

Stonecroft Ministries Warning  
February, 2004

This discernment paper will help you determine which [Stonecroft Ministries](#) teachings and practices do not follow God's Word, the Bible.

The original discernment paper was mailed to Stonecroft Ministries CEO, National Prayer Advisor and National Speaker Coordinator in February, 2004.

With exception of the response from former Stonecroft CEO Joyce Courtney and my responses, the paper has been revised and expanded to bring clarity. May God bless you as you seek His wisdom found only in His Word, the Bible.

## **MISSION AND VISION OF STONECROFT MINISTRIES**

Stonecroft Ministries is an interdenominational ministry outreach, mainly to women, within the United States and 64 other countries. Their mission before March, 2005 was "to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to make Him known by presenting the biblical message of salvation". As of April, 2005, their mission became "to equip and encourage women to impact their communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ." Their vision is "to provide global leadership in reaching women for Jesus Christ."

Approximately 2,000 outreach events are organized by local committees in the U.S. and Canada alone. Examples of approximate number of local outreach committees by state include Wisconsin - 53, Maryland - 13, Arizona - 29, Washington - 43, Oregon - 34, Idaho - 7 and Montana -18.

The outreach events are advertised monthly via local Christian radio and TV stations, local community newspaper ads, printed invitations and by verbal invitation.

Event format includes either a brunch, luncheon or dinner, a secular topic, secular and sacred music and a trained Stonecroft Speaker who provides a testimony explaining how Jesus Christ has made a difference in their life.

A biblical message of salvation is presented, according to Stonecroft, within the speaker's testimony and a sinner's prayer is lead at the end. Attendees are asked to complete their Guest Tickets indicating any of the following:

- I'm interested in learning how the bible applies to my life.
- I'm interested in getting together with others to pray.
- Today, I made the decision the speaker talked about.

Attendees turn in Guest Tickets upon leaving. Committee members follow up, via the phone or mail, on those who "made decisions" and indicate a desire to learn the bible and pray.

Stonecroft states they desire to present the biblical message of salvation so people have the opportunity to make decisions to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, join a bible study (Friendship Bible Coffee) and learn how to pray through a Prayer Connection event.

**In reality, is Stonecroft Ministries training their Speakers to present a fully accurate biblical message of salvation? Are those who reportedly "indicated decisions" getting involved in the bible studies and prayer events? Is their bible version accurate? Is interdenominational approach to ministry supported by scripture?**

## Letter to Stonecroft Ministries

February 23, 2004

Joyce Courtney, President & CEO  
Stonecroft Ministries  
P.O. Box 9609  
Kansas City, Missouri 64134-0609

Dear Joyce,

With much zeal for the Lord and the ministry, I've been involved with a local Stonecroft Ministries outreach for at least six years in various roles. While serving as Chairperson for two years, Sept. 01 - Aug. 03, I followed-up on those who indicated decisions after each event for Christian Business & Professional Women of Milwaukee; now renamed Women's Connection of Milwaukee.

As Chairperson, most follow-up was completed in a timely fashion. A few people were not followed up on according to guidelines; either outside stated timeframe or not called back after initial contact. For this, I apologize.

Despite some good conversations with women I reached by phone, nearly all showed no interest in continuing with a Friendship Bible Coffee or attending a Prayer Connection. The lack of response to follow-up conversations, phone messages and mailings bewildered me. I decided to review the follow-up forms from a previous term; a similar trend was noted in the lack of interest.

I went to the Lord in prayer and to His word. The Lord lead me to Proverbs 2:1-5. <sup>1</sup>My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; <sup>2</sup>So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup>Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;<sup>4</sup>If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; <sup>5</sup>Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

I heeded the scriptures and devoted time to the word of God (versus the latest Christian books) and prayer. The Lord lead in knowledge; providing understanding found in His Word.

Attached is an evaluation I prepared based on the Word of God and thorough research. It has been reviewed by Jan Behling, Regional Administrator and Cathy Grannon, Regional Representative; both local Stonecroft leaders in Southeastern/Western Wisconsin. They have encouraged me to send it to Stonecroft Ministries Headquarters.

We would look forward your thorough review and response to this evaluation in writing by Friday, March 12, 2004. Also, please include an outline of the scriptural foundation to Stonecroft's message. If you have any questions, feel free to contact reach me at - .

Sincerely,  
Christine A. Narloch, Vice Chair  
Women's Connection of Milwaukee

Cc: Meryl Bishop, National Prayer Advisor; Linda Parmer, National Speaker Coordinator

# STONECROFT MINISTERIES LOCAL OUTREACH: AN EVALUATION

Discernment Paper By Christine A. Narloch

## OUTREACH RESULTS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO STONECROFT MINISTERIES

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

FOUR FALSE TEACHINGS DEFINED

WHY THE FALSE TEACHINGS?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE FALSE TEACHINGS?

UNFRUITFUL RESULTS

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FULLFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

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## OUTREACH RESULTS

**Stonecroft Ministries states that on average, once every 57 minutes a person accepts Jesus Christ as Savior through a Stonecroft Ministries outreach event.**

### **Actual Results of "Women's Connection of Milwaukee"**

(formerly "Christian Business & Professional Women of Milwaukee")

- Out of 73 "decisions" reported to Stonecroft in a 29 month period, 10 were repeat decisions.
- Out of 63 initial first time decisions: 4 stated they were already Christians, 6 were already in a bible study, 3 were sent bible studies, 7 were not reached, **41** had no desire to join a bible study or prayer event and **2** joined an FBC.
- **Out of 43 first time decisions, only 2 people joined a bible study as a result of a local event.**

The questions are...

**1. Why were the majority of these people, 41 out of 43, not interested in a bible study (FBC)?** Joining and completing a bible study is typically an indicator of a desire to know and follow Jesus Christ through His Word. (*Acts 2:41, 42*)

DATA

Total Number of Months: Sept '01 thru Jan '04	29
Total People Indicating Decisions	73
Total Women Repeating Decisions	7

3 Women/3 Decisions ea.; 9-3 = <u>6 Repeated Decisions</u>	
4 Women/2 Decisions ea.; 8-4 = <u>4 Repeated Decisions</u>	
Total People Indicating Decisions (Includes 2 Men)	63
<b>Follow-up Results</b>	<b>Total People</b>
No Response - Left Phone Message(s)	*13
No Response - Sent Info	*17
No Friendship Bible Coffee (FBC) Interest	*11
No FBC Interest/Sent Correspondence Course	3
<b>Joined FBC after Indicated Decision</b>	<b>2</b>
Response: Already a Christian	4
Response: Already in FBC	5
Response: Already in Another Study	1
Misc.: No Answer, Wrong #; No Interest, No Info, Never Connected	7

**Note:** Most phone/letter follow-up done in a timely fashion by Chairman & FBC Coordinator. Stats documented to the best of my ability.

**2. Does God's Word instruct us to count "decisions" after an event or are we to count those who gladly received the word, were saved, baptized, added to churches (established according to 1 Tim, 2 Tim, Titus) and continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine?** The latter is stated in Acts 2:38, 40-42, 46, 47; Col 1:2.

#### TESTIMONIES FROM EVENTS

-At the February 2003 CBPW Guest Night, a neighbor of the Chairman indicated a decision for Christ on his guest ticket. The speaker prayed with him before he left the event. Since then, the man has joked that he is a heathen. When asked if he is born again, his reply was "no".

-An elderly neighbor of the Chairperson indicated a decision on her guest ticket. After the event, she shared how a TV program stated good works get us to Heaven. No interest in a bible study or returning to events.

-The Chairperson's friend had three relatives who indicated decisions during this time. None of them have indicated an interest to follow Jesus Christ.

**3. Are we to be focused on ministry results or how we are to labor according to God's Word?** 1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

**4. Are we to labor according to all of God's Word or according to man's wisdom? Can we mix the two?** 1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

**5. If we labor according to all of the God's Word, who provides the results?** 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 v6 but God gave the increase, v7 but God that giveth the increase, v8 and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. v9 For we are labourers together with God:

**6. If we labor according to man's wisdom, are there consequences?** 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

**7. Does Stonecroft faithfully labor (preach and teach the gospel) according to all of God's Word?** The following is a comparison of the Gospel according to the Bible and the Gospel according to Stonecroft.

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.  
<sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all** the counsel of God.

Acts 30:26,27

...and how shall they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:15c

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God,  
it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Cor 1:21b

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1 Peter 1:23

## PREACH & TEACH

**Scripture states that faith comes by hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17).**

**God commands us in scripture to preach and teach the Word of God including:**

God's Word (Ezekiel 2:7), Jesus Christ (Acts 5:42, 28:31), the gospel (Mark 16:15), warning every man (Col 1:28a), in all wisdom (Col 1:28b), using the law of Moses to bring the knowledge of sin (Acts 28:23, Isaiah 58:1, John 3:20); Jesus will judge sin (Acts 10:42), and about Hell (Luke 13:3 & 13:5). Jesus' death, burial, resurrection (1 Corin 15:1-4), repentance and remission of sins (Luke 24:47a), how to be saved (Acts 16:30,31). Gospel will be preached during the Tribulation (Rev 16:6-7). Only by God's Word are people born again. (1 Peter 1:23)

Repentance was preached by John the Baptist (Matt 3:2, 8), by Jesus (Matt 4:17, 9:13b, Mark 2:17b, Mark 1:15), by the twelve disciples (Mark 6:12), by Peter (Acts 3:19a and Acts 2:38ab). Repentance was spoken of by Paul (Acts 26:20).

## SCRIPTURES PERTAINING TO THE PROBLEM... LAW, SIN, JUDGEMENT, & HELL (THE BAD NEWS)

### God is Holy

- Ps 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.
- 1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.



## What is the Law? (Moral Law) Ten Commandments

- Exodus 20:1-8, 12-17 And God spake all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup> I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup> Thou shalt have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: <sup>5</sup> Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; <sup>6</sup> And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup> Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. <sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>12</sup> Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. <sup>13</sup> Thou shalt not kill. <sup>14</sup> Thou shalt not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> Thou shalt not steal. <sup>16</sup> Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. <sup>17</sup> Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

**What is the purpose of the (Moral) Law?** *Leaves one guilty before God; breaking the proud heart to receive grace.*

- Romans 3:20b for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
- Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.
- Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith
- James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. (*Romans 3:19, Romans 7:7, 11-13, Psalm 19:7a*)

## What is Sin?

- 1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves,

nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (*Deut 9:18c, Isaiah 53:6, 2 Chronicles 6:37, Romans 3:10, Isaiah 58:1, Eph 5:5*)

### **Man's Condition**

- Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
- Isaiah 64:6a But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;
- Romans 3:23a For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- James 2:9-10 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. (*John 3:19-20, Romans 3:9-18, Colossians 1:21a, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Romans 1:18, 29-32*)

### **Judgment**

- Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.
- Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

### **Hell**

- Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.
- Romans 8:34a Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died,
- Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (*Matt 10:28, Matt 23:15, 23; Luke 12:5, Luke 16:23, Romans 6:23a, Revelation 20:13-15*)

## **MORE SCRIPTURES PERTAINING TO THE SOLUTION... GOSPEL (THE GOOD NEWS)**

### **Who is Jesus?**

- John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;

## **Jesus is Sinless**

- 2 Corinthians 5:21a For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;
- 1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

## **Jesus Died On the Cross, Buried, and Rose again**

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; 4 and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: (*Romans 8:34, 1 John 1:6c*)

## **Jesus Died on the Cross because of our Sins**

- Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

## **Jesus had to Die**

- Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission (*forgiveness or pardon of sins*)
- Colossians 1:14a In whom we have redemption through his blood,

## **Jesus is the Only Way**

- John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (*Romans 6:23b, 1 John 4:10*)

## **Command to Repent, Believe and be Baptized**

- Acts 3:19a and Acts 2:38ab Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.
- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (*Acts 10:34-36;42,43 Acts 26:20b*)

- Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### **Condition of the Heart for Repentance and Faith**

- Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
- 2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
- James 4:6b & 1 Peter 5:5a Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

### **Promise: Forgiven/Sanctification/Eternal Life**

- Ezekiel 18:28, 31 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?
- Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (*Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 1:22, Romans 6:18*)

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO STONECROFT MINISTRIES

### "A NEW BEGINNING" GOSPEL PRESENTATION

FROM STONECROFT'S WEBSITE AS OF 1/28/04.<sup>1</sup>

(Bold text, underlining is my emphasis; my comments in purple.)

Would you like to start life over again? Things have not gone the way you planned. You are discouraged. You want to give up, because no one seems to care or understand. But Someone does care. Someone who loves you very much!

No matter what has happened, no matter what you have done, no matter how you have lived your life, God is personally interested in you, and He cares what happens to you. He loves you!

He understands your frustration, your loneliness, your heartaches. **He wants you to come to Him so He can take care of your greatest need and enable you to cope with life.** God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." Jeremiah 31:3b

You have lived to please yourself, but it has only brought **unhappiness**. You have left God out of your life and it has left you **empty**. **God says living to please yourself is sin.** Sin separates us from God.

(NOTE: Notice the focus on unmet needs of loneliness, unhappiness and emptiness rather than the personal acknowledgement of sinning against a Holy God due to transgressing God's moral law. How do people know they need to be saved FROM the wrath of God? No moral law mentioned, sin vague, no warnings of judgement, hell and the need to repent. More specifically, sin is the breaking of God's moral law - 1 John 3:4. Also, if someone is living to please others as stated above, the Bible says they are still a sinner in need of salvation.)

God loves you and has provided the only way to be forgiven. "But God has shown us how much He loves us, it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" 1 John 4:10

Jesus Christ not only died to pay the penalty for your sin, but He conquered death when He rose from the grave. He is alive today, and will come to live in you by His Spirit.

He will give you a new beginning if you surrender the control of your life to Him. When you ask Him to forgive your sin and enter your life, **He will enable you to live in a way that is fulfilling to you and pleasing to God.** He will give you a new life that will last forever.

(NOTE: Promise of fulfilling life? John the Baptist, Jesus, the disciples, and Paul were called to fulfill God's purposes and all martyred for their faith.

How does this presentation address happy, fulfilled people? Whether unhappy or happy, how does a person understand through this presentation they are a desperately wicked sinner deserving judgement and Hell; needing to forsake sin and follow Jesus?

There is a cost to following Jesus Christ. **2 Timothy 3:12** ...all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. **John 16:33b** In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. **1 Peter 2:21b** because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps. **1 Peter 4:1a** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: **1 Peter 5:10** But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.)

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him, may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16 (Poor translation)

Prayer for a New Beginning (The Stonecroft message of salvation does not prepare hearers to understand they're sinners deserving God's wrath, to repent, believe and follow Christ. Sinners prayer not in scripture; contents based on scripture. )

Now that I understand who Jesus Christ is and what He did for me, I want to receive Him as my Savior and Lord. Dear Lord Jesus, I do believe You are the Son of God and that you died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin. Please come into my life, forgive my sin, and make me a member of your family. I now turn from going my own way. I want You to be the center of my life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and for Your Holy Spirit, who has now come to live in me. I ask this in Your name. Amen.

Congratulations! (Paragraph reaffirming decision)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..." Revelation 3:20

**Stonecroft trains Speakers to include this "needs"emphasis within their personal testimonies.**

## STONECROFT SPEAKER TESTIMONY GUIDELINES

**EXCERPTED** from "**Speaking for Stonecroft Ministries**" Brochure (as of 2004, Rev. 1002 - No.27)

Your Purpose: To clearly communicate the most important news in the world, how to get to Heaven and how Jesus Christ has changed your life!

1. Present Jesus Christ: God's son, died for sins, buried & rose.
2. Tell how you came to know Him
  - Effective Opening Suggestions etc.
  - Establish the need in your life: attitudes or feelings about yourself that made you realize you had a "need" for Jesus Christ. (Speakers are asked to select from the LIST of unmet needs per Stonecroft's Effective Speakers"Training Guide. See the below \*LIST.)
  - Clearly present how you came to know Christ: circumstances & what you did to become a believer
3. Illustrate what God is doing in your life; Share what has changed within your since you invited Christ into your life.
  - How did God meet your previously stated (unmet) needs?
  - How God is currently meeting your needs?
  - Support some of your illustrations with Scripture, but be cautious of teaching or preaching.
4. Explain how to personally receive Christ, etc.

**NOTE:** While biblical doctrine of grace is shared, there is no presentation of "law, sin, judgement, hell and repentance" in the above guidelines. Focus is on the false teaching of "unmet needs" rather than sin. Preaching and teaching discouraged versus following scriptural commands to preach and teach the gospel.

**Special Reminders:** Refrain from:

- Naming religions, churches, denominations, or cults.
- Controversial issues (doctrinal, political or social)
- etc.

Those Indicating Decisions are invited to FBC's which use the Good News Bible; Today's English Version

**NOTE:** Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

As Paul counseled the churches, he did name names and religions and exhorted believers to expose false teachers, mark them, and rebuke them; even silence them if they are in the Church. Not to do so and remain silent is the cause of confusion. (Titus 1:13, Titus 3:10, Romans 16:17, 1 John 4:1, 1 Ti 4:1)

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**EXCERPTED** from "**Stonecrott Ministries Essential Elements for Effective Speakers**" Training Guide. 1998

**PAGE 5**, bottom

**PROBLEM: MY UNMET/FELT NEEDS LIST\***

**CONTRAST YOUR NEEDS WITH GOD'S PROVISION** (During training, the speaker trainee is told to choose 3 out of this list to include and expound on within their testimony.)

HOW I WAS	GOD GIVES	HOW I WAS	GOD GIVES
(key needs in my life)		(key needs in my life)	
anxious	_____	despair	_____
lack of purpose	_____	lonely	_____
depressed	_____	not feeling good enough	_____
disappointment	_____	no meaning to life	_____
dissatisfied	_____	perfectionist	_____
fear	_____	rejected	_____
grief	_____	unhappy	_____
hopeless	_____	unloved	_____
impatience	_____	stress	_____
low self-esteem	_____	worthless	_____



if only... \_\_\_\_\_ angry \_\_\_\_\_  
questions - no \_\_\_\_\_ left out \_\_\_\_\_  
answers

**NOTE:** This is a list of psychological "unmet needs" rather than a list of sins. What does the bible say about sin?

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man **sin** entered into the world, and death by **sin**; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have **sinned**:

For purely illustration sake, lets replace **sin** with the false teaching of **unmet needs** in this scripture to see just how unscriptural unmet needs is...

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man **unmet needs** entered into the world, and death by **unmet needs**; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have **unmet needs**:

Here's more...

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of **sins... (not unmet needs)**. 1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our **sin (not unmet needs)**. 1 John 1:6c and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all **sin (not unmet needs)**. Acts 3:19a Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your **sins (not unmet needs)** may be blotted out..., 1 John 1:9 If we confess our **sins (not unmet needs)**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our **sin (not unmet needs)**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ***Do you see the point? Using Unmet Needs as doctrine is clearly false teaching.***

## A LIST OF BIBLICAL SINS

Adultery, fornication, lust, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, false witness, coveting, stealing, filthiness, foolish talking, anger, malice, blasphemer, disobedient, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, filthy communication, vain glory, bitterness, clamour, etc. Gal. 5:19-21, Eph. 5:4,5, Col 3:5, 8, Phil 2:3, Eph 4:31, etc.

## A LIST OF GODLY CHARACTERISTICS

Upon repentance and belief, the process of growing in grace and knowledge begins. God then replaces the sin with Godly characteristics including: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, thankful, holiness, righteousness, blamelessness, soberness, vigilance, mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, longsuffering, forbearing, forgiving, etc. Gal. 5:22-23, Prov. 2:6, Col 3:12, etc.

## WHERE IS REPENTANCE?

Does the bible call people to come to Jesus to have their "unmet needs" met or to repent of their sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation? Repent and believe. Without true repentance from sin, there can be no true salvation. We are called to repent of sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, I came not to call the righteous (with unmet needs), but sinners to repentance -Luke 5:32.

If you believe someone can be saved without recognizing they are a sinner needing to repent, **Jesus said, I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Luke 15:7.**

**In Luke 13, Jesus repeats a warning twice in verse 3 and 5, I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

When someone prays a sinners prayer on the basis of getting their unmet needs met, rather than the desire to turn from sin and believe on Christ for forgiveness, there is no true repentance of sin. Acts 26:20 states, they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. Following true biblical salvation, sinful works begin being replaced with works unto God as evidence of salvation.

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## PAGE 6

### SOLUTION: JESUS CHRIST

PROBLEM: Separated from God because of sin and will spend Eternity in hell.

### SOLUTION:

### GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS)

WHAT JESUS **DID** FOR ME

Died

Buried

Rose from the dead

### GOOD NEWS RESULTS IN:

**SALVATION RESCUED FROM SIN AND HELL**

WHAT I **HAVE** BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID

Forgiveness of sin

New life in Christ  
Eternity in Heaven

**NOTE:** On this page, there is a one liner (out of the whole 9 page Training Guide) where the PROBLEM is stated biblically as "Separated from God because of sin and will spend Eternity in hell." Sin is nowhere clearly defined; neither is Hell mentioned anywhere else again in this Speaker Training Guide. **"PROBLEM: MY UNMET NEEDS"** should be **replaced** with **"PROBLEM: MY SIN"** with a biblical list of sins such as the one above.

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**PAGE 7**

**PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL**

On this page, various questions and nine scriptures are listed by Stonecroft to use within a testimony. Rom. 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, John 3:3, 1:12, Eph 2:8,9, 2 Cor 5:15, 5:17. While these are significant scriptures, none specifically define the law, sin, judgment, hell and repentance nor do they include the biblical words judgment, hell and repentance. Speakers are not required to use all of these scriptures nor expound on them. I remember a speaker trainer suggesting something about not using more than three scriptures in a testimony.

Read more about [Unscriptural Presentations of the Gospel](#), by David W. Cloud.

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**PAGE 9, EXCERPT**

**EVIDENCE OF CHANGE**


How I Was THEN

[CHRIST Made the Difference]


How I AM NOW

**NOTE:** This section is to include the "needs" from page 5. It is also stated toward the front of Training Guide that the "Evidence" must relate to your unmet needs".

## "FELT NEEDS" REQUIRED IN SPEAKER TRAINING GUIDELINES



**Q: Where do the speakers at the outreach events come from? Who are they and how do you decide if they speak for Stonecroft Ministries?**



*The Expert*

"We only have twelve times a year to present the Gospel, so I want the best speakers we can have," said Nancy Rictor, a Regional Speaker Trainer in Maryland and a Stonecroft Speaker Consultant for five states.

Nancy and others on local Planning Teams keep a listening ear for possible speakers. Once identified, those candidates are asked to submit a tape recording of their testimony talk and a manuscript for review and approval.

"We listen, we read, but mostly we pray and ask God to show us who He will use at our outreach events," Nancy said.

Stonecroft Ministries requires speakers to adhere to a set of guidelines which asks them to explain the felt needs in their lives, how they came to know Jesus Christ, and the difference He has made.

From Stonecroft Ministries Newsletter,  
Volume 1, Issue 4, November/December 2004.

### STONECROFT'S MOTTO

**"In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, and in all things charity."**

Is this biblical? Excerpt from [A LIMITED MESSAGE OR A LIMITED FELLOWSHIP](#) by Pastor David Nettleton

"The great apostle (Paul) had never allowed himself to be drawn into anything which would limit his message. He could say with a clean conscience, "I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Why cannot many say that today? In my case, and in many other cases, it was due to a desire to teach a larger audience and to work with a larger group of Christians. Many have been carried away from full obedience by a noble-sounding motto which has been applied to Christian work. "In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, and in all things charity." Some things are not essential to salvation but they are essential to full obedience, and the Christian has no liberty under God to sort out the Scriptures into essentials and nonessentials! It is our duty to declare the whole counsel of God, and to do it wherever we are."

## PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS ON PREACHING THE GOSPEL

### 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16 (emphasis mine)

1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

### FOUR FALSE TEACHINGS

#### **Integration of Psychology**

-Replaced sin with "unmet needs".

#### **Positive Message**

-Preaching and teaching replaced with reaching.

-Speakers training does not include moral law, sin replaced with "unmet needs", no judgement, hell and repentance.

#### **Corrupt Bible Translation**

-Good News Bible used for bible studies. GNB is based on corrupt text affecting many key doctrines.

#### **Ecumenicalism**

-Avoid all "controversial subjects" including doctrine differences (or false teachings) within various faiths.

-False Doctrines are ignored rather than leadership exposing them as the bible instructs to protect the flock.

-Converts are sent back into churches that preach "other" gospels ultimately leading to a false unity.

NOTE: Other issues not addressed in this paper include Stonecroft's lack of directing people to sound bible believing churches as well as the commands concerning baptism and faithful church attendance. The New Testament instructs believers to establish churches rather than organizations outside of the church. (*1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*) This organization is a parachurch organization not responsible to or directed by an established local church.

## FOUR FALSE TEACHINGS DEFINED

### 1. INTEGRATION OF PSYCHOLOGY & THE BIBLE IN GOSPEL PRESENTATION

#### PSYCHOLOGY

**Man's Condition:**

Miserable/Victim/Confused

**Man Needs:**

Security/Significance/Self Focus

**Problem:** Victim with Unmet Needs

**Solution:** Self Improvement/ Sanctification without God.

#### BIBLE

**Man's Condition:**

Rebellious/Guilty/Sinful

**Man Needs:**

Sins Forgiven/Sanctification/Follow Christ

**Problem:** Sinner condemned by the Law facing Judgement and Hell

- Use Moral Law (Ten Commandments) to bring knowledge of personal sin.

- Sin separates man from a holy God

- Judgement of Sin
- Punishment in Hell
- Command to Repent

**Solution:** Gospel of Grace - Jesus Died, Buried, Rose

**Promise:**

Forgiven/Sanctification/Eternal Life

- Sins Forgiven
- Sanctification/Holiness thru forsaking sin and following Jesus Christ
- Everlasting Life in Heaven.

**Results:**

#### PSYCHOLOGY & BIBLE

**Man's Condition:**

Miserable/Victim/Confused

**Man Needs:**

Security/Significance/Self Focus

**Problem:** Victim with Unmet Needs

- Dissatisfied, low self-esteem, unhappy; disappointed, unloved

- Sin separates man from God

- No Law used to bring knowledge of personal Sin, Judgement of Sin, and punishment in Hell
- No command to Repent

**Solution:** Gospel of Grace - Jesus Died, Buried, Rose

**Promise:**

Unmet Needs Met/ Forgiveness/ Eternal Life

- Sins Forgiven
- Jesus provides security and significance
- Everlasting Life in Heaven.

**Results:**



Humble: True Conversion  
Proud: Rejection

Humble & Proud:  
False Conversion or Rejection  
\* False Conversion lacks true understanding of personal sin in light of Holy God deserving Judgment and Hell, need for repentance; comes to Jesus for own unmet needs versus forsaking sin and following Jesus Christ.

### **Excerpted from "The Spoiling of Christianity By Psychology" by David L. Brown**

"But, as in every generation, there are those who do not want to submit to the Word of God. Freud and Jung were two such individuals from their generation. They boldly rejected the authority of the Word of God. But did not stop there. They developed a theory that claimed offered an alternative solution for the sin problem and the problems of life. It was called it psychology. Freud and Jung believed that they had found a means through which the soul of man could be perfected without having to repent of sin and submit to God. Man didn't need Jesus as his Savior, he could be his own Savior.

From this root psychology has grown by leaps and bounds with more than 250 separate systems of psychotherapy. But is even more mind boggling is that the Christian church has been duped into buying into this human wisdom. *(Integration of Psychology)* There are many Christians that have been convinced that the difficult problems of life need more than Word of God and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. But, the Bible assures us, *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"* 2 Peter 1:3 and *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.. because he trusteth in thee."* Isaiah 26:3.

Non-believers can only attain spiritual life and health by surrender to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. That is the direction the church should be pointing them. Psychological techniques, even in the name of Jesus, cannot produce spiritual life. It's time we get back to the Bible!<sup>2a</sup>

The church must minister under the function of the Holy Spirit--not according to man's wisdom. The problem is many churches and Christians have been *spoiled* by the humanly devised philosophy of psychology.

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. Colossians 2:8" 2*

## Learn more about Psychology and it's role in Christian Churches and Ministries

"[The Christian and Psychology](#)" by Pastor Gary Gilley. (Adobe Reader Required. Substitute King James scriptures when reading this article.)

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Larry Crabb, Psychologist and integrationist was noted as the main endorser of Stonecroft Ministries previous to Stonecroft's new website of April, 2005. He also speaks on Stonecroft's Caribbean Cruises.

Learn more about [Larry Crabb's beliefs](#).

Stonecroft 2005 Cruise Information featuring Larry & Rachael Crabb: [On Web](#) or [PDF format](#)

## 2. POSITIVE MESSAGE

Speakers are instructed to replace preaching and teaching during the speakers testimony with reaching. They are to "reach" with an emphasis on the speakers experiences. Yet, the bible states in Romans 10:14,15 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

No emphasis on defining personal sin in light of God's moral law, no mention of judgement, hell, and repentance. Grace Only. Psychology (unmet needs) used to draw sinner to Christ rather than exposing sin and providing the solution for their sin.

## 3. CORRUPT BIBLE TRANSLATION

### GOOD NEWS BIBLE - BELIEFS OF THE CHIEF TRANSLATOR & CHANGES Excerpt from "Good News Babel" by Terry Watkins <sup>3</sup>

"Good News Bible's chief translator was Dr. Robert Bratcher. As you'll see, Dr. Bratcher heads the class of the most heretical apostates to ever touch a mainstream Bible translation. In the Brazilian Baptist paper called O Jornal Batista [The Baptist Journal], under the "Questions & Answers" (July 9, 1953) Bratcher openly denied the deity of Jesus Christ: "Jesus Christ would not enjoy omniscience. That is an attribute of God. ... Jesus did not claim He and the Father to be one - which would be absurd." (cited in M.L. Moser, Jr., *The Devil's Masterpiece*, p. 73)

### Dr. Bratcher also ridicules the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible:

"Only willful ignorance or intellectual dishonesty can account for the claim that the Bible is inerrant and infallible ... To invest the Bible with the qualities of inerrancy and infallibility is to idolatryze it, to transform it into a false god. . ."

"Often in the past and still too often in the present to affirm that the Bible is the Word of God implies that the words of the Bible are the words of God. Such simplistic and absolute terms divest the Bible altogether of its humanity and remove it from the relativism of the historical process. No one seriously claims all the words of the Bible are the very words of God. If someone does so it is only because that person is not willing thoroughly to explore its implications. . ."

Why did Dr. Bratcher refuse to "confess" Jesus Christ as his "personal Saviour"? In a Question and Answer at the First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina, the following took place:

Question: `Why did you leave out the blood of Jesus Christ in Romans 5:9 and 14 and other places?'

Answer: `It is a matter of translation.'

Question: `Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?'

Answer: Dr. Bratcher would not answer this question.

Question: `Is the human heart by nature Man- centered or God-centered?'

Answer: `Let us stick with questions about translation.'

Question: `Is Jesus Christ God, or the same as God?'

Answer: `Jesus is not the same personality as God.'

(Donald T. Clarke, Bible Version Manual, pp. 98-99)

In another Question and Answer encounter at the First Baptist Church in North Augusta, South Carolina, Dr. Bratcher again would not answer the question:

Question: `If you should die, do you know you would go to heaven?'

Answer: Dr. Bratcher would not answer this question.'

(Donald T. Clarke, *Bible Version Manual*, pp. 98-99)

**Notice the "reflection" of Dr. Bratcher's apostate beliefs beaming off the pages...**  
(Headings from pages)

The GNB Attacks The Deity Of The Lord Jesus Christ, The Mutilation Of John 3:16, The GNB Removes The Blood, Will The Real "Bright Morning Star" Please Stand Up, The GNB Aborts The Virgin Birth, Hell Is Extinguished In The GNB, Salvation Confusion ("Being" Saved Vs Saved), Truth Not Needed, The Preacher Is Now The Philosopher, The GNB Taketh Away The Word. NOTE: Twenty scriptures have been totally removed; including notes or footnotes"

**"The GNB's primary promotion is it's ecumenical and interconfessional appeal."**

Read more about the doctrines affected by this corrupt translation. **A MOST FRIGHTFUL DECEPTION THE GOOD NEWS BIBLE AND TRANSLATOR ROBERT BRATCHER** by David W. Cloud <http://www.wayoflife.org/articles/tev.htm>

## **SCRIPTURE WARNINGS REGARDING CHANGING THE WORD OF GOD**

- Deuteronomy 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
- Proverbs 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.
- Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
- Luke 8:12 then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word. . . "2

## **Scripture Inspired by God**

- 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture (not translations) is given by inspiration of God (Orig. Hebrew & Greek, Textus Receptus text), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
- 2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

## **Scripture is Preserved**

- Psalm 12:6-7 <sup>6</sup> The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. <sup>7</sup> Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Purest English Translation is King James Version, 1611.)
- 1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
- Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

## **Searching Scripture/Confirming Truth**

- Act 17:10-12 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming [thither] went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

#### 4. ECUMENICALISM

Ecumenicalism is a movement toward a worldwide church consisting of religions (including "professed" Christian religions) joining together by:

1. agreeing on a portion of biblical doctrines,
2. ignoring the remaining biblical doctrines and
3. promoting false doctrines.

It's a religious unity movement falsely promoted in the name of God's love yet it is not based on the full counsel of God. This false ecumenical unity causes great confusion and error to those not well grounded in God's Word.

God commands true believers to ...come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (2 Cor 6:17)

Ultimately, it leads to the False Prophet's One World Religious system mentioned in Revelations 17 and 18. Rev. 18:4 states "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

See "[True Christian Unity](#)" by David W. Cloud; "[Ecumenical Excuses for Unequal Yokes](#)" by John R. Rice

## WHY THE FALSE TEACHINGS?

**NEW EVANGELICALISM MOVEMENT** - A deliberate, liberal movement AWAY from God's Word.

"Dr. Harold John Ockenga, Founder and President of Gordon-Conwell College, Boston, coined the term, "neo-evangelical", (same as "New" Evangelical) and has taken leadership in this movement as revealed in a news release of Dec. 8, 1957:" 4

Below are 4 out of 8 goals of the New Evangelicalism movement, from Fundamental Evangelistic Association Web Tracks<sup>5</sup>, that line up with Stonecroft's speakers guidelines and practices for sharing the Gospel and God's Word.

### From Track

**2. Re- thinking, re-investigating, and keeping an "open mind" regarding the fundamentals of the Faith, including the inerrancy and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. CORRUPT BIBLE TRANSLATION**

Faith in the Word of God and the Son of God are matters of God's revelation, not man's investigation (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 2:14).

**3. Practicing "infiltration" instead of Biblical "separation" with respect to compromised churches and apostate denominations. ECUMENICALISM**

It is always God's will for the faithful believer to withdraw from any fellowship that has departed from sound doctrine and practice (2 Thess. 3:6, 14; Rom. 16:17; 2 Cor. 6:14-18).

**5. Seeking to develop lines of thought and arguments which would "Christianize" pagan ideas and systems founded upon unbelief (glorification of psychology, psychiatry, astrology, etc. ) INTEGRATION OF PSYCHOLOGY WITH THE BIBLE**

Nothing is better for modern man than the absolute truth of God 's Word (Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jn. 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13).

**6. Preaching only a so-called "positive message," as often expressed by the statement, "God called me to win souls, not to criticize others." POSITIVE MESSAGE**

God calls every believer to win souls, but He also commands every believer to contend earnestly for the Faith (Jude 3-4; Acts 20:24-31).

## DOES GOD'S WORD OFFEND?

One of the reasons for watering down the preaching and teaching of God's Word, is to avoid being offensive. If the speaker is preaching and teaching based on the full counsel of God, (the moral law, sin, judgment, hell, repentance and grace) why does that offend us? Keep in mind, Jesus represents holiness, righteous as well as grace and mercy. Here's what the bible states about being offended.

Matthew 26:33 Peter answered and said unto him (Jesus), Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be **offended**.

1 Peter 2:8 Speaking of Jesus...And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of **offence**, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Matt 13:57 And they were **offended in him**. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Matthew 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is **offended**.

John 6:60, 61 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this **offend** you?

Matt 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were **offended**, after they heard this saying?

Gal 5:11e then is the **offence** of the cross ceased.

The proud will be offended by the truth of their sinful condition compared to God's holiness. My husband often spoke to me about sin before I was saved. I was very offended. Hatred comes to mind. I didn't realize I was offended by God holiness. At times, I even get offended now when my sin is laid bear before me; yet the cry of my heart should be as David cried to the Lord in Psalm 19:12, 13 12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous (willful) sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE FALSE TEACHINGS?

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: Revelation 22:18

There is great opportunity to be very ashamed before the Lord for not rightly dividing the word.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". 2 Timothy 2:15

Someday, every true believer will give an account for how they laboured including if they laboured according to the full counsel of Word of God. If the labor is not according to the Word, the believer suffers loss...

**1 Corinthians 13:8-20** Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. 18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. 20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

The reason for this paper is to do God's will by warning of error to protect the true flock as well as bring about true conversions.

### WARNING MEN

- Ezekiel 33:8-9, "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. 9 "But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.
- Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:



## WISDOM OF MAN'S WORDS

- 1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.
- 1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.
- 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
- 2 Peter 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.
- 1 Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

## WARNING OF ANOTHER GOSPEL

- Galatians 1:6-12 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. 11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 2 Timothy 4:1-5 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
- Ephesians 4:14 that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

- Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

### EXAMPLE OF CORRECTING TEACHINGS

- **Acts 18:24- 28** And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. 27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: 28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

## UNFRUITFUL RESULTS

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, Hosea 4:6a

## FALSE CONVERSIONS

- Mark 4:4-6 And it came to pass, as he sowed (God's Word), some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. <sup>5</sup> And some fell on stony ground (proud heart), where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: <sup>6</sup> But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.
- Mark 4:15-17 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. <sup>6</sup> And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; <sup>17</sup> And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

(If there are false conversions with the sowing of the Word on a stony ground hearer (proud heart), what are the potential results of sowing the Word of God mixed with man's wisdom/false teachings? False Teaching = False Conversion.)

- Matthew 7:17-20 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
- James 2:20 & 26 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

## FALLING AWAY

- 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

## END TIMES ONE WORLD RELIGION

- 1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Contributing to the fulfillment of prophecy.

For more information, visit [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)

The Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity can be purchased at the site.

## DOES STONECROFT'S "IMAGE" OUTREACH FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF NEW EVANGELICALISM?

The following words flash across the website ad: "*Empowering, Fun, Encouraging, Beautiful, Relevant, Enlightening!*" (5/05 Stonecroft is updating their site and this link is down.)

Is this how Jesus called sinners to repentance Him and to follow Him?

Sadly, the IMAGE website homepage looks more like an advertisement for a glamour magazine than a serious call to a serious faith once delivered to the saints.

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### END NOTES

1. "A New Beginning" by Stonecroft Book & Media Ministries, 1/28/04;  
<http://www.gospelcom.net/stonecroft/new%20beginning/>
2. David L. Brown, The Spoiling of Christianity By Psychology;  
[www.logosresourcepages.org/spoiling.htm](http://www.logosresourcepages.org/spoiling.htm) 1a. Albert James Dager; "Inner Healing -- A Biblical Analysis"; p.13
3. Terry Watkins; Good News Babel; [www.av1611.org/kjv/gnb.html](http://www.av1611.org/kjv/gnb.html)
4. The People's Gospel Hour; New Evangelical Dreamers;  
[www.tpgh.org/archive/books/68.html](http://www.tpgh.org/archive/books/68.html)
5. Fundamental Evangelistic Association;  
[www.fundamentalbiblechurch.org/Tracts/fbcnevan.htm](http://www.fundamentalbiblechurch.org/Tracts/fbcnevan.htm)