of darkness sold it to me. For me he beats the time and gives the signs. Ever more boldly I play the dance of death.”

It would seem that Marx’s goal is destruction and we know from various New Testament verses that this is the agenda of the prince of demons who is known as Apollyon or Abaddon which is translated the “Destroyer.”

The weakening of the Christian West did not come about through one man. If there had not been the ideas of John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Immanuel Kant eroding the Christian roots there would probably not have been a Karl Marx. Again we see how idea upon idea or brick upon brick a fortress is built over a period of time - that needs to be torn down.

Karl Marx’s personal life was a disaster. Swanson, in his book Apostate says that out of the seven children by his wife Jenny and a child born from his maid, five died prematurely and two who out lived him committed suicide. His favorite daughter Eleanor married Edward Aveling, a Satanist known for his lectures on the “Wickedness of God.”

Marx’s life was filled with violent explosive arguments with his family that separated him from his mother as well as from his wife on occasions.

He blamed the Jews for the problems in the world and in an article in the New York Tribune he suggested the complete annihilation of the Jews. He felt that they were a cancer in society because through their organizations they had become so strong that they needed to be cut out of society. He also referred to the Slavic people as “ethnic trash” and prophesied that their very name will vanish.

In the weeklies ahead we will spend more time with Marx’s philosophy and influence, but what is amazing to me is how academia embraces him with such enthusiasm and wonder as one of the great philosophers and thinkers in the modern world.

Yes, he has been embraced by almost every country in the world. Looking back over the 20th century what can we say about the results: good or bad? If we are honest we need to choose the latter.

**Chapter 14**

KARL MARX – part 2

Matthew 7:16-20 “By their fruit you will recognize them.”

Robert L. Heilbroner writes: "We turn to Marx, therefore, not because he is infallible, but because he is inescapable."

It was A.W. Tozer who coined the phrase “truth and error walk the same highway.” When we read about some of these philosophers there are some elements of truth that one can get a hold of, but what happens is that the bad becomes more prominent and others come along and push their erroneous ideas even further. We see this with those who followed Thomas Aquinas where they took that one flaw in his reasoning, when he suggested that apart from the Scripture there could be a second method of thought built on human reasoning, one step further.

In a letter to his father on March 2, 1837 Heilbroner’s father expressed concern that a demon may have infiltrated Marx’s heart. Perhaps the father was responding to a poem that Marx sent to his father on his 55th birthday where he said: “My soul, true to God, is chosen for hell. I am great like God. I clothe myself in darkness like him.”

It is said that without Descartes and Locke there would have been no Kant and without Kant and Hegel there would have been no Marx. Satan tries to imitate God and in the spread of these erroneous ideas we see this being carried out through his disciples. For example, if we look at the moving of the Holy Spirit we see how He works.

We can trace Moravianism to Zinzendorf to Franke, but still we need to go further. We would have to go back to the Bohemian martyrs of the 15th century and they would be traced back to John Huss who yielded up his life in the burning flames.

We see how this movement effected the 19th century. What we see is that there is a true apostolic succession through which the Holy Spirit is communicated from generation to generation. Moravianism was born out of Pietism, so Methodism was born out of Moravianism.

We go back and we see John Wesley sitting at the feet of Christian David, the Moravian carpenter and preacher at Herrnhut. Also God used another Moravian preacher by the name of Peter Bohler to show John Wesley his spiritual barrenness.

So the great influences in Marx’s life included Immanuel Kant, Hegel and Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Charles Darwin. Kant believed that truth is derived from man as the ultimate source not God.

The Communist Manifesto is a good summary of Marx’s ideology and work. Regarding Marx's Manifesto, Kevin Swanson concludes that Christianity is irrelevant. It would seem that he recognizes that ancient religions were overcome by Christianity, but in his warped thinking Christian ideas will give way to rationalist ideas. He states: “Communism abolishes eternal truths; it abolishes all religion and morality.”

It would seem that Marx’s explanation of history is class warfare and struggle for freedom and equality. For him, economic inequality is an injustice and must be rectified by revolution and forced redistribution. I think it is interesting to hear the ‘progressives’ here in the United States talking about economic inequality. When he was running for president, Barak Obama said to Joe (the plumber), “We must spread the wealth around.”

Is this the Scriptural task laid down by God for the government; that to take from those who have and give to those who do not have? This is not what God had in mind for prospering at our work. We are to give of our own free will.

Class conflict and envy goes against the tenth commandment of God: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Exodus 20:17) It is interesting that Marx considers class conflict and envy wrong or evil when he rejects God and His *absolutes*. Trying to eliminate class conflicts and envy through egalitarian measure (equal outcome) does not solve the problem of sin or the covetousness that resides in the heart of man. Only Christ can do that.

Marx opposed all forms of economic inequality. However, the Bible does not condemn pay scales, even for people doing the same work. Look at the parable of Matthew 20:1-15 where Jesus insists that a landowner could pay his workers whatever he would like to pay them, as long as the workers agree on the pay at the start of their work. There are other Scripture passages that would seem to indicate God forbidding the redistribution of wealth. (Exodus 23:3, 6, 7, 30:15) “The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the Lord to atone for your lives.”

Kevin Swanson says: “Humanist solutions to the problem of sin and slavery in this sin-cursed world will always turn out to be counter-productive.  Karl Marx’s solution has failed, and it will always fail. Petty tyrannies of the old world were replaced by a far more aggressive and extensive, highly centralized, bureaucratic tyranny.”

In closing, Marx understood perfectly that the battle of worldviews must be fought in the area of education, especially ‘government controlled’ education. I cannot go into it now because of lack of time and space, but we see the battle being fought here in my own country with the new syllabus coming out called “Common Core,” being forced on our children in the public schools.

It is not that we take our older children out of the public arena, but that we as parents and grandparents (guardians) of our children - give our children the ‘tools’ they need to fight these erroneous ideas and to be able to counteract them through Scripture, faith and prayer. We are to protect our children from false teaching by raising them up in the truth of God’s Word, and with faith in God. Without this strong foundation, they will not know what to think, but will conform to the environment of the education they are put in from early childhood.

Education was once considered the responsibility of parents and grandparents, along with biblical churches; the Holy Bible as the most important book of all. In our first American schools the Bible was taught and children were to know it from beginning to end, but this is not the case today in our schools and universities.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” Proverbs 1:7

The Bible and prayer have been thrown out of our public schools. We see the consequence of this as we watch all the grievous news reports.

We must understand the strongholds we are up against and to tear them down, and like Scripture says; to bring every thought into obedience to Christ.

**Chapter 15**

KARL MARX – part 3

Genesis 2:24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Not only do we see that education is key in the battle for worldviews, but also the family and the church.

At the beginning of the industrial revolution Marx saw the capitalist corporations disintegrating the family by men, women and children leaving the “home economy” and he came to the conclusion that the statist system would be more effective; that families exist for the state. Marx saw that the nuclear family and its commitment to education and the raising of children would be an impediment to the ‘state.’ For Marx the abolishment of the family would eventually strengthen the state to take a more dominant role. Isn’t this what we are seeing today?

I thought it was interesting when Ron Paul, an American congressman, said in his farewell speech: “Expect the rapidly expanding homeschooling movement to play a significant role in the revolutionary reforms needed to build a free society with Constitutional protections. We cannot expect a Federal government controlled school system to provide the intellectual ammunition to combat the dangerous growth of government that threatens our liberties.”

In the Communist Manifesto, Marx argues for what he called an “openly legalized community of women.” Kevin Swanson said: “After 150 years of steady progress, this Marxist vision is finally being realized the world over. The majority of households in America are now led by single women. Over 50% of the children born to women under 30 years of age are illegitimate (this percentage is an increase from scarcely 5% in 1960) and women have killed millions of their own children through abortion, the abortifacient birth control pill, and emergency contraception. They do so to maintain their independence in the “community of women.”

We see radical feminism's assault on Western culture today since the sixties in trying to restructure society, morality and even human nature. Radical feminism attacks not only man but the institution of the family, and is hostile to traditional religion. A radical magazine using the acronym for the National Organization for Women (NOW), declared on its cover: "NOW is the time to take back control of our lives. NOW is the time to make reproductive freedom for women of all classes, cultures, ages and sexual orientation a reality. NOW is not the time to assimilate to bureaucratic puppeteers who want to control, degrade, torture, kill and rape our bodies. NOW is the time to drop a boot heel on the groin of patriarchy. NOW is the time to fight back. NO GOD, NO MASTER, NO LAW."

What a difference from the biblical woman of Proverbs 31. My sister-in-law, Carol, has done an excellent study on the Proverb 31 woman that is in book form and you can see how to order it by going to the website: [www.menwithfaith.com](http://www.menwithfaith.com).

God has given us three institutions to hold in check ‘the fallen nature’ of man: family, church and government (rule of law). If we look at our Western society today we see how all three are under attack. The family, instead of being restored, is being redefined. The church, that should be the conscience of the nation, is being marginalized; we are to keep what we believe as a private matter and it is not to invade the public sector. The *rule of law* is slowly being eroded and man is beginning to do what he thinks is right in his own mind.

Francis Schaeffer said: “Soft days for evangelical Christians are past, and only a strong view of Scripture is sufficient.  Here is the great evangelical disaster - the failure of the evangelical world to stand for truth as truth. There is only one word for this - namely ACCOMMODATION. The evangelical church has accommodated to the world spirit of the age. First, there has been accommodation on Scripture, so that many who call themselves evangelicals hold a weakened view of the Bible and no longer affirm the truth of all the Bible teaches....This accommodation has been costly, first in destroying the power of the Scriptures to confront the spirit of our age; second, in allowing the further slide of our culture.  Obedience to God's Word is the watershed. And the failure of the evangelical world to take a biblical stand on the crucial issues of the day can only be seen as a failure to live life under the full authority of God's Word.”

**Chapter 16**

                                          KARL MARX – part 4

Proverbs [14:12](x-apple-data-detectors://3)  "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."

The theory of Karl Marx can be summed up in one sentence: **“Abolition of private property.”**

It is important to look at the ten planks of Marx's theory that have so captivated the world. Here in the States as well as in Western Europe we see how these planks have been incorporated into the government. But it is imperative that we put these planks up against the Word of God. Kevin Swanson in his book APOSTATE lays out these ten planks that will be covered in this chapter and the next.

Plank #1: Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes.

I can pay the mortgage of my house off, but there will still be a yearly state tax that needs to be paid. I might think that I own my home, but if I miss several years of not paying my property tax, then I can see the government put my house up for sale for the taxes to get paid.  We have seen property taxation incorporated here in all fifty states.

The question is what does the Bible have to say about the confiscation of private property? Proverbs [23:10](x-apple-data-detectors://4) "Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless."

In 1 Kings chapter 21 we have the story of Ahab wanting the vineyard of Naboth and since Naboth did not want to sell the land to Ahab, through deceit Ahab stole the land.

The eighth commandment says that we should not steal; which brings in the idea of a person having private ownership.

Plank #2: A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.

Since 1913 a graduated income tax was brought in the United States and since then it has only increased. Actually this is one way of spreading the wealth around that ‘progressives’ talk about. But again, is this what the Bible teaches?

Exodus 30:15 “The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the Lord to atone for your lives.” Leviticus [19:15](x-apple-data-detectors://5) “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.”

Here we see that God did not allow a graduated tax for construction of the

temple or other public works and when it comes to the matter of the civil magistrate God said: “Do not show favoritism to a poor man in his lawsuit.” Exodus 23:3

It would seem that taxation by the government in order to bring about equality does not pass the Biblical test.

Plank #3: Abolition of all rights of inheritance.

It would also seem that the Bible prohibits inheritance taxation just like it prohibits property taxation. “If a man has two wives, and he loves one but not the other, and both bear him sons but the firstborn is the son of the wife he does not love, when he wills his property to his sons, he must not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the wife he loves in preference to his actual firstborn, the son of the wife he does not love.” Deuteronomy [21:15-17](x-apple-data-detectors://6)

Here the state is not even mentioned as a beneficiary.

Inheritance taxation has also been incorporated (as of 2012) at the federal level and in 23 states.

Plank #4: Confiscation of all the property of all emigrants and rebels.

God was concerned about the aliens (immigrants) since for over 400 years Israel was an alien in Egypt. “Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.” Exodus 12:49

Plank #5: Centralization of credit in the banks of the state, by means of a national bank with state capital and an exclusive monopoly.

Some of our past leaders (Hamilton, Burr, Andrew Jackson) fought against establishment of a central bank, but in 1913 the United States created the Federal Reserve Bank.

A very informative book called THE CREATURE FROM JEKYLL ISLAND tells about the creation of the Federal Reserve Bank. It is interesting because even though it is called "Federal" it has nothing to do with the Federal government, but is controlled by just a handful of powerful banks.

The book mentions five goals in the formation of the Federal Reserve Bank:

(1) Stop the growing company vision for the nation's newer banks.

(2) Obtain a franchise to create money out of nothing for the purpose of lending.

(3) Seize control of the reserves of all things so that the more reckless ones would not be exposed to currency drains and bank runs.

(4) Get the taxpayers to pick up the cartel's inevitable losses.

(5) Convince Congress that the purpose was to protect the public.

We will look at the remaining five “planks” later, but we can see how our governments have incorporated so much of the philosophy of Karl Marx. The Iron Curtain may have come down, but the communist philosophy is still very active.

**Chapter 17**

KARL MARX – part 6

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."

Carrying on from our last chapter we have the final five planks of Marx’s Manifesto that has made an impact throughout the world and especially in the West.

Plank #6: Centralization of the means of communication and transportation in the hands of the state.

Here in the States we still have some freedom of transportation as well as private ownership of the means of transportation.

However, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission)regulates more and more of our public communication systems. We find ourselves going through body searches, etc. at the hands of the FCC (for example at the airport).

Also we have learned more aboutthe abuses of the NSA(National Security Agency).We have for the sake of safety or security subjected ourselves tothis. I am reminded of the words of Benjamin Franklin who said: “People willing to trade their freedom for temporary security deserve neither and will lose both.” What we are finding is that freedom is slowly, but surely being taken from us.

When Israel was asking for king to lead them like other nations (in 1 Samuel 8) Samuel describes what the king (or government) would do unless there are checks and balances. There is no doubt that we are moving into a different America than what our founding fathers fought to give us. It has not happened overnight, but slowly, as little by little our freedoms are being chipped away.

Plank #7: Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the state; the bringing into cultivation of 'waste lands' (some even privately owned), and the improvement of the soil is generally in accordance with a common plan (government plan).

Here again we see the infringement of government. But what does the Bible say? First, we see that Jesus Himself insisted that the landowner could do what he thought was right with his own property. “Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?” (Matthew 20:15 - parable of the landowner)

The Torah also brings out that restitution needs to be made to the individual whose property was harmed.  "If a man borrows an animal from his neighbor and it is injured or dies while the owner is not present, he must make restitution.” Exodus 22:14

Kevin Swanson said: “There is nothing in God’s law that legitimizes the regulative state that the socialists brought to the world since the turn of the 20th century. The Bible plainly disapproves of governments owning more than 10% of the people’s property, persons, and income. (1 Samuel 8:15-17)”

Plank #8: Equal obligation of **all** to work. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture. In 1 Samuel 8:11-17 and Nehemiah 5:1-10 we see that the Bible is against the enslavement of sons and daughters by landowners, but how much more grievous it is for the government to practice this kind of enslavement.

This plank was intended for each individual to work as a part of the national economic machine. We find today in America that a vast number of women work outside of the home (family) for government or like Swanson says, in some government regulated corporate job. And so our families are slowly disintegrating.

Plank #9: The combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of all distinction between town and country by a more equal distribution of the populace over the country.

At the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 we see the judgment of God, the mercy of God and the plan of God. First, we see that God discourages the centralization of power within the cities and so secondly, we see God disbursing the people through confusing their language. Thirdly we see that after God breaks the human race into families or people-groups that His plan is to win them (people groups) one by one. To do that He needs to choose one people group, bless them and then use them to reach the others. This is why in Genesis 12 we read God using Abraham to reach out to be a blessing to all of the families on the earth. “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:3

Plank #10: Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children’s factory labor in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production, etc.

When we read passages like Exodus 10:2, Deuteronomy 5:14 and 6:7-9, the entire Book of Proverbs, 1 Thessalonians 2:11, Ephesians 6:4 - we see that education falls heavily upon the family and not the state. Marx knew that to further his agenda to realize his goal, taking over the education of children would be crucial. We see that here in the West this plank is well established. The USA spends $11,467 per student per year.

Marxism was established in the Soviet Union through revolutions and up to 100 million deaths, but here in America it has come about slowly, but surely, through many elections, education, breakdown of the nuclear family and a steady increase of dependence upon the government. And now we see that our Western civilization is almost finished.

In later chapters I want to lay out some things that we can do in not only tearing down the stronghold that has been built, but seeing reformation taking place. Remember that 2 Chronicles 7:14 is still in the Bible: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”