

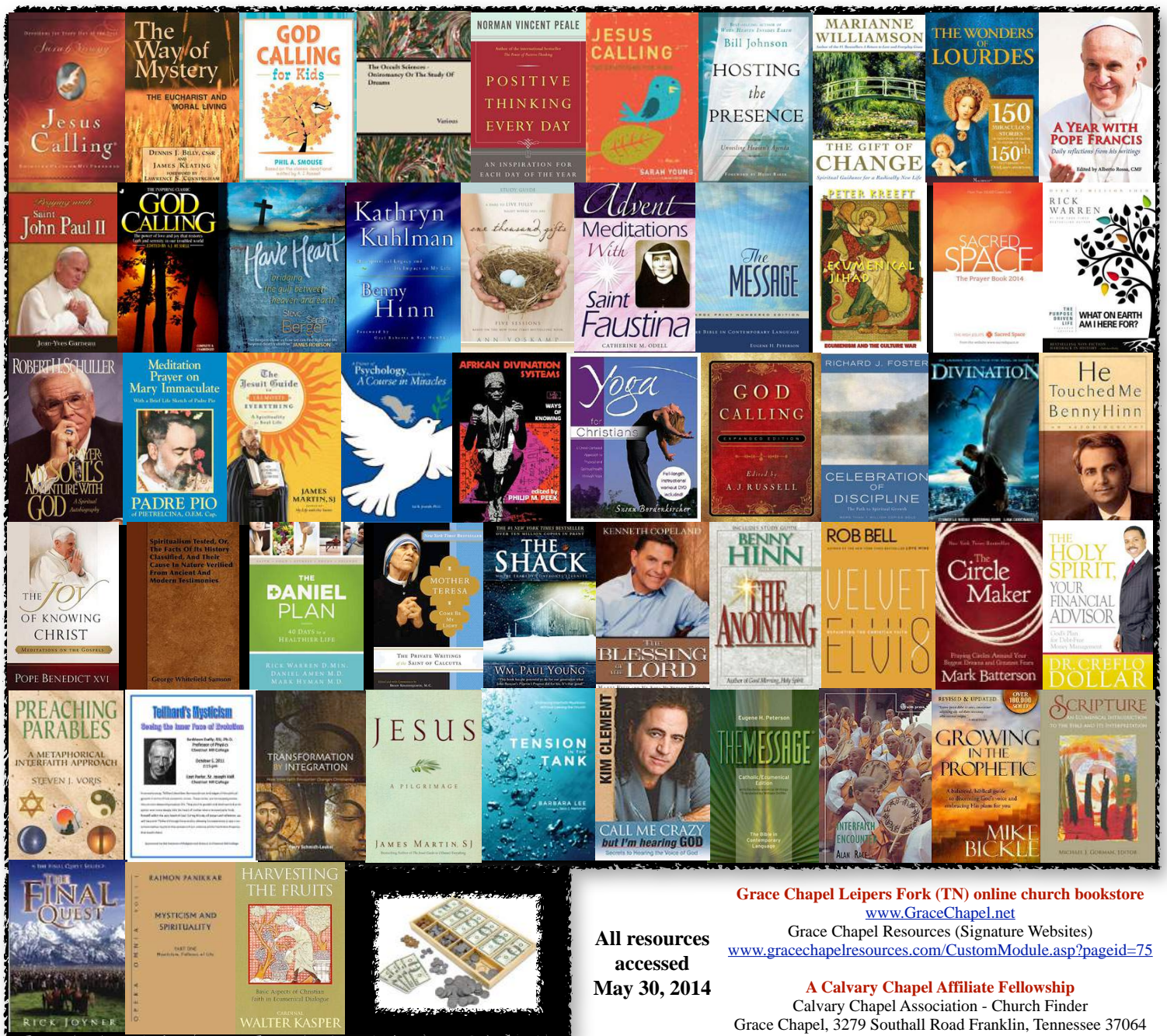
SPIRITUAL RESEARCH NETWORK

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL & ENCOURAGING BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

MAY 2014

Calvary Chapel Bookstores - Beyond Accountability?

“...and that we may sell the refuse of the wheat [as if it were good grade]?”
- Amos 8:6



Grace Chapel Leipers Fork (TN) online church bookstore
www.GraceChapel.net
Grace Chapel Resources (Signature Websites)
www.gracechapelresources.com/CustomModule.asp?pageid=75
A Calvary Chapel Affiliate Fellowship
Calvary Chapel Association - Church Finder
Grace Chapel, 3279 Southall Road Franklin, Tennessee 37064
<http://calvarychapelassociation.com/location/grace-chapel/>

All resources
accessed
May 30, 2014

Dear friends of SRN,

With the publication of this specific SRN newsletter, I am well aware that this edition will not be received by quite a few people.

The purpose for this newsletter is not to be divisive or to misrepresent people and churches. I am simply presenting information that church leaders have made available, *publicly* - to everyone. Anyone can do the research that I have done. Most people that do so will simply arrive at the same conclusion - that church leaders are using savvy church bookstore plug-ins (and in various cases walk-in bookstores) and making money by merchandising the flock of God. All the while, options are provided for customers to buy "the good stuff," as well as the bad! God has already shown us in His Word what He thinks about this sort of thing as well as the toleration of similar practices (Amos 8:6; Luke 16:13; 2 Peter 2:3; Jude 1:11; Revelation 2:20, etc.).

As is clear from social media and much correspondence we have and others ministries receive, many of God's faithful are fed up with the rife leadership compromises they are *observing*. A growing number of people are going to the Internet to *sound the alarm* about these drastic compromises!

Clearly ministries that are willing to sell heresy and occult materials to churchgoers will eventually be publicly exposed for it. Calvary Chapel leaders and likeminded ministries are *not* exception to the rule. If they are willing to compromise, God will simply raise up others to expose them and protect the body of Christ.

The reason I have written *Calvary Chapel Bookstores: Beyond Accountability?* is to pose a valid question to all who concerned. What *has been* going on what is *currently* going on will continue to undermine Christ's truth and His Church, as long as people remain silent and fail to confront compromising leaders.

Do I want to draw friendly fire from exposing this problem? *No!* Do I want to be considered "divisive? *Of course not!* Am I a "disgruntled" person who has nothing better to do than expose compromise in the Church? *Certainly not!* Then why take the time to write an article like this? Because the very heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is under attack from agents of compromise. People that have allowed the sale and provision of aberrant and/or full-blown heresy to churchgoers need to be warned about. If the provocation of righteous anger within individual Christians does not result from seeing such insane compromises in the church today, something is seriously wrong with one's understanding of biblical truth.

Jesus Christ did not die on a cross and rise from the dead so that Christian leaders could make money by selling false doctrine through Christian bookstores. Church leaders that do this should be confronted with Scripture and rebuked. If unwilling to repent, they should be removed from ministry altogether. The very heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being thrown under the bus by leaders who allow bookstore compromises - and then blame-shift to no end when getting caught for it. The, "The computer orders it" excuse does not stand before Almighty God! Excuses like this are tantamount to going on a Sunday picnic and gleefully watching as satanic forces trample and defile the body of Jesus Christ.

The question stands today - "Are you willing to put God's truth above 'friendship,' for the sake of Jesus, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:11-14)

Pining away and remaining silent while online and walk-in Christian bookstores sell heresy is *not* an option!

- Chris Lawson

ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF SRN

Proclaiming the Gospel and Encouraging Biblical Discernment!

Spiritual Research Network (SRN) researches, informs and warns about the dangers of cults, spiritual abuse and mysticism (occult) based spirituality.

Spiritual Research Network (SRN) is an independent Christian outreach that is committed first and foremost to the Lord Jesus Christ and the integrity of God's Word - *The Holy Bible*.

From its inception as a tiny missions outreach in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2004, the goal of SRN has been to provide a platform for outreach so that others may come to a deeper understanding of the love, grace and truth as it is found in the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ, as taught in Scripture.



MISSION

The mission of SRN is to encourage biblical discernment amongst those who consider themselves to be biblical Christians and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to nonbelievers. For these reasons we give great emphasis to the person, work and words of Jesus Christ in all of our activities.

PURPOSE

SRN exists in order to: **Glorify**, honor and serve the Lord Jesus Christ by living and proclaiming the biblical Gospel message without compromise; **Provide** evangelistic training and resources with an emphasis on the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts, and the supreme and final authority in matters of faith and life; **Expose** teachings that oppose, undermine and distort the biblical Gospel of God's grace as found in Scripture; **Contend** earnestly for the faith against those who compromise, suppress or reject doctrinal truth; and **Encourage** and support former members of other belief systems who have escaped spiritual deception and abuse.

WEBSITE and NEWSLETTER

The SRN *Website* and *Newsletter* serve as an extension of SRN's local ministry. The General Editor is Chris Lawson.



BELIEFS

SRN holds to the orthodox teachings of the historic Christian faith. SRN holds the following as *primary essentials* for Christian belief. "The Five Basic Doctrines: 1) The Trinity: God is one "What" and three "Who's" with each "Who" possessing all the attributes of Deity and personality; 2) The Person of Jesus Christ: Jesus is 100% God and 100% man for all eternity; 3) The Second Coming: Jesus Christ is coming bodily to earth to rule and judge; 4) Salvation: It is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone; 5) The Scripture: It is entirely inerrant and sufficient for all Christian life." SRN *Statement of Faith* can be read online.

PROVISION

SRN is supported through the prayers and financial support of donors who share our concern for God's people and the lost. Accountability and transparency is our policy. **To help support the ministry of SRN please see our current donation details online.**

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PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL & ENCOURAGING BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

MAY 2013

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Calvary Chapel Bookstores: *Beyond Accountability?* - By Chris Lawson

The Holy Bible: *Its All Importance* - Published 1824

Parson-to-Parson Position Paper (2006) - By CCOF Ministry

Calvary Chapel Bookstores - *Beyond Accountability?*

By Chris Lawson

That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat [as if it were good grade]? (Amos 8:6)

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [money]. (Luke 16:13)

And through covetousness shall they with feigned [smooth] words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. (2 Peter 2:3)

Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. (Jude 1:11)

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest [allow/tolerate] that woman Jezebel..." (Revelation 2:20a)

The following question is a very unpopular one, but it must be asked - *publicly!* Why? Because almost nothing is being done about the growing compromises in a number of Calvary Chapel walk-in and online church bookstores. Bad products are mixed with the good, in order to reap a profit. God's perspective on compromises like this are revealed to us in Scripture, but first, let us look at the issues.

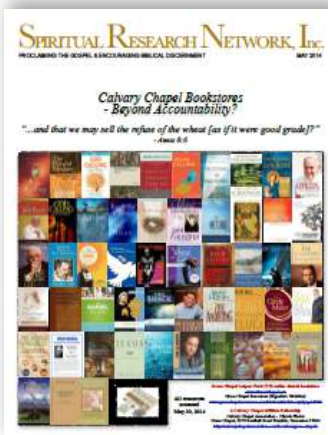
Is anyone from the Calvary Chapel Association Leadership Council going to publicly denounce the Calvary Chapel bookstores that are making merchandise of God's people, through the provision and/or sale of materials containing aberrant and false doctrines?

This is a very serious question, is it not? Unless Christian leaders - in this case Calvary Chapel leaders - express biblical concerns and rebuke fellow leaders for allowing this to happen, things within Calvary Chapel will continue to proceed from bad to worse.

Tolerating evil for the sake of gain

Any pastor that allows heresy to be sold through their church bookstore is sure to incite the displeasure of our Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, somewhere down the line it appears that some Calvary Chapel leaders have forgotten about Jesus Christ's hatred towards the open "toleration" of false doctrine and evil in the midst of His Church. Jesus rebuked the toleration of evil when it was seducing His Church:

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest [allow/tolerate] that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. (Revelation 2:20, KJV)



Is *tolerating* heretical materials in a Christian church bookstore just as bad as *tolerating* a false prophetess? Indeed, it is! The doctrines of demons that false prophetesses and false prophets pen today and call "Christian" is still aberrant and heretical, even when it is touted as being "Christian." Do you want to see just what church leaders are leading their congregations into? All you have to do is take a thorough look at what is being sold through a church's own bookstore. Church bookstore inventory speaks volumes about what the church leaders allow to go over for *grain in the famine*.

No longer hidden in plain site

The Calvary Chapel bookstore compromise is no longer a little, hidden-under-the-carpet problem, as this article and forthcoming articles will show (See documentation and video links at end of article). In fact, as the growing documentation shows, it just may well be a trend that will one day consume and destroy the Calvary Chapel movement. But all Calvary Chapel's are their own independent ministries aren't they? Yes, but what the most popular pastors allow or disallow is generally what sets the tone for the rest of the movement.

What you are about to read is just the tip of the iceberg as far as the bad fruit that has blossomed within the Calvary Chapel movement, since the Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowships, Inc. 2006 Parson-to-Parson position paper was stripped from the Internet. This position paper, which stood against false doctrine and dangerous influences creeping into Calvary Chapel, can be read on the Spiritual Research Network website. It remains posted here because it has been removed from almost every single place it was formerly posted.

Parson-to-Parson

Position Paper, May 2006

Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowships, Inc.
(CCOF Ministry)

<http://www.spiritual-research-network.com/calvary-chapel-parson-to-parson-position-paper.html>

Major Calvary Chapel bookstore compromises are no longer hidden in plain site. It could have all been avoided had numerous well known pastors taken better heed to God's warnings found in Scripture, and had they listened to their own CCOF Ministry exhortation.

These are not anomalies; this is a growing trend!

Based on the much needed research and exposure of compromise that you are being informed of, you are about to see that this Calvary Chapel bookstore issue is no longer an anomaly in Calvary Chapel. A brand new beachhead of diabolical ingenuity has been implemented in various churches, and it appears that a new trend just may be underway. The groundwork has already been laid, and all one needs to do is get a website bookstore plug-in and turn a blind eye to the spiritually dangerous contents therein.

Many today may scoff at such a statement, but just go take a look at what Steve Berger's **Grace Chapel Leipers Fork** bookstore *is selling*. (See front page of this newsletter) Grace Chapel Leipers Fork is a Calvary Chapel *affiliate* church.

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Parson-to-Parson

Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowships, Inc. Position Paper, 2006

Parson to Parson,

The time has come for us to restate the position of Calvary Chapel on a number of issues. We do this because Calvary Chapel has become known to represent a fairly definable entity in its approach to sound biblical teaching and approach to biblical doctrine. It's not that we believe we have the "best" or "only" way; it's simply the way we approach God's word within Calvary Chapel. And likewise, if a different approach is to be taken, then all we ask is that the name Calvary Chapel not be attached to it.

First of all, Calvary Chapel is not a denomination; but rather a movement. We often receive inquiries as to whether or not Calvary Chapel has some kind of relationship with a national or international group. We answer such inquiries with our stated position that each church is independent and has established its own set of bylaws. We seek to identify with the true body of Christ in many denominations. We are ministers who hold basic common beliefs, and maintain them within a varied range of practices.

We believe that every minister is responsible to Jesus as the chief Shepherd, and will ultimately answer to Him for his ministry and not to us. We love and respect each other and rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those who weep. As with the Apostle Paul, we do not feel that we have apprehended that for which we were apprehended, neither are we perfect, but this is what we seek to do. Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching for those things that are before, we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Secondly, we hold to the supremacy of Jesus as the head of the body, His church. We look to the Holy Spirit to guide and direct each decision in the building up of the body of Christ. Having begun in the Spirit, we do not seek to be made perfect in the flesh, but seek to continue to be led by the Spirit. We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and is infallible and the final authority for our faith and practice. We believe that God established the model for the church in the book of Acts, and seek to follow that model as much as is possible. We feel that church history is for the most part a sad commentary of the failure of men who sought by human genius and resources to perfect that which was begun in the Spirit. The messages of Jesus to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3 show how early in the history of the church problems developed for which they need to repent. So much or church history, but something that we must not simply disregard. We must realize that it shows us so clearly how the enemy has, is, and will continue the attacks upon the church and upon our individual ministries. How our heart grieves for the many who have started the race but have failed to complete it.

In the book of Acts we see that the activities of the church were described as:

1. Continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, which we understand to be a systematic teaching of the Bible.
2. Fellowship, which we understand to be a loving and caring

Continued on page 5

relationship with each other. As John wrote, "That which we have seen and heard, declare we unto you, that you may have fellowship with us and truly our fellowship is with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ."

3. The breaking of bread. This to us is a tangible representation of the unity that we share in Christ for we understand that the bread speaks to us of the body of Christ which was broken for us, and as we all eat the bread and it is assimilated into our bodies, we are spiritually united through Jesus with each other; in the fact that the bread that is nourishing me and is becoming a part of me, is also nourishing you and becoming a part of you. Thus, we are united together in Christ. He dwells in me; He dwells in you.

4. Prayer. Through prayer we unite our hearts with the heart of God that we might see His will accomplished in the church and throughout the world.

We believe that when the church will make these four things the major activities of the church, that happened in the book of Acts, the Lord will add daily to the church such as should be saved. Thus, we do not look to the myriad of church growth programs that are being promoted for the building of the church but to Jesus Himself, who said that He would build His church. We do watch as the many programs come and go in which man by his wisdom tries to do the work of God more effectively, but rather than entering into the programs of man, seek to continue to be led by the Spirit of God. We realize that the Scriptures warn us of aberrant doctrines that would come into the church, even going so far as to deny our Lord Jesus. Second Peter chapter 2, verse 1 tells us, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as here shall be false teachers among you, who privately shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." Likewise in Jude, chapter 1, verse 4 we read, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

We see a tendency toward this in what is commonly called the "Emergent Church" teachings. Some of the concerns that we have are with the speculations and positions that they are suggesting:

1. That Jesus is not the only way by which one might be saved. It seems that they are postulating a broader gate and a broader path to heaven, a sort of "all roads lead to heaven." That good people by every religious persuasion may be received into heaven. We feel that this goes against the plain teaching of the Scriptures and negates the need of the cross for the expiation of our sins. Paul wrote of those men in his letter to the Philippians and called them enemies of the cross of Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man can come to the Father but by Me." This is not relative truth, but absolute truth.
2. The soft peddling of hell as the destiny for those who reject the salvation offered through Jesus Christ. There are suggestions of universalism in their teaching, that all will ultimately be saved.
3. We have difficulty in their touchy-feely relating to God. Where the experience of certain feelings become the criteria for truth rather than the word of God.
4. We have great problems with the use of icons to give them a sense of God or the presence of God. If they want to have a tie with the historicity of the church, why not go back to the church in Acts, which seems to be devoid of incense, candles, robes etc., but was filled with the Spirit.
5. We do not believe that we should seek to make sinners feel safe and comfortable in church. Is it right for me to speak comfortable words to a man who is going to hell unless he turns from his sin? If I fail to warn him of the consequences of his sin, and he dies and goes to hell, will God require his blood at my hand? When is godly sorrow and conviction of sin such a wrong thing?
6. Should we seek to condone what God has condemned, such as the homosexual lifestyle? Should we tell them that their problem is a genetic disorder rather than a blatant sin that God condemns over and over in the Bible? How long before they tell us that they have discovered that rapists, pedophiles, and adulterers have a genetic disorder and need to be understood rather than condemned?
7. Should we look to Eastern religions with their practices of meditation through Yoga and special breathing techniques or repeating a mantra to hear God speak to us? If this is needed to enhance our communication with God, why do you suppose that God did not give us implicit instructions in the Scriptures to give us methods to hear His voice? Is it the position of my body or my heart that helps me to communicate with Him?
8. The great confusion that exists in the divergent positions of the Emergent Church results from their challenging the final authority of the Scriptures. When you no longer have a final authority, then everyone's ideas become as valid as the next person's, and it cannot help but end in total confusion and contradictions.

There are those who say that Emergent movement has some good points, but so does a porcupine. You are better off if you don't get too close!

So, let us not turn to our own understanding, but rather return to our own first love; and teach that the Bible is indeed the true word of God; and teach it in its entirety; nothing less and nothing more.

Continued from page 4

Anyone can take a look and use the search engine in the Grace Chapel online bookstore. Many damnable heresies can be dredged up instantly, as the church bookstore is a plug-in from *Signature Websites-Innovative, Inc.* (*Signature Marketing Network*). Amazingly, the *Signature Marketing Network* boasts of carrying over 170,000 products. This fact alone should be a cause of alarm to any discerning pastor.

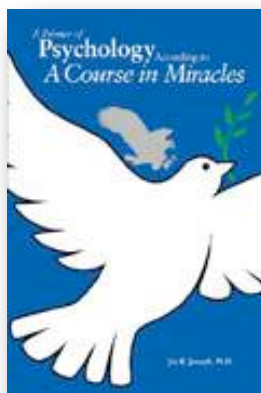
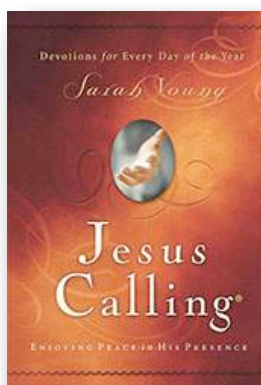
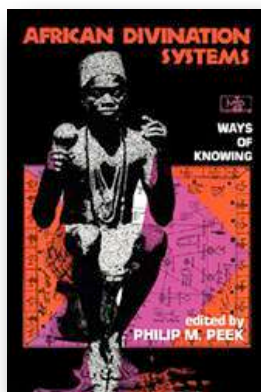
What's in the Grace Chapel Leipers Fork online bookstore? To begin with, Calvary Chapel affiliate senior pastor Steve Berger claims in his book *Have Heart* that he and his family are in communication(s) with their deceased son. *Have Heart - bridging the gulf between heaven and earth* (2010), is available through the church's bookstore and is advertised to no end through the church.

One can also find the following, and much more, in the Grace Chapel church website: Jesuit training materials, material that is pro-African divination; a training handbook on *A Primer of Psychology According to A Course In Miracles*; Sarah Young's *Jesus Calling*; hundreds of books rife with occult based prosperity gospel Word Faith teachings; an endless supply of Roman Catholic literature; books on contemplative mysticism, Christian Yoga, etc. This can all be found, and to a sickening and excessive degree (*ad nauseum*), within the Grace Chapel Leipers Fork church website. I warned the senior pastor about all of this and more, myself, on the telephone, over two full years ago. Amazingly, all the same products are still there today. What's even more disturbing is *the fact* that many more dangerous resources have been added to the online bookstore. Simply put, the pastors and church elders *allow it*. If they didn't, the aberrant and heretical materials would not be available through the church's website.

Are other Calvary Chapel fellowships doing this too?

One can also look at what the **Calvary Chapel Ft. Lauderdale** (Florida) online bookstore is currently selling - at least 15 products, for and related to, Sarah Young's Christian/NewAge "My Presence" themed, *Jesus Calling*. *Jesus Calling* is truly a Christianized New Age book. (Fifteen *Jesus Calling* products isn't much though for this bookstore, not when considering the forty-four *Jesus Calling* products found in the Grace Chapel Leipers Fork online bookstore.)

Bob Coy, who was the senior pastor at Calvary Chapel Ft. Lauderdale, refused to clean up his act regarding the church's bookstore. God had given him warnings about this as well as his other compromises, yet he didn't want to listen. Instead,



he stood on stage and openly made jokes (with the audience in tow laughing) about ministries that publicly express biblical concerns over the direction numerous Calvary Chapel's are heading.

Now that Bob Coy has resigned/been removed from leadership, a new lead pastor, Doug Sauder, has taken the lead. Will Doug Sauder make the needed effort to remove fifteen *Jesus Calling* products, and various other materials from the Calvary Chapel Ft. Lauderdale bookstore?

Church leaders not concerned about Sarah Young's *Jesus Calling* book?

For church leaders and bookstore managers who wrongly downplay the *Jesus Calling* book issues, here are over forty resources from numerous ministries, exposing and refuting the problems and false teachings in Sarah Young's book.

***Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young: Another New Age "Jesus" - Articles and links exposing the New Age "Jesus" and New Age teachings in Sarah Young's "Jesus Calling" devotional**

Source: <http://www.spiritual-research-network.com/jesus-calling-by-sarah-young.html>

If the many biblical resources at this webpage cannot persuade Christian leaders and Calvary Chapel pastors to reject *Jesus Calling* as false doctrine, nothing will!

More examples of compromise in Calvary Chapel church bookstores

On a different note, **Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa's Chapel Store** was recently caught again selling seriously problematic material. In fact, this time, the books were kept in the back room, only to be sold when customers specifically asked for them (*Jesus Calling*). Why such secrecy? Because the books were too controversial. Documentation shows that The Chapel Store has been caught in the past selling other problematic materials too. A Google search on this issue is quite revealing! See also Warren B. Smith's excellent refutation of *Jesus Calling*, titled, "*Another Jesus*" *Calling*. Brian Broderson is the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa.

A jaw-dropping look into what some other Calvary Chapel bookstore managers (and pastors) are allowing is quite memorable. For instance, the **Calvary Chapel Melbourne** (West Melbourne, Florida) bookstore currently sells the "My Presence" (New Age) themed, *Jesus Calling*, and also Mark Batterson's book, *The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears*. *The Circle Maker* prayer technique is virtually identical to

Witchcraft. 'Casting a circle' is one of the primary ways that witches cast their spells, and Mark Batterson's book, which mimics such, is being sold through - yes - a Calvary Chapel bookstore. "According to Pastor Mark Batterson in his book, *The Circle Maker*, Drawing prayer circles around our dreams isn't just a mechanism whereby we accomplish great things for God. It's a mechanism whereby God accomplishes great things in us." (Source: <http://thecirclemaker.com/about>). Mark Balmer is the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Melbourne.

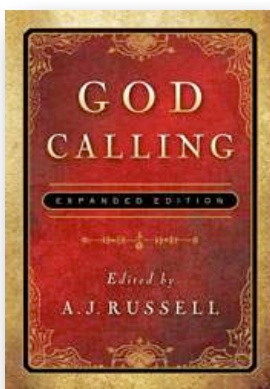
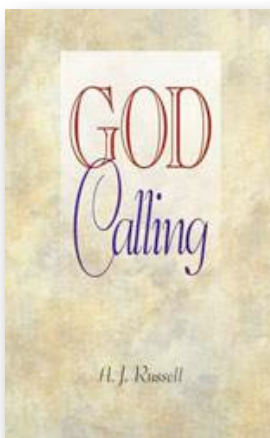
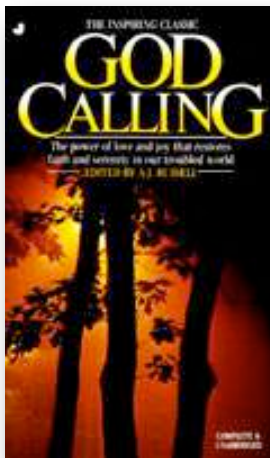
The **Calvary Chapel Oceanside** (California) bookstore, like Grace Chapel Leipers Fork, uses the *Signature Websites* plug-in. They too offer forty-four *Jesus Calling* and *Jesus Calling* related products. They also offer at least twenty *God Calling* resources. *God Calling* is an extremely well known spiritistically "channeled" book. They also carry books by Carl Jung (psychologist, occultist), pro-African *divination* material, Christian Yoga, Yoga, The Jesuits, 347 items having to do with Roman Catholic pope(s), *thirty-five* items by Gloria Copeland (wife of Word Faith teacher/false prophet Kenneth Copeland), and much, much more. Mike Reed is the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Oceanside.

Up until very recently, the **Calvary Community Church (Phoenix, AZ)** online bookstore was a virtual treasure trove of heretical material mixed in with the good. Now, after a faithful Christian has exposed the folly and compromise, there is no longer an active online bookstore resource, at least not right now, the online store has been suspended.

The Calvary Community Church bookstore was carrying materials by Richard Foster, Brennan Manning, Beth Moore, Rick Joyner, Henri Nouwen, and many more. Masses of material that are aberrant and heretical in nature were until very recently available through the church's online store. One wonders what the shelves are loaded with in their *walk-in* bookstore.

Mark Martin is the senior pastor of Calvary Community Church. Mark Martin came out of Seventh-day Adventism. He wrote about it and he also began a ministry *denouncing* the false teachings of Adventism and Ellen G. White (See, <http://www.exadventist.com>). The church fellowship he has pastored for years is a Calvary Chapel affiliate church. Numerous books by false prophetess and founder of Adventism Ellen G. White were being sold in his own church's online bookstore, yet his own book denouncing Ellen G. White's false teachings was nowhere to be found.

Calvary Chapel Albuquerque (New Mexico) was also recently discovered using the *eChristianStore.com* plug-in. Here is a sample



listing of just some of the authors that were offered, until more faithful servants of Jesus Christ blew the whistle on the sinking ship: Rob Bell, Brian McLaren, Dallas Willard, Dan Kimball, Thomas Keating, Erwin McManus, Tony Jones, Tony Campolo, John Ortberg, Bill Hybels, Francis Chan, Rick Warren, Thomas Merton, Andy Stanley, Joel Osteen, Max Lucado, Leonard Sweet, and the list goes on.

Books/authors that are currently offered are *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young (19 items), Sarah Young (25 items), *Have Heart* by Steve Berger, *Akiane: Her Life, Her Art, Her Poetry*, Brother Lawrence, Timothy Keller, Francis Chan, Beth Moore, J.I. Packer, Chuck Colson, *The Harbinger* by Jonathan Cahn, etc. Skip Heitzig is the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel of Albuquerque.

A passing mention should also be made about Jeff Johnson's, **Calvary Chapel Downey** online bookstore. A short online video was posted earlier this year by an online ministry (EmergentWatch.com), showing many problematic and/or false teachers whose resources were available through the Calvary Chapel Downey online bookstore. The church's *Signature Websites* plug-in bookstore was eventually removed, but only after the Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa's Chapel Store, Inc. contacted the watchman who made the little video. Trace elements of the plug-in bookstore still remain on the Calvary Chapel Downey Chapel Store webpage, proving it is the exact same plug-in that Steve Berger's church uses, from *Signature Websites*.

You ask, "Really?" Yes, *really!* Chapel Store, Inc. was concerned about the little Calvary Chapel dove logo being in the video that exposed many problematic materials in the Calvary Chapel Downey online bookstore. "Copyright infringement" was the hue and cry and EmergentWatch.com was basically pressured to remove their online video.

Sadly, no Internet apology for offering heresy to customers was ever issued on the Calvary Chapel Downey church website. What was posted instead? Just a little tiny "sorry" note that made an apology for their bookstore no longer being open online.

For one to think that these compromises are mere anomalies is to stick one's head in the sand. As previously stated - *these are not anomalies; this is a growing problem!* Dangerous literature is being sold in a growing number of Calvary Chapel bookstores until God's faithful *publicly* rebuke it! Unfortunately, it appears that it is only when the "pastors reputation" is on the line that in-house damage control speedily takes over. What else could be the reason for such *swift*

OPPORTUNITY. YOUR SUPPORT HELPS enable SRN's **research** and **outreach** ministry



With friends, Andhra Pradesh, South India, 2005

How you can help!

SRN is supported by the prayers and donations of those who share our concern for the lost and who would like to see individuals and families remain steadfast in the Christian faith.

SRN is currently operating on an extremely limited budget. Our monthly operating costs include rent, web hosting fees, office supplies, printing and postage costs, and more.

SRN is in need of funding for a travel video projector, full-time missionary staff support, short term mission trips, and CD audio production materials. Our main need at this time is for staff support so that we can accomplish projects and move ahead with necessary ministry opportunities.

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(This page updated June 2014)

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retaliation and the behind-the-scenes stonewalling against Christians from various ministries who expose these and similar issues.

A little leaven leavens the whole lump

Paul the Apostle reminded his readers about the danger of false doctrine. Paul said, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Galatians 5:9). Why does it take discernment ministries blowing the whistle publicly on the Internet to get numerous Calvary Chapel pastors and leaders to deal with *their own* in-house compromises? Isn't this what the Calvary Chapel Association "Leadership Council" is supposed to do, hold each other accountable? If they can't effectively deal with these problems, can't the church elders *in all of these* aforementioned ministries hold senior pastors and church bookstore managers accountable, *before* it is published on the Internet? With what has transpired so far, it would be interesting to find out *how many more* Calvary Chapel fellowships have already implemented plug-in bookstore compromises, or are gearing up to do so.

Whether popular and unpopular Calvary Chapel personalities realize it or not, adding the leaven of false doctrine into church bookstore settings will eventually take firm root. Like a constricting vine that parasitically wraps around larger foliage, false doctrine undermines, constricts, cripples, and destroys churches. Undiscerning church leadership is to blame for this. Once the material is allowed into varying aspects of a Christian fellowship - and remains unchecked - its only *a matter of time* before the once biblical fellowship is cauterized *against the truth*, and destroyed. Just give it a few years and its damage will be on display for all the world and the church to see.

The Calvary Chapel church elders and pastors who allow their church bookstores to sell aberrant and false teaching materials are a great danger to the body of Christ. This statement cannot be emphasized too much. Paul the Apostle warned, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (Galatians 5:9)

In light of the growing and spiritually dangerous compromises that these churches have provided (before they got caught), or continue to provide for trusting Christians, it seems more than timely for more people to publicly sound the alarm about the Calvary Chapel bookstore compromises. This is merchandising the flock of God for the sake of financial gain! What else are we to call it, if it is not this exact thing!

Concerned believers in Jesus Christ, who are serving both inside and outside of the Calvary Chapel movement, may find much more information on the Internet, about this exponentiating lapse of Calvary Chapel accountability. Google searches for "Calvary Chapel compromise," "Calvary Chapel ecumenism," "Calvary Chapel bookstore compromises," and "Calvary Chapel abuse" reveal much

more than one will want to see and read. The reader should also be aware that this is a much, much bigger problem all across the Christian bookstore industry.

When one takes a sincere and objective look at the mounting evidence of Calvary Chapel compromises, one will quickly realize that the "bad apples" within the Calvary Chapel movement are spoiling the names of many others who are far more committed to obedience to the Word of God and biblical separation. Biblical separation from what? Biblical separation from aberrant and false teachers and false doctrine.

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. (Romans 16:17-19)

It appears that the majority of Calvary Chapel leaders are unaware about what is really transpiring with these issues. If they were aware, would they not collectively rise up and publicly denounce such things - by name? One would think so, however, the silence is deafening!

A growing dilemma appears to be: (1) leaders are afraid to speak out about compromises for fear of ostracism, (2) leaders are too busy with their own individual ministry to do anything about the issues, or (3) leaders could care less about what transpires. Any of these excuses fall far short of what pastors should do. If they all serve under the banner of Calvary Chapel, they should stand true to Scripture and deal with sin in the camp, and not let their/our brethren sell heresy! Selling heresy is perpetuating the devils work, which Jesus came to destroy (1 John 3:8).

Truly Scripture speaks to the issue at hand. How do I know? I know because before I left the movement I observed the growing fear-of-man trend within the Calvary Chapel movement, for almost a quarter of a century. It is part of a nonverbal Achilles Heal, and it is built right into the fabric of the "Pastor led Moses-style of Leadership," which characterizes the entire movement.

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe. Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the Lord. An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked. (Proverbs 29:25-27)

What does God's Word say?

It should be noted here that the purpose of this article is not to nit-pick at fellow pastors and well-meaning church leaders. It is simply to make the point that severe compromise is growing, that leaders could stem the obvious

Thank you for your interest in visiting our website.

We're sorry, but we're not providing our Store Website and E-mail Promotions at this time. Please contact us with your questions or suggestions.

(562) 803-6431

Calvary Chapel Downey
Chapel Store online
Screenshot, May 30, 2014

plague that has arisen, and that there are people who are *allowing* it to go on. Bookstore managers, pastors, and church elders, it is time to take heed! Selling blatant heresy to the flock of God, or even *providing a platform* to do so through walk-in and online Christian bookstores, is a great evil.

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. (1 John 2:26)

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. (Mark 13:22)

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. (Revelation 2:20)

Interested Calvary Chapel leaders and Calvary Chapel Association Leadership Council pastors should take note of the following material. The extensive documentation from various sources (provided at bottom) about this issue proves the point beyond any shadow of a doubt - not all Calvary Chapel bookstores are spiritually safe places to be.

What is the current and growing issue at hand?

What is the current and growing issue at hand? You have just read it - numerous Calvary Chapel churches and leaders and bookstore managers have been providing a platform for churchgoers and Internet travelers to purchase theologically *aberrant and/or heretical material* from their Calvary Chapel church fellowship walk-in and/or online Christian bookstores. How utterly damning this is, raw heresy being offered to the flock of God under the banner of the Calvary Chapel *dove* logo, and/or through Calvary Chapel *affiliate* churches? Pure evil has arisen to a whole new level within Calvary Chapel, has it not?

Throughout this article the word "compromise" is being used in a theological context, whereby Calvary Chapel pastors, church elders, and church fellowship bookstore managers are "compromising" scriptural commands and obedience to the Word of God.

Compromising Scripture in order to make a few extra bucks for the ministry is an extremely poor excuse and does not stand before the counsel of God. Perhaps the following basic definition will help refresh Calvary Chapel pastors, elders and bookstore managers (and everyone else reading this) on what the word compromise really means. It is the *compromising* pastors who are destroying the name of Calvary Chapel, and this is just one of *numerous* issues that could be addressed here.

Making merchandise of the body of Christ

First, here is a concise definition of the word compromise:

Compromise: 1. a. To expose or make liable to danger, suspicion, or disrepute: a secret mission that was compromised and had to be abandoned; compromise one's standing in the community. b. To reduce in quality, value, or degree; weaken or lower. 2. To impair by disease or injury:

an immune system that was compromised by a virus. 3. To settle by mutual concessions: a dispute that was compromised. (*The Free Dictionary*)

Second, here are four scriptures that warn about those that would, in their greed, compromise the Word of God, ruin the testimony of God, and defile the flock of God.

In Amos 8:6 God addresses the sin of mixing chaff into the wheat, in order to cheat the buyer. In Jude 1:11 God the Holy Spirit led Jude to remind readers about evil men in days of old, who displayed greed to no end and were judge by God for it. In 2 Peter 2:3 the Apostle Peter, by God's direction, addressed the exploitation of people by deceivers who provided lies, instead of the truth. In Luke 16:13 Jesus Christ our Lord states very clearly that man cannot serve both God and mammon (money).

The underlying motivation addressed in all four of these Scriptures is that of greed - *an intense and selfish desire for more*.

Selling an admixture of evil with the good, for profit:

That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat? (Amos 8:6)

Greedy for profit:

Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. (Jude 1:11)

Make merchandise of people (i.e., to buy, sell, or trade):

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. (2 Peter 2:3)

Ye cannot serve God and mammon:

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. (Luke 16:13-15)

Third, here is a basic definition of the word observation. This is included here because more and more Calvary Chapel churchgoers (and apparently non-Christians too) are finding material in some Calvary Chapel bookstores that is anything but Christian. They *observe* what is going and are disgusted by it.

Observation: a statement about something you have noticed: a comment or remark; the act of careful watching and listening: the activity of paying close attention to someone or something in order to get information; something you notice by watching and listening (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*)

As a pastor/missionary and researcher/writer (formerly serving in Calvary Chapel for almost 25 years) I have received much correspondence from people who are utterly tired of *observing* compromises like this.

Managerial folly a growing trend

One will also note that there is a popular trend amongst a vast number of Christian bookstores outside of the Calvary Chapel movement, to sell aberrant and heretical material also - *for monetary gain*. As thoroughly noted above, the worldly Christian bookstore trend is bleeding over into Calvary Chapel. This is a total compromise of biblical conviction and it is an open betrayal of sincere Christians, by church leaders and bookstore managers who allow such folly.

Selling literature produced by aberrant and false teachers, "for profit," in order to "make merchandise of" the body of Christ, *is evil*. Aren't Bible teaching churches supposed to provide *sound doctrine* for trusting Christians. Of course they are, and there are plenty of Bible verses to back this up.

Amazingly, excuses are being given by bookstore managers who seek to side-step the issue. "Oh, the computer orders it automatically," and "We provide a service to the body of Christ," and "This is what the people want," are just a few of the utterly ludicrous responses this author has heard when confronting bookstore owners, managers and even pastors. These excuses fall far short of the biblical standard of providing sound doctrine to Christians, and of course, to enquiring non-Christians *who need to be saved from* satanic deception, the power of sin, God's judgment that is to come upon Antichrist and all who receive "the mark of the beast," and eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

Chew the meat and spit out the bones?

Sadly, many well-meaning people these days are looking to pastors, church leaders, and church bookstores for spiritually beneficial material, yet in countless cases church-wide they are getting an admixture of products that are spiritually poisonous. God hates the *admixture*! Grain and wheat *mixed* with chaff, peanut butter blocks *laced* with rat poison, oatmeal *mixed* with systemic weed poison? Would anyone in their right mind feed these to their children? No, and neither would biblical pastors.

In a far more dangerous way, *some* Calvary Chapel leaders (and many leaders from other churches) are displaying that they have no issue with mixing the good with the bad - sound doctrine with aberrant doctrines and rife heresy - *in their bookstores*. This is the "chew the meat and spit out the bones" mentality all over again, which I heard for years in Calvary Chapel. I understand what church leaders mean when they make this statement from the pulpit, regarding reading material and buying books that are less than scriptural. But why even *ever* recommend literature from the pulpit - or sell it - if it contains aberrant and false doctrine?

Where in all of Holy Scripture are the leaders of God's set-apart-people ever instructed to lead and feed His flock by providing them with meat (The Word) that has bones (false doctrine) in it? Scripture speaks of God's provision of milk for

babes in Christ, and strong meat for the mature, but never meat with bones in it!

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Peter 2:1-3)

Playing the profit game just like the world

Based on the facts, one could simply say that some Calvary Chapel's have and still are playing the profit game, just like the world and just like *Signature Websites, Parable.Com, Christianbook.Com*, and thousands of other totally compromised "Christian" resource providers.

Some of these churches have already been publicly exposed by faithful Christians who care more about upholding the glory and integrity of our Lord Jesus Christ, than their own reputation and personal income. We must remember that just because there is Scripture in a book, it does not mean that that book is sound in the faith. Satan uses and twists Scripture all the time for his own ends, even foisting it upon undiscerning Christians.

Certainly with all of the money that is flowing through these large churches - and the false doctrine selling bookstores - one would think that Calvary Chapel fellowships could provide compensation to at least one or two individuals who could sift through the purchasing and ordering lists for their bookstores. Apparently that would defeat the purpose of selling the aberrant and heretical material, which is of course, is to bring in more - *money*.

How many more Calvary Chapel bookstores have moved beyond accountability?

As time goes on, more and more people within Calvary Chapel will begin to see these compromises for what they are. Faithful believers will be repulsed by it, will challenge it, and will often be *stonewalled* for coming against it. Leaders that reject God's faithful messengers will then proceed to *defile* the body of Christ by the further indulgence in, and sale of, false doctrine; albeit, all under the guise of "sound doctrine" in the church bookstore.

The reader should take careful note here that often times the final outcome of churchgoers addressing bookstore compromises is that those who boldly confront the issues end up leaving their church altogether, *never to return!* Why do they never return? Because they confront leaders who are doing what they shouldn't be doing, and the leaders end up refusing to listen to those who sound the alarm about the sale and promotion of bad materials (and authors). It is also clear that some of them refuse to repent

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SRN

St. Abbs Harbor, Eastern Scotland, United Kingdom



CHRIS LAWSON

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT
- THE MISSING JEWEL OF THE 21ST CENTURY CHURCH!

May

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when they are privately contacted and even publicly denounced. Many people have had to endure the shoot-the-messenger scenario within Calvary Chapel, all for simply standing for sound doctrine in the church, and against agents of compromise that are polluting God's people.

Standing up for truth - unpopular but necessary

Standing *up* for God's truth by standing *against* bookstore compromises is not popular, *but it is necessary!* The growing folly being displayed amongst more and more Calvary Chapel churches and bookstores will most certainly become a cemented trend in the coming days, *unless* the Calvary Chapel Association Leadership Council puts a quick end to it. Personally, I and many others are not holding our breath on this one. I have done far too much research and seen far too much compromise in this movement, both publicly and behind the scenes, to fall under the spell of wishful thinking that somehow Calvary Chapel will change its ways. Nothing less than a massive full-scale, biblically sound, frontal assault against false doctrine and false teachers in the church - and neoEvangelical compromise - will do.

If Chuck Smith's personal main inner-circle of Calvary Chapel leaders are going to stand and embrace Rick Warren, and place him in the center of the photo shoot on stage at Chuck Smith's memorial tribute service, then you can be sure that what is coming in the future for Calvary Chapel is worse than one can ever imagine. I wish it weren't so, but the facts stand on their own. If they are going to allow this and many other compromises to persist, than I seriously doubt they are going to crack down on Calvary Chapel pastors that are selling heresy under the banner of Calvary Chapel church bookstores.

Warnings!

The thorough documentation below reveals just how far some Calvary Chapel leaders are willing to go to make an extra buck "for Jesus." Why some Calvary Chapel leaders allow such spoiling influences to take place speaks volumes. If they say, "It's all about Jesus!" while they refuse to listen to the watchmen sounding the alarm, one can be pretty sure that they will also betray the flock of God to save their own skin, when the real heat of violent persecution comes. If they can't listen to God's watchmen and protect the flock of God today, with simple bookstore issues, what in the world will they do when the forces of hell in the minds of sinful men are unleashed against the church in the future?

Judas sold out to the devil by betraying our Lord for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). Jesus warned, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). Luke warned about Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). Demas forsook Paul, "having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4:10). Should we not take heed all the more in our own day, now that we are beginning to see a number of Calvary Chapel pastors selling out to the Christian bookstore industry - *and that for a few extra bucks?*

Great confusion and divergent positions

In light of the irrefutable evidence exposing Calvary Chapel bookstore compromises, one has to simply ask, "Are Calvary Chapel bookstores beyond accountability?"

The following statement was written by Calvary Chapel's own leaders in the end of Calvary Chapel's own 2006 'Parson-to-Parson' position paper. It speaks volumes to the issue at hand, but is anyone listening?

The great confusion that exists in the divergent positions of the Emergent Church results from their challenging the final authority of the Scriptures. When you no longer have a final authority, then everyone's ideas become as valid as the next person's, and it cannot help but end in total confusion and contradictions.

There are those who say that [the] Emergent movement has some good points, but so does a porcupine. You are better off if you don't get too close!

So, let us not turn to our own understanding, but rather return to our own first love; and teach that the Bible is indeed the true word of God; and teach it in its entirety; nothing less and nothing more.

In conclusion

With glowing statements like this, is it not a great travesty, that Christian men, instead of staying away from "total confusion and contradictions" and vicious theological "porcupines," have rather sought fit to line their Christian church bookstores *with* them? If more Christian leaders simply obeyed what Scripture commands, we would have fewer compromisers in the pulpit and safer Christian bookstores - in Calvary Chapel, and beyond.

According to the Word of God, declaring the whole counsel of God entails preaching and teaching the truth, and also warning of error, rejecting false doctrine, separating from false teachers, and doing everything in our strength and might to protect the flock of God, which Jesus purchased with His own blood:

Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. (Acts 20:26-31)

May God's Word always and forever have *the final say* on all subjects:

Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. Lay hands suddenly

on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. (1 Timothy 5:19-22)

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person. (1 Corinthians 5:6-13)

DOCUMENTATION

Compiled by Chris Lawson (Updated May 2014)

Calvary Chapel Pastors Promoting Contemplative Prayer

- February 19, 2014 (**VIDEO by EmergentWatch.com**)
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- <http://emergentwatch.com/2014/02/04/calvary-distribution-online-survey/>

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- <http://emergentwatch.com/2014/02/01/372/>

Chapel Store Inc. has our video removed claiming "copyright infringement"

- January 24, 2014 (**VIDEO UPDATE by EmergentWatch.com**)
- <http://emergentwatch.com/2014/01/24/chapel-store-inc-has-our-video-removed-claiming-copyright-infringement/>

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- September 27, 2006 (By Lighthouse Trails Editors)
- <http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=3827>

THE HOLY BIBLE:

ITS ALL IMPORTANCE



(Published 1824)

A NATION must be truly blessed, if it were governed by no other laws than those of this blessed book; it is so complete a system, that nothing can be added to it, or taken from it; it contains every thing needful to be known or done; it affords a copy for a king (Deut. xvii. 18), and a rule for a subject; it gives instruction and counsel to a senate; authority and direction for a magistrate: it cautions a witness; requires an impartial verdict of a jury, and furnishes the judge with his sentence; it sets the husband as lord of the household, and the wife as mistress of the table: tells him how to rule, and her how to manage.

It entails honour to parents, and enjoins obedience to children; it prescribes and limits the sway of the sovereign, the rule of the ruler, and authority of the master; commands the subject to honour, and the servants to obey; and promises the blessing and protection of its Author to all who walk by its rules.

It gives direction for weddings and for burials; it promises food and raiment, and limits the use of both; it points out a faithful and an eternal Guardian to the departing husband and father; tells him with whom to leave his fatherless children, and in whom his widow is to trust (Jer. xlix. 11); and promises a father to the former, and a husband to the latter.

It teaches a man how to set his house in order, and how to make his will; it appoints a dowry for the wife, and entails the right of the first-born; and shows how the younger branches shall be left.

It defends the rights of all; and reveals vengeance to every defrauder, over-reacher, and oppressor.

It is the first book, the best book, and the oldest book in all the world.

It contains the choicest matter, gives the best instruction, and affords the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that ever was revealed.

It contains the best laws, the profoundest mysteries that ever were penned.

It brings the best of tidings, and exhibits life and immortality, and shows the way to everlasting glory.

It is a brief recital of all that is past, and a certain prediction of all that is to come.

It settles all matters in debate, resolves all doubts, and eases the mind and conscience of all their scruples.

It reveals the only living and true God, and shews the way to Him; and sets aside all other gods, and describes them the vanity of them, and of all that trust in them.

In short, it is a book of laws to show right and wrong; a book of wisdom, that condemns all folly, and makes the foolish wise; a book of truth, that detects all lies, and confutes all errors; and a book of life, and shows the way from everlasting death.

It is the most compendious book in all the world; the most authentic, and the most entertaining history that ever was published: it contains the most early antiquities, strange events, wonderful occurrences, heroic deeds, unparalleled wars.

It describes the celestial, terrestrial, and infernal worlds; and the origin of the myriads, human tribes, and infernal legions.

It will instruct the most accomplished mechanic, and the profoundest artist; it will teach the best rhetorician, and exercise every power of the most skillful arithmetician (Rev. xiii.18); puzzle the wisest anatomist, and exercise the nicest critic.

It corrects the vain philosopher, and guides the wise astronomer: it exposes the subtle sophist, and makes diviners mad.

It is a complete code of laws, a perfect body of divinity, an unequalled narrative; a book of lives, a book of travels, and a book of voyages.

It is the best covenant that ever was agreed on, the best deed that ever was sealed, the best evidence that ever was produced; the best will that ever was made, and the best testament that ever was signed.

To understand it is [to] be wise indeed; to be ignorant of it, is to be destitute of wisdom. It is the king's best copy, the magistrate's best rule, the housewife's best guide, the servant's best directory, and the young man's best companion.

It is the school-boy's spelling-book, and the learned man's masterpiece: it contains a choice grammar for a novice, and a profound treatise for a sage: it is the ignorant man's dictionary, and the wise man's directory.

It affords knowledge of witty inventions for the ingenious, and dark sayings for the grave; and is its own interpreter. It encourages the wise, the warrior, the racer, and the overcomer; and promises and eternal reward to the conqueror.

And that which crowns all is, that the Author is without partiality, and without hypocrisy,--- 'in whom there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning.'

THE HOLY BIBLE

*Holy Bible, book divine!
Precious treasure! thou art mine;
Mine, to tell whence I came;
Mine, to teach me what I am:
Mine to chide, when I rove;
Mine, to shew a Saviour's love:
Mine, art thou, to guide my feet;
Mine, to judge, condemn, acquit:*

*Mine, to comfort in distress,
If the Holy Spirit bless:
Mine, to shew by living faith,
How to triumph over death!
Mine, to tell of joys to come,
And the rebel sinner's doom:
O thou precious book divine!
Precious treasure! thou art mine,*

*THIS is a precious book indeed!
Happy are those who love to read;
'Tis God's own word, which he has given,
To shew our souls the way to heaven.
It tells us how the world was made;
And how good men the Lord obeyed:
Here his commands are written too,
To teach us what we ought to do.*

*It bids us all from sin to fly,
Because our souls can never die:
It points to heaven where angels dwell;
And warns us to escape from hell.
But what is more than all beside,
The Bible tells us Jesus died:
This is its best, its chief intent,
To lead poor sinners to repent.*

Note: The piece that you have just read was transcribed from the torn frontispiece pages of a very old and very well read large print family Bible. The Bible's original publishing date was previous to 1824 (Hall-End, Halifax). The paragraph and poem were first published in the *Christian Journal and Literary Register* (New York, 1819). Almost 200 years ago, this small introductory statement and poem were originally published with no separate paragraphs. I have transcribed them with small spaces between for better flow of thought and readability. - *Chris Lawson*

Note from Chris Lawson About the Authors

SRN would like to extend thanks to each author who has granted us written and/or verbal permission to republish their articles in our SRN Newsletter. Each ministry has its hands in numerous aspects of research and writing and as we all know, the work is far to extensive for any one single ministry to cover. We appreciate the well researched writings of others, and we believe that our SRN Newsletter readers will also.

We would like to encourage our readership to visit our colleagues' websites, and if you are led to, joyfully support their ministry efforts through financial and prayer support. None of the ministries that we republish articles from are in the ministry for money. In fact, quite a few of us have suffered in many ways for doing what we do - *telling tell the truth about what's going on in the church and the world.*

Simple disclaimer: SRN includes articles from fellow ministries in our newsletter because we believe that what we publish is pertinent to current issues facing individual believers and countless churches. SRN may not necessarily agree with every single aspect of ministry or theology that our colleagues include within their respective ministries, however, we do see eye-to-eye on all of the essential doctrines of the historic Christian faith, without which one cannot be "saved."

SRN as a ministry seeks to keep a well balanced approach to Christian theology, apologetics and eschatology, as well as a firmly grounded biblical hermeneutic that rejects extremes, including but not limited to Replacement Theology, any form of anti-Semitism, the current massive wave of heresies within the hyper-Pentecostal charismatic movements, and any form of immorality or ethical perversions, either in family life, or ministry. If any writers that have articles in the SRN Newsletter slide away from balanced ministry and scriptural morals and ethics, we will lovingly pursue their correction and restoration.

- Chris Lawson (Editor for SRN)

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YOGA and Christianity – Are They Compatible?

by Chris Lawson
(A Lighthouse Trails Booklet)

Western Culture
Embraces Yoga

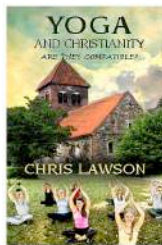
It is no secret that Yoga is taking Western civilization by storm. In just a little over a hundred years, a mystical revolution has occurred that millions of Westerners have wholeheartedly embraced. Amazingly, the Western Judeo-Christian view is in the process of a paradigm shift toward the same perspective as yogic India.

To illustrate the magnitude of the Yoga explosion, consider Yoga Journal's "Yoga in America Study 2012." This study reveals some incredible statistics:

- 20.4 million Americans practice Yoga, compared to 15.8 million from the previous 2008 study.
- Practitioners spend \$10.3 billion a year on Yoga classes and products. The previous estimate from the 2008 study was \$5.7 billion.
- Of current non-practitioners, 44.4 percent of Americans call themselves "aspirational yogis"—people who are interested in trying Yoga. 1

Yoga (or Yogic spirituality) is influencing Christians and non-Christians alike. It only takes 0.27 seconds to come up with over 411,000,000 results for Yoga on Google's search engine. When searching Amazon.com's "All" category for Yoga, one quickly comes up with a staggering 143,081 results. That's just within Amazon.Com. If one searches for book titles only on Amazon.com, the search yields 26,316. Certainly, the influence of Yoga can be found almost everywhere...

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A Directory of Authors (Three NOT Recommended Lists)

by Chris Lawson
(A Lighthouse Trails Booklet)

It is no secret these days that Christian bookstore and ministry resource databases are often jam-packed with so-called Christian resources that are actually promoting anything but biblical Christianity. Special care may be taken by bookstore owners and ministry leaders alike to ensure that ministry and business are "in order," but, when a close look is taken, the sale of spiritually unsafe material abounds. This is the primary reason for these three lists—to help warn and protect you, the reader, and to provide a quick reference guide.

You should know that many of the authors listed here profess to follow or glean from "Jesus," yet at the same time they assiduously reject the biblical Jesus Christ of Nazareth Who is Savior, Lord, and God. In fact, many of these authors teach the absolute antithesis (opposite) of the historic Christian faith. Books rife with New Age occult teachings and practices abound in many Christian bookstores, and many owners and managers are going to sell them, regardless.

Over the past twenty plus years, I have spent thousands of hours researching, examining, and refuting dangerous cultic and occult practices as a missionary, church planter, and pastor. My purpose in doing so has been to help people escape dangerous occult influences, heretical doctrines both inside and outside the church, and the bondage of satanic genius that holds people captive by the powers of darkness.

The Christian literature marketplace has become utterly dangerous in the 21st century....

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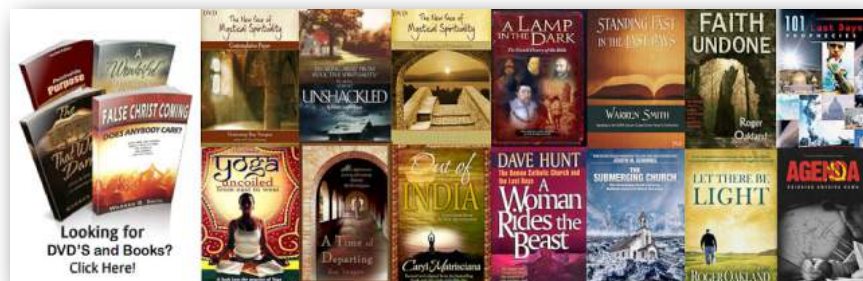
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