

# *The Gospel Herald*

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“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by  
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

*“And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken”*

*I Sam. 4:21*

*The scriptural term “I-cha-bod” is defined from the original as “no glory, the glory has departed, without glory.”*

*It is apparent to this undeserving sinner which has been delivered by grace and grace alone, that the nation of America with it’s multitude of so called Christian churches that the word “I-cha-bod” should be posted upon the lintels of their meeting house entrances. Why? Because the majority of so-called Christian assemblies have turned into either “entertainment centers” and/or “Name-it and-claim-it victory Centers!” Am I right or not?*

*When you tell God to go sit in the corner and we’ll take care of business down here regarding religion and tell the folks what THEY WANT TO HEAR TO GAIN THE MASSES, the GLORY IS GONE! God has departed. Divine worship with reverence and simplicity has become an ancient practice among the modern so called Christian assemblies of our day.*

*Think with me you that have lived a few years upon this earthly round. How long ago was it that Jack Hyles pastor of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana was running 30,560 in attendance. Using 230 school buses with 1,000 workers to ferry 10,000 children every Sunday from as far as 80 miles away? (Per Wikipedia) and had the largest Sunday school in America? What happened (Note: Jack Hyles was known to preach “Landmarkism”)?*

*What happened to Jerry Falwell’s “Moral Majority” champagne to win America for Christ? Where was this “Moral Majority”? I never saw them as a “Christian majority” across this nation, did you (1979)?*

*Then there was James Kennedy, former Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and “Evangelism Explosion” starting in 1962 teaching seminars around the country teaching folks how to “Win others to Christ”. I knew about the movement because I took the course (1972)!*

*What happened to all these big hyper, neo-evangelical soul-winning endeavors across the land? Did they fail? It appears to me they did because they are no longer continuing. What happened? Well, first of all Hyles’ “Biggest Sunday School in America” slowly dwindled down after they determined all they were doing in time was providing a daycare and babysitting service, with unruly children that come from non-disciplined homes. And the cost of 230 buses running around the country side was getting expensive for fuel and maintenance. Meanwhile the unruly children would destroy the class rooms and were disorderly, so that gradually began to taper off. Isn’t it ironic that every time man attempts to HELP GOD that it falls apart eventually? (Christ the SAME yesterday, today, and forever).*

*Well, now let’s look at Jerry Falwell’s “Moral Majority Movement”, he discovered after dabbling with politics in the 70’s and 80’s that there was NO MORAL MAJORITY in America....but the MAJORITY are immoral and the society was proving it all the more by the Gay Rights Movement, Divorce Rates exceeding all time percentages, church attendance was beginning it’s downhill drop. So that movement ceased, and he concentrated on Liberty College.*

*Finally, we look at James Kennedy’s “Evangelism Explosion” teachings and seminars. What happen to that big thrust to win the America for Christ? Time and time again man’s attempts to help GOD by their means and methods to “Win the weary lost souls and have the “Claim to Fame” ministry helping Jesus” has failed over and over...Christian Reconstructionism failed throughout 1970s.*

*If in fact Jesus Christ IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER, why doesn’t man let God be God? Has God altered or changed His mode and means of saving His elect heirs of free and sovereign grace? Does He not still call them by His Spirit and cause them to see themselves as lost, poor, and needy sinners? Does He not grant repentance to those of whom He has chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world? Are these which God has chosen in Christ able to reject the Good Shepherds call when he bids them come? What did Peter, James, John, Matthew, and all the disciples the Lord called do when He called them?*

*Did they not leave ALL they were doing and FOLLOW THE MASTER? Is it not the same today when Christ calls His sheep made up of those from EVERY NATION, TONGUE and KINDRED? Oh! Dear ones, the glory has departed from the majority of so called Christian assemblies and been replaced by entertainment, false teaching, and a self help high esteem “YOU CAN DO IT gospel of POSITIVE THINKING!” This is what America is swallowing for religion hook, line and sinker.....*

*God appears to be writing in LARGE LETTERS ACROSS AMERICA*

*“I’CHA-BOD” to the religion of the land. With calamities of Floods, Tornados, Earthquakes, and immorality running rabid, the demise of the home, single parent percentages rising daily across the nation. Corruption in all phases of our government totally out of control.*

*A note to those which have the concept that God ONLY uses the preached gospel to save sinners, the gospel IS NOT a means that initiates spiritual life in the depraved sinner, “the gospel brings LIFE and IMMORALITY TO LIGHT (revelation) in those which have previously been born of the Spirit and made able to believe it”(II Tim.1:10). The gospel is a means, but not to cause nor initiate Holy Spirit birth: Spiritual GOOD NEWS (gospel) shall only be endorsed by those blessed to believe, and that by grace alone.*

*I lament as Jeremiah the prophet, Oh! American what was called the land of the free has become captive in our own selfish, individualistic, materialistic society and said to GOD, “GO SIT IN THE CORNER; we’ll call on you when we need you! Yet, HE WILL NOT HEAR our beggarly cries as a nation, but “FOR THE ELECTS SAKE” He will hear their calls for deliverance and Christ shall save His REMNANT BRIDE as the angels are sent to gather the elect from every nation and then shall the end come as a thief in the night! Oh! Dear Jesus, send thy holy angelic host to deliver us from this world of sin and woe, for our hearts are weary as we see the demise of our nation and those nations as well around this earthen globe.*

*Humbly submitted, resting upon Chris’s merits and His sovereign love and grace,*

*Donald E. Martin, Sr.*

*June 19, 2015*