



The Balance Beam

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLICAL COUNSELING

SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Volume 13 Number 2

July 2003

**“...I am the Lord.
You must not treat me
as common or ordinary.
Revere me and hallow me...”
Leviticus 31b,32 NLT**

Has there ever been a time when wickedness was as arrogant and bold as it is today? In recent days, my heart has been pondering that question. The awful betrayals, the common occurrence of murderous violence, and the despising of Holy things seems to know no bounds. This week our local newspaper carried this headline story: “Seminary Professor Claims Jesus Was Gay.” Dr. Theodore Jennings, a professor representing the Chicago Theological Seminary, has written a new book in which he boldly espouses such a blasphemous view. As I read the article, I experienced such nausea I had to quit.

Evil is on the loose in our world. Television, the movies, newspapers, advertising, videos and every form of media there is keeps evil scenes and corrupt philosophy constantly confronting us. The harmful fallout from this steamroller of Evil is wounding and crushing multitudes of people. These are the people that our Lord Jesus came to redeem by His precious blood. Only the flow of the good news from the cross can: “...bind up the broken-hearted, ...proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners!” (Is. 61:1) This is the calling God has given to ICBC. This is who we are! The challenge has never been more urgent and the training of others to help the oppressed more necessary than today. God is still looking for those who by their holy walk, holy truth and holy life are about the work of “letting the oppressed go free.” (Is 58:1-6)

Thank you for being a part of the ICBC team. God uses the prayers and support of our faithful constituency to keep us encouraged and pressing on to do our task. In spite of the resignation for personal reasons of Dr. Ken-

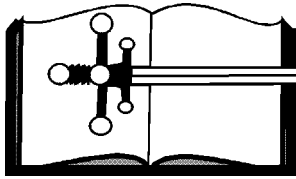
neth Copley as the director and dean of ISBC, the school is moving forward. Dr. Timothy Warner has stepped in to serve as our temporary dean, and a gifted and well qualified faculty are teaming up together to provide quality training for our students. Pray for the school that God would bring those He wants to be at each course, that He would prepare their hearts to receive instruction and for our staff that they would be used of God to equip our students in such a way that they would be able to help others .

Please continue to pray for the financial needs of the ministry. We look to the Lord to place it on your heart to keep His support coming. You need to know that this is a difficult financial time for ICBC. Pray with us and ask the Lord if He would have you help meet the need. Thank you for being faithful!

Mark I. Bubeck
President Emeritus and acting President

**“God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried
into the midst of the sea;
Though its waters roar and be
troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its
swelling.”**

Psalm 46: 1-3



ICBC INTERNATIONAL

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"Maintaining a Biblical Balance in the Spiritual Battles of Life"

*"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life,
that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." 2 Timothy 2: 4*

Events Calendar

Date Speaker(s) Topic, Location & Contact

2003

8/4-8	Various	ISBC (course #2), Indianapolis, IN 877-467-4222
9/22-26	Various	ISBC (course #3), Indianapolis, IN 877-467-4222
11/3-7	Various	ISBC (course #1), Dallas, TX 877-467-4222
11/17-21	Various	ISBC (course #1), Indianapolis, IN 877-467-4222

2004

1/12-16	Various	ISBC (Course #2), Indianapolis, IN 877467-4222
3/4-6	Various	ICBC Biennial Conference, Sioux City, Iowa 712-293-0631

Hope Deferred

By Dr. Jim Logan

Do you have an inner passion for a closeness with God? Do you seek that deep intimacy with the living God that the Bible seems to indicate is possible? Psalm 15:1 asks two important questions:

1. Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
2. Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?

Shall abide in means to take up one's abode. Dwell in means to reside (permanently, either figuratively or literally).¹

Warren Wiersbe says, "Here is a beautiful picture of the kind of person God chooses to live with Him." John MacArthur says, "With its focus on moral responsibility, the Psalm offers a sequence of responses to the question of acceptable worship."²

What kind of person dwells with God? He must have the right kind of: feet - walks uprightly; hands - works righteousness; lips - speaks the truth; and heart ³

The Psalm goes on with further insights on this person. The one that stands out to me is, "He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not." We seem to be plagued with Christians who find it easy to make promises but not so easy to keep them. The Bible says, "hope deferred makes the heart sick." I can't begin to tell you the number of counselees who have bitterness because of "hope deferred." I would say this applies to almost all of them. I believe that there is an even more severe problem mentioned in Ecclesiastes chapter 5 referring to people who make vows and break them. Verse 6b says, "Wherefore should God be angry at thy voice and destroy the work of thine hands?" What does that mean? I don't know precisely, but clearly to break vows has severe consequences.

When I give my word and do not keep it, I can cause hurt in someone's life which can foster resentment and bitterness. When I break my word, I can also bring severe consequences into my own life.

James 1:19b states, "let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." I have heard it said, "Since we have two ears and only one mouth, we should listen twice as much as we speak." You will never have to ask forgiveness for listening. Let's become people of integrity and do what we say (commit to). People will rise up and call us blessed. Truthfulness, honesty, and integrity should characterize every Christian. If you find it hard not to verbally over-commit yourself, Psalm 141:3 may be just the verse for you: "Set a watch O Lord before my mouth;

keep the door of my lips."

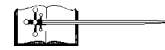
If you sense something is blocking your closeness with God, ask the Holy Spirit if there is a broken promise, commitment, or vow you need to deal with. God invites all of us to a deeper, intimate relationship with Himself, and He always keeps His Word. The invitation is always open. "He walks with me and talks with me" ceases to be pious jargon and instead becomes a straight-forward description of daily life. I am speaking of a reality more akin to what the disciples felt in the upper room when they experienced both intense intimacy and awful reverence.⁴

¹ The Complete Word Study, Old Testament, Zodhiates.

² The MacArthur Study Bible

³ Prayer, Praise & Promises: A Daily Walk Through the Psalms

⁴ Seeking the Kingdom, Richard Foster



Update from International School for Biblical Counseling

The ISBC is halfway into its second year with plans to expand the course offering locations to include Dallas, Texas. Currently courses are being held in Indianapolis, IN. If you are not familiar with the school, visit our Web site (www.icbcinc.com) where you can read or download articles that feature the school in previous issues of the Balance Beam. The courses are intensive, and, for many they have been life-changing. ***The following is a testimony of what the Lord is doing through the life of one ISBC student.***

"I want to express my appreciation to ISBC and the staff for ministering to my heart and mind through Biblical understanding of spiritual warfare. Because my husband has been in the ministry for the past 27 years, I have had countless opportunities to counsel the lost and hurting. However, only since taking the classes ISBC had to offer, have I understood so many of the root causes of most of the problems we've seen in the lives of those we have led to salvation and tried to help spiritually. Had I known and understood earlier the things I've learned in the past 1 1/2 years, I feel that my part in the ministry would have been so much more effective. The instructors have challenged me toward a deeper and richer prayer life and toward reading and memorizing the scripture more.

The classes have been exactly what I needed to understand spiritual warfare from a balanced perspective."

Give Thanks

Editor's Note: *Following is a prayer that was written by Dr. Mark Bubeck. I received it on the eve of impending war. Many hearts are lifted, now, because of Almighty God's protection. He has repeatedly confused an enemy who seeks terror and destruction. As we reap the blessings of the Lord, give thanks. Remember His great kindness to us.*

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA'S NATIONAL CRISIS

MARCH 2003

Dear God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I bring our wounded nation before You in this time of national crisis. The bold, shocking violence of terrorists on 9/11 staggered the people of our nation. Before the eyes of the world, the television cameras made us all front row spectators. In horror, we watched giant airliners become missiles of destruction and death. We remain a very wounded people. Thank You for the way You used President Bush to call the American people to seek Your face in remembrance, prayer and worship. I ask You to continue to minister Your comfort to those so terribly brutalized by the loss of loved ones. As "the God of all comfort," continue to sustain them with Your Word of hope. I praise You for Your gracious, merciful goodness to America. During the many years of our history, You have given us blessings and protection far beyond what we deserve. Forgive us for taking Your many favors for granted. We have arrogantly assumed that we deserved our good fortunes. Worse yet, too many of us have felt that we earned our prosperity and freedom. Our national wickedness has been an abomination before Your holy eyes. We display violence and evil as entertainment; we slaughter unborn babies by the millions. Immorality and divorce brutalize the sacredness of families and the home. I repent of the many evils of our nation.

Thank You, heavenly Father, that You have spoken powerfully to all of the great nations of history. You are doing that again to America. Our national leaders are still embarrassed by the lack of intelligence information concerning the shocking events of 9/11. We believe You permitted the terrorists to wreak their horrible violence and death, as a wake up call for our nation. Grant us the grace and humility to see that all is not right with America. Help us to know that our moral and spiritual arrogance has offended the holy God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Draw us by the love of Christ and the truth of the Gospel to conviction of sin, repentance, faith and obedience. May Your Holy Spirit bring the people of America to repentance, until one by one, we come in broken humility to receive Your forgiveness and restoration. Thank You, dear Lord, for giving us a President who publicly confesses his faith and seeks to honor You. As he faces his staggering responsibilities and necessary decisions, president George W. Bush needs your wisdom, courage and fortitude to stand assured before You. Terrorist's threaten and violent hatreds continue to confront our nation from many quarters. A war to disarm Saddam Hussein and bring freedom to the Iraqi people is looming before us. North Korea maneuvers to develop their nuclear program and take advantage of the world's tensions to promote their agenda. International tensions have reached apocalyptic proportions. I ask You to assign Your holy angels to protect our president, our national leaders and military personnel from the violence and harm that has brought us to this moment of history. Grant to our troops and their families Your mantle of divine protection in these times of uncertainty and painful crisis.

Above everything else, we ask You to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel with a Holy Spirit authored renewal and revival. May this painful moment in our history be the beginning of another "Great Awakening" like the one You used to change our nation in the past. May it touch the whole of society and bring multitudes from unbelief to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.



New Resources

THE BIBLICAL GUIDE TO ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE by Dr. Neil T. Anderson and Dr. Michael Jacobson.

Examines the many different approaches to health and explains the various forms of alternative medical practices from a solid Christian perspective. Provides a five-point grid for evaluating any medical philosophy, system or treatment in terms of these factors: 1. History 2. Faith 3. Wholism 4. Science 5. Spiritual Discernment.

Code # B31 Price \$15.00

*To order call our toll free # 877-467-4222 or fax
712-277-4090 or mail to: ICBC, 1551 Indian Hills
Drive, Suite 200, Sioux City, IA 51104*