Mystery of Lawlessness III
How Iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #2
Fred R. Coulter

Let’s find some things here in the book *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight. He does a really good job of defining lawlessness. Lawlessness is hard to really define in some ways because what lawlessness does, it takes a lot of the commandments of God and attaches it to their ideas. The best example of the principle of where it looks like you’re doing the right thing and maybe even something that God commanded.

Here is just a principle that I want to draw on. We have the same thing today, the same kind of attitude. The carnal mind is enmity against the Law of God and God, meaning what God says.

In Deut. 1 we have a rehearsing of when God commanded them to go into the land. After the spies came back and brought the sample of the food and said it was a good land and so forth. Remember that only two of the twelve spies—Caleb and Joshua—said that it was a good land and that God would fight for them.

Moses is telling the children of Israel, Deuteronomy 1:26: “Yet, you would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God.” That’s what the carnal mind always does. The mystery of lawlessness is a combination of rebellion against God and using the commandments of God. That sounds kind of strange—doesn’t it?

We had a good example of that when I did *Refuting Sunday-Keeping* #5, where I read out of the *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin. The way that the Jews do it—in addition to Alan Dershowitz that we read last time—is that they put this *Code of Jewish Law* and encircle the Ten Commandments with so many things that you have to do so that you won’t break the commandments. That is the opposite of what God wants. God wants you to love Him and desire to keep His commandments. You don’t need all of these extra things to keep you from not breaking them. It’s a totally negative approach.

That’s what happens when people view it their way and don’t trust God. That’s what people do with the Bible. That’s why we have so much false doctrine, because they view the Bible in the way they want to do it and then preach what they want to preach. The reason we have so much confusion today, especially coming out of Protestantism, is because Protestantism is really contrary to the Bible and the New Testament, while they claim to be in harmony with it. Based upon this same principle:

- they hate the Sabbath
- they hate the Holy Days
- Sunday
- Christmas
- Easter
- New Years

Then they say, ‘By the way, God, we like the rest of Your commandments. We’ll keep them.’ Once you reject the commandments of God, it doesn’t matter what you pretend to do, otherwise you’re in rebellion.

Verse 27: “And you murmured in your tents and said… [human nature; enmity against God] …’Because the LORD hates us…” That’s the whole reason for the Gnostic lawlessness that we covered already when we went through the sermon series: *Seven Church Harvest.*

What you need to understand is this. What I’m doing in all of these things is building on the past knowledge and recent past knowledge that we have covered. What you will be getting here and the other sermon series that I have done, especially the three that fit together:

1. *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*
2. *Epistle to the Galatians: Circumcision Wars*
3. *Mystery of Lawlessness*

Those three go together—is that you will be getting an education that cannot be found in any church or any seminary. You could not find it even at Ambassador College—period—because they were taken down by the *mystery of iniquity/lawlessness*.

“…because the LORD hates us…” (v 27). That’s what people accuse God of. Remember this: The *mystery of lawlessness* always accuses God while it claims God. We’ll see that in action right here.

“…He has brought us forth out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us. Where shall we go? Our brethren have broken our hearts, saying, ‘We have seen there a people greater and taller than we are. The cities are great and walled up to heaven, also the sons of the giants are there.’ Then I said to you, ‘Do not dread them nor be afraid of them’” (vs 27-29).

Remember, these were the people who went through the Red Sea and saw what it did to them.
These were the people who saw all the plagues in Egypt.

Another thing that is true, which it shows, a miracle never convinced anybody, because a miracle is soon forgotten. How many miracles with the plagues did God bring in Egypt while the children of Israel were there and the greatest miracle of killing the firstborn and sparing them?

Verse 30: “The LORD your God Who goes before you shall fight for you, according to all that He did for you in Egypt before your eyes. [Moses is saying, ‘You saw it!’] …and in the wilderness where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came into this place.’ Yet, in this thing you did not believe the LORD your God, Who went in the way before you to search you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night, to show you by what way you should go, and in a cloud by day. And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was angry and swore, saying, ‘Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land which I swore to give to your fathers, Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him I will give the land that he has trodden upon, and to his sons... [that obviously includes Joshua because he led them in] …because he has fully followed the LORD’” (vs 30-36).

There is the key. Regardless of what your life is: your trials, your circumstances or the things that you are going through. It applies in any situation, wholly follow the Lord! He will bless you. He will take care of you. If you can’t see the blessing, if you can’t see the care, then trust God that it will be there when you’re ready. That always works. I have seen that time and again. Do not be like the children of Israel and complain against God, because you will put yourself into a spirit of lawlessness and you will cause God to get angry at you. There’s one thing none of us need. We don’t need the wrath of God.

Verse 37: “Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, ‘You also shall not go in there.’” What happened with Moses was that all the children of Israel were saying, “Give us water to drink. Give us water to drink.” God said, ‘Moses, go speak to the rock.’ Moses was so mad at the children of Israel that he took his staff and he beat it. He hit it. The water came forth, but then God says, ‘You’re not going into the promised land.’

Now, I want you to think for just a minute. Obedience is based upon belief and faith. So, when God says something, does He mean it? You might think, ‘Boy! That’s a terrible thing for God to do for Moses. After all, he was just angry and got carried away with his own emotion.’ Stop and think a minute:

- Who of all men on earth talked to God face-to-face? Moses!
- Was he, then, more responsible than anybody else? Yes, he was!

So when God said, ‘Speak to the rock,’ regardless of Moses’ anger, he should have spoken to the rock. He may have shouted, but don’t beat it. So, he didn’t go in.

Verse 38: “Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, shall go in there. Make him strong, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. And your little ones, who you said would be a prey… [victim] …and your children who in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in there. And I will give it to them, and they shall possess it” (vs 38-39). Lots of times God does this, too: takes the judgment that you give against Him and judges you!

They said that ‘Your brought our children out here in the wilderness to kill them.’ So, God said, ‘All right, your judgment is back upon your head. You will die and your children will live because you accused Me and that’s certainly is not the case.’

They decided to take things in their own hands, v 40: “But you turn and take your journey back into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.” And you answered and said to me, ‘We have sinned against the LORD; we will go up and fight according to all that the LORD our God commanded us’…. (vs 40-41).

After God has issued His judgment and His sentence is ready to be carried out, you have lost your opportunity for repentance. In a way, for those adults there, this was the unpardonable sin for their life, not spiritually speaking forever, but it was the unpardonable sin for them. They did not repent. They could not repent. Then they decided they’re going to obey God, but it’s too late.

Remember the parable of Lazarus and the rich man? The rich man said, ‘Send someone to my brothers and they will listen to them.’ Too late! So, in some of these things there comes a point when it’s too late. Here it was too late.

They said: “…we will go up and fight according to all that the LORD our God commanded us.” (v 41). They were trying to wipe away the other command where He said, ‘Now you’re not going to go.’ In both instances, they rejected the command of God.

“…And when each one of you had buckled on his weapons of war, you were ready to go up into
the hill. But the LORD said to me, ‘Say to them, “Do not go up, nor fight, for I am not among you, you will be beaten by your enemies.”’ So, I spoke to you. And you would not hear…” (vs 41-43).

That’s very important. How many times did Jesus say in the New Testament, ‘He that has an ear let him hear’? How many times did He say it to the Churches? to every one of them?

“…but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill. And the Amorites who lived in that mountain came out against you and chased you, even as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, to Hormah. And you returned and wept before the LORD. But the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear to you. So, you stayed in Kadesh many days, according to the days that you remained there” (vs 41-46).

I think the time has already come with Protestantism. I remember when I did the series on The Holy Sabbath and how that there were so many admissions:

- by Catholics
- by Protestants, including:
  - Baptists
  - Lutherans
  - Congregationalists
  - Anglicans

They all admitted that the seventh-day Sabbath was binding if you’re going to follow the New Testament.

The Catholics were the more honest, if you can say Catholics are more honest. They said, ‘Sunday is the day that we proclaim and why don’t you Protestants come back and join us again because you keep it because of the authority of the pope and no other reason.’ I believe, that at that point, Protestantism had a chance and that was their last chance. In this last 100 years that we have been going through, more or less 100 years, they have had many witnesses, but they have refused, they have refused, they have refused!

What’s happening to them? They’re all being taken down and ‘dumbed down’ and brought into the Catholic fold again! Coming from their ‘mystery of lawlessness’ into a greater ‘mystery of lawlessness’. It’s quite a thing! This is the spirit that is behind lawlessness: you claim the commandments of God, but you reject the commandments of God, and you cannot have it both ways.

from: Primitive Christianity in Crisis by Alan Knight {amazon.com}

The issue here is not disagreement about which individual rules are valid under the New Testament. It is the question of the principle of obedience to Biblical law.

Because once you reject the Sabbath, then you have your commandment for Sunday.

Those who believe in the principle of obedience to God and Biblical law are lawful, even though undoubtedly they will make mistakes in judging the application of Biblical law.

In other words, we’re all weak and we’re going to sin and make mistakes while we’re trying to obey God and keep His commandments.

On the other hand, those who include antinomian… [lawless] …doctrines about rejection of law in their beliefs are lawless. The issue becomes even more confused because those who teach against the principle of obedience to law under the New Testament at the same time teach obedience to many substitute rules.

What are the substitute rules the Catholics have?

- praying to Mary
- using the rosary
- don’t eat meat on Friday; they’ve since rescinded that
- the wafer

The whole thing is a complete substitute.

This includes many rules from Biblical law they selectively adopt while exercising their antinomian… [lawless] …right to reject or modify those they dislike.

What have the Catholics done with the Ten Commandments? They have taken out the second one entirely! Is that deliberate or not? At the same time in their Bible they retain it, but in their catechisms they delete it. Do they know that they’re committing idolatry? No question about it! And many other things. You can add that to any religion, covering the things that we did with the Jews and with the Hindus.

Combining antinomianism… [lawlessness] …with selective obedience to Biblical law, supposedly guided by the Holy Spirit, is a pattern going all the way back to Gnostic heyday of the early centuries of the Christian era.

Then he quotes James 2. Here is why James brought this out, which is a valid point that we need to follow closely and that we need to understand. That’s why we have to live in grace. We live in that grace and have opportunity for repentance when we
sin and make mistakes, but our overall thrust is to obey God and to love God.

James 2:8: “If you are truly keeping the Royal Law... [from God Who is the King, that’s why it is the Royal Law] ...according to the Scripture... [taken right out of the Scripture] ...‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’...”

Which is also in the Old Testament, by the way. So, when that is quoted, they’re quoting from the Old Testament when it’s used in the New Testament. Didn’t Jesus say that that is the second commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”?

“...you are doing well. But if you have respect of persons, you are practicing sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors... [within the Church community] ...For if anyone keeps the whole law, but sins in one aspect, he becomes guilty of all” (vs 8-10)—because there is no difference in the laws. If you break one, it’s the same as if you’ve broken all of them. Then James gives an example:

Verse 11: “For He Who said, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘You shall not commit murder.’... You can take any example that you want. He said, ‘Remember the Sabbath Day,’ also ‘Learn not the way of the heathen.’ What are the ways of the heathen? Sunday worship, Christmas, Easter and all of that!

You can plug in any law that you want, there. He that said, ‘You shall not make any idols nor bow down to them nor serve them.’ If you make a representation of something and you have pictures, statues or idols you have broken that commandment.

“...Now, if you do not commit adultery... [which is commendable] ...but you commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the Law. In this manner speak and in this manner behave: as those who are about to be judged by the law of freedom” (vs 11-12). Because the laws of God, as we saw in Refuting Sunday-Keeping #4, are not bondage.

Likewise, those Christians who proclaim their right to selectively disobey any gods on grounds of lawless religious theory are as lawless and guilty as any participant in the ‘mystery of lawlessness.’

He uses the word ‘antinomian,’ but I just change it to the word lawless. It’s easier for me to read and also to understand.

People can do that on an individual basis. It’s like a woman I talked to. She said, ‘God surely isn’t going to hold me accountable for the Sabbath—is He?’ I said, ‘Just like adultery and murder.’ She didn’t believe that. You can do it on an organizational basis. You can also hide behind the organization and say, ‘The man said...’ What does God say? ‘Beware lest anyone spoil you through vain philosophy after the traditions of men after the rudiments of the world!’ So, if ‘any man says,’ you’re still held responsible.

This is something that we really need to grasp and understand. As we do so and we go through this, think about all the churches, think about all of our Church experience that we have gone through and you can analyze and you can see why things happened the way that they did.

I talked to a man up in Alaska. If you think you’re alone, he is. Nobody there at all. He asked me would it be all right to go to another Church of God just for the fellowship. I said, ‘Yes!’ I baptized him five years ago. I told him, ‘If you can come down to San Francisco, I'll meet you and I'll baptize you.’ He came down and I baptized him. He’s been studying, getting all the sermons, everything that we have, all the sermon series that we have and all of this. He’s really been studying, which is good.

He went to this group where almost all of them have been in the Church 30 years. He came away absolutely flabbergasted. He called me and said, ‘Fred, you're right; they don't have a clue.’ They don’t, and the reason that they don’t is because they checked their brains in at the door the first time they came and never picked them up again. They have been brainwashed by this world for that very thing and by the church that they were in by that very thing. It’s going to be fulfilled in their lives that ‘they which have not, even what they have will be taken from them.’ You wait and see, that will happen.

This is not an argument about legalism. Those who believe in and pursue obedience—lawful Christians—are under grace. A very good statement; that is true. You are not under grace if you are not a lawful Christian. Why? Because you establish law by grace! I covered that in Refuting Sunday-Keeping #6.

...God does not condemn those who are under grace. Lawful Christians must try in good faith, but they don’t have to successfully sort out the law in every detail. They can make mistakes. Lawful Christians also fail to live up to God’s standards out of human weakness. Intentional lawlessness is another matter.

That’s what we’re talking about with the ‘mystery of lawlessness.’

Jude and Peter clearly demonstrate that Jesus excludes intentionally religiously lawless Christians from his grace.
He does; if this was applicable back then, just think about it today.

Jude 3: “Beloved, when personally exerting all my diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, I was compelled to write to you, exhorting you to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all time has been delivered to the saints. For certain men have stealthily crept in, those who long ago have been written about, condemning them to this judgment. They are ungodly men, who are perverting the grace of our God, turning it into licentiousness…” (vs 3-4).

Licentiousness or lasciviousness, is license, giving permission to sin. This is what you would call official permission to sin by church leaders—licentiousness/lasciviousness. When you do that, you deny God.

“…and are personally denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” (v 4).

The underlying problem, as in so many aspects of Christianity, is belief and intent. Do you believe you can pick and choose those parts of Holy Scripture that appeal to you and reject or modify any part you don’t like?….

Protestants say, ‘Yea!’ God says, ‘Nay!’

…Do you believe being under grace means law is abolished?

God says, ‘No! We establish it.’

Here, we’re not talking about making mistakes. We’re talking about conscience belief that law as a principle has been abolished and replaced by our own judgment, or the dictates of a religious leader, or the mystical inspiration attributed to the Holy Spirit.

So, when you talk to people about Sabbath-keeping vs Sunday-keeping… I talked to a man who is a Sunday-keeper. He says, ‘I know Sabbath is the right day, but most people go to church on Sunday and God knows my heart.’ There you have it. Yeah, God knows his heart. He rejects God’s laws. Willful disobedience!

As we saw in the great example of Nicholas and his followers, such beliefs invariably lead to disobedience.

This is what we have. Just the past week, I was listening to a tape by a minister from Santa Cruz. All he did was talk about stories and emotions. He started out saying that legalism is what kills Christian joy. True statement! That legalism is all of the manmade rules, which they have added. True! Then he turns around and he rejects all the commandments of God. A perfect example of the ‘mystery of lawlessness’ at work. Now, under this section:

Inner-spirituality vs Obedience

The issue of antinomianism extends well beyond simple disobedience. We can better understand the workings of antinomianism by understanding its obsession with inner-spirituality. Where Christian antinomianism goes astray—another point where it crosses over the line—is in its claim that inner spirituality is fundamentally incompatible with obedience to Biblical law.

It’s like this man said, ‘God knows my heart. I’ve just justified myself. It’s all right for me to break the Sabbath and keep Sunday.’

Christian antinomianism frequently argues that obedience must be entirely voluntary, ‘from the heart.’

Then they take a principle that is true and twist it.

Indeed, that is an important Biblical doctrine. Scripture says God’s law are to be written on our hearts (Jer. 31:33).

We have that also in Heb. 8 &10

Paul says the law is spiritual. True!

However, while the Bible clearly promotes lawful obedience that is spiritual and from the heart, Christian antinomianism argues the opposite. It insists that the codified laws and inner-spirituality are incompatible. It claims that regarding obedience in any way as obligatory, distracts from the inner-spirituality….

That is the argument! Never broaching one point that you have to repent, be baptized and receive God’s Spirit. That’s why the Protestant call to salvation is just accept Jesus in your heart and say, ‘Lord, I know You died to pay for my sins,’ and You are saved. That is a lie! That is lawlessness! Jesus says, ‘Repent!’ Peter says, ‘…and be baptized.’

Specifically, it argues that rejecting the law as an obligation, i.e. treating the law as optional, viewing the law is a good thing perhaps but having no effect on salvation, is a necessary step without which one can nevertheless achieve inner-spirituality.

Very well said. Very well put. That’s exactly what happens. You listen to any of these Protestants. Here in our area of California we don’t have any religious channels. Most areas they have the Trinity Broadcasting System. They have a code of conduct
that everyone has to conform to. You must believe in the trinity and you must not speak evil of any of the others. We have you censured and we have you squeezed in a vice so we can continue ‘our loving lawlessness.’ Lawlessness generally follows these principles/stages:

In the **first stage** generally one still affirms that obedience to Biblical law is a good thing, just that there is no obligation….

They say, ‘If you want to, that’s fine, but God doesn’t demand it.’ Why did He give the commandment if He doesn’t demand it? He says, ‘Remember.’ So, you forget!

…Even in this early stage a lack of obligation is viewed as a necessary factor in achieving spirituality. One cannot generally worship God from the heart when there is a sense of obligation.

That’s something!

Nevertheless, they say…

Now, if you have no sense of obligation, there’s no sense of repentance—right? Think on that.

…“I’ll still obey Biblical law out of love because it hurts my Savior’s feelings if I don’t.”

If you don’t, your Savior is going to cast you into the Lake of Fire because He’s not going to save you in your sins. He wants to save you **from** your sins.

Some primitive Christian groups today are beginning to teach… [various] …versions of this idea. Stage one antinomianism… [lawlessness] …can be very difficult to distinguish from true Biblical teachings that obedience must be from the heart. Perhaps the best indication that one has crossed over into stage one antinomianism… [the bridge into stage one of lawlessness] …is the presence of the argument that even those who willfully disobey are saved, or that the very principle of law ended with the Old Testament

**either one**

In the subsequent **second stage**, one reasons: “Well, if deep inner devotion and love of God are the critical factor, then the exact manner in which I express it cannot be important.” This is only a logical extension of the underlying idea of antinomianism… [lawlessness]. The only important thing is inner-spirituality itself….

**how you feel inside**

Now, what is the whole movement of self-development, self-esteem? What is it based upon? *That you feel good about yourself regardless of what you do!* That is an outgrowth of the religious environment that they’ve had in America with Protestantism and Catholicism the way that it is. It’s a natural extension. Only that is completely secular. They might add in the name of God, as Zig Ziglar does once in a while. They can be very inspiring about how you can improve yourself. Can you improve yourself to a certain degree using carnal means? Yes! Does that make you spiritual? *No!*

…“If I have love in my heart, who gives me the right to say how I should express it externally?….

It’s like one man who was a deacon in the Southern Baptist Church, and he read the command, ‘relieve the widows.’ So, he went around and committed adultery with all the widows in the church and read the Scripture that it was his duty to relieve the widows. He was loving God and doing the right thing. *That’s how twisted these things can be!*

…I can make up my own rules if I want…

**interpret the Bible any way that I want**

…and of course, I feel the Holy Spirit will lead me to do something pleasing to our Savior. I can express myself through Sunday observance if I so choose. Still, it’s not wrong if you want to express your spirituality by observing Biblical law. You are free to go either way….

Did that not happen in Worldwide?

• you can keep Sabbath if you want to
• you can keep clean and unclean if you want to, but you don’t have to
• if you want to keep Sunday you can
• come to the Feast of Unleavened Bread and we’ll have a table with leavened bread and a table with unleavened bread
• we’ll have a section with unclean foods and a section with clean foods
• you can have your choice

You see the step? *That’s what happened to Worldwide, which was taken down the lawless path!*

…but to say I’m obligated or even that I *should* express my spirituality in a specific way is a return to legalism.”

In the final and **third stage**, one comes to realize the true spiritual drag of Biblical law.

*I am free! Then it generally centers around, ‘We have love for Jesus.’*
Because of all the baggage of the Old Testament and it’s teachings about obligation and punishment, Biblical law by nature risks drawing you back into the idea that you are saved by obedience.

So you get rid of it!

It draws you away from the intense emotions of inner spirituality, voluntary worship and grace. That means that the Sabbath is spiritually dangerous and should be avoided while Sunday is not. It is impossible to redeem Biblical law contaminated by the Old Testament.

Those are the stages of the mystery of lawlessness!

In the book by Russell K. Tardo—he’s supposedly a doctor but of what I don’t know—Sunday Facts and Sabbath Fiction, which when I am done with it, I will show you that it is Sunday fiction and Sabbath facts.

From: Sunday Facts and Sabbath Fiction by Russell K. Tardo:

Sabbath-Keeping Endangers the Soul (Sunday Facts.pdf)

Sabbath keepers endanger their very souls by attempting to return to the law and bondage.

Did we not just read that’s the third stage of Christian lawlessness? Yes!

In Paul’s day, the church in Galatia had fallen under the influence of false teachers. Formerly Paul had ministered there with great success, and large numbers of people, mostly Gentiles, were converted to Christ.

He’s twisting it all up. He does not even know what the problem is in Galatia. Notice what he says here.

...soon there arose an epidemic of circumcision and “holy day” keeping among them (Gal. 4:8-11)....

He does not even know the problem of circumcision back there, which you will understand in the sermons I’ve done on the Circumcision Wars (Epistle to the Galatians). He does not understand that those days he’s talking about back there, are not the Biblical Holy Days, but they are the world’s and pagan’s holidays, which are based around witchcraft that they were doing. That’s what he says here.

While the Old Covenant was one of bondage, law, and death, the New Covenant was one of liberty, righteousness, and life....

...Therefore, the Christian is to stand fast is his Christ-given liberty from all works-law bondage (cf. Gal. 3:10-12). Christ did not die for us to remain in the entanglement of the yoke of the law in any aspect.

The law was not a yoke! Sin was the problem. The code of Jewish law was the yoke of bondage! This is amazing stuff! This is living today.

Most of those Churches that profess to be Christian are in fact part of the mystery of lawlessness, and today too many people are so spiritually incapable of rendering a proper judgment, that they don’t know it. They do not know it!

This is something! This whole thing about what we’re going through. All of this, you can say everything that I’m covering now and doing right now, in a sense, is kind of a prelude and a build-up for the sermon series on the book of Hebrews.

One thing we’re going to learn, brethren, we are not going to stand still! We are going to be learning things that will ground you so solid, that you will be able to make proper judgments in these things. You will be able to see the flaws as they come along.

1-Peter 1:12: “To whom it was revealed that, not for themselves, but to us they were ministering these things, which now have been announced to you by those who have preached the Gospel to you by the Holy Spirit, sent from heaven—into which things the angels desire to look. For this reason, be prepared in your minds, be self-controlled, and be fully hoping in the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children…” (vs 12-14).

There’s that nasty word that they hate. As long as you obey their dictates, you’re just fine. As long as you obey the pope, you’re a good little child. We’ll read about Dr. Billy Graham. I read a little bit last time, but I didn’t read the whole thing. That is absolutely shocking.

“...do not conform yourselves to the former lusts, as you did in your ignorance. But according as He Who has called you is Holy, you yourselves also be Holy in all your conduct; for it is written, ‘You be Holy because I am Holy.’ And if you call upon the Father, Who judges according to each man’s work without respect of persons, pass the time of your life’s journey in the fear of God” (vs 14-17).

(� go to the next track)

Verse 17: “And if you call upon the Father, Who judges according to each man’s work…” If your works are not in obedience and love to God,
then guess what the judgment’s going to be? Most people turn around and judge God!

“…without respect of persons, pass the time of your life’s journey in the fear of God; knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things, by silver or gold, from your futile way of living, inherited by tradition from your forefathers” (vs 17-18). That is the mystery of lawlessness, the pagan version or the Jewish version, it makes absolutely no difference whatsoever.

Let’s take on the Buddhist, another mystery of lawlessness, meaning that you can disobey God. In their particular case, they don’t believe in any set god. There are some things in here that I left off last time reading from this.

Since we have that, let me just stop right here and just show you what some of Buddhism is; this is called The Connection Magazine. What it really is, it is the witchcraft spiritism magazine. That’s what it is. On the border around it, it says:

- Martial Arts
- Dining and Wine
- Sex and Sensuality
- Women
- Ecology
- Parenting
- Education
- Massage Hemp, which is marijuana by the way
- Health
- Fitness
- Fun
- Art
- Adventure and Awareness

Awareness of what? Demons! Whenever you have this awareness thing, they’re aware of demons.

- Yoga
- Pets
- Business
- Astrology
- Travel
- Computing

I’m just going to read a couple of things in here. There are ads in here for everything. On the front it says, ‘Compassion for our earth, our world, our animals.’ That’s the keynote of the Dalai Lama: compassion and tolerance.

ad from The Connection Magazine

Are you magic? Nontraditional therapy that goes to the heart of the matter and heals us at our deepest levels.

Justification of your problems without repentance; that’s what it is.

Are you magic? Intuitive counseling, rebirthing… whatever that means

- hypnotherapy…
- demonism
- …healing the body and mind…
- demonism

But we charge you reasonable rates after that.

Mind, body, spirit
Meditation
Chanting, meditation
This is all witchcraft! This world is getting caught up in it.

I’ve been listening to some tapes from a man who came out of astrology and witchcraft. He was born into a family of practicing witches. It’s amazing the stories that he tells. Please understand that the whole world has been programmed to receive it. The children have! The adults have! Ninety percent of the things that you watch on television are based around satanism and witchcraft, beginning with Walt Disney.

If you don’t believe me, just sit down and watch it. Watch the advertisements for the movies. Read the advertisements in the paper concerning the movies. It’s all death, blood, gore, demonism and satanism, to program you, to get you to accept the coming of the beast. Who is going to be the result of the mystery of lawlessness.

So, we’re right back where we started out, the very first Scripture that I read. Harry Potter’s book, yes! Absolute evil! Abomination! Yet, it’s a best seller. ‘Oh well, at least we’re getting children to read.’ Give them a Bible ‘dodo’ and maybe they’ll learn something, instead of having them learn how to cut up, boil and eat human flesh. All of that is the result of the mystery of lawlessness. Please understand that.

Heart, Spirit and Groove

Tibetan monks bring us compassion. Compassion is a much need virtue in today’s turbulent world. Tibetan monks from the Sed Gelug Dratsang Tantric College…

I like that name Tantric. They’re going to ‘trick’ you into it.

…will construct a mandala of compassion. This beautiful event, the San Mandala of Compassion, the Tibetan sacred art form, is
presented by the Museum of Art and History…

That makes it all right. In the name of art and history, we can teach rank paganism.

…and The Healing Buddha Center of Santa Cruz. With the opening ceremony August 15, 2000 at 12:00 p.m. The public is invited to watch the monks work and view the creation of the mandala during opening museum hours.

They intricately lay out these dyed grains of sand and they meticulously place them to make what is called a mandala, which is a demon artwork. Then what they do when it’s over is they take it apart and this is supposed to bring compassion to the whole world.

I tell you what, we need to understand what has happened to this whole nation and the whole world. They’re all wrapped up in witchcraft and demonism, beginning with the President right on down.

Revelation 17:5: “And across her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

I just read to you a Tibetan pagan abomination in making the mandala. That is an abomination. Any practice of Buddhism, witchcraft or any of those things or any practice of lawlessness, is an abomination to God.

Revelation 18:3: “Because all nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the power of her luxury.”

Why? Because it’s all wrapped up in demonism and Satan is deceiving this whole world!

Isn’t that the mystery of lawlessness? There is no one way to the Truth, which contradicts the Bible! I am sure that not one of those simple-minded, deceived, so-called Christians sitting there in the lotus position listening to him expound on the New Testament, ever raised one voice of objection to what he said, that there’s ‘no one single way to the Truth.’ The very book that he’s going to comment on, the Words of Christ in Matt. 5-7, contain these Words of Christ, first person singular:

John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the Way… [not a way but the Way] …and the Truth, and the Life…”’ One of the things that you can point out with the mystery of lawlessness, regardless of the religion, is that they say that there is no single way to the Truth.

He gently, but firmly and repeatedly, resisted suggestions that Buddhism and Christianity are different languages for the same essential beliefs.

But he turns around and shows how similar they are from his perspective.

This is where this adds credence to what I suggested some time ago. I do believe it will happen. I believe they will bring out a new world Bible, bringing in all the major religions. They’re going to take some things out of:

- the Old Testament
- the New Testament
- the Buddha religion
- the Hindu religion
- Judaism
- Catholicism
- Orthodoxy
- Shamans
• Animist

Maybe even some wisdom of the Aborigines, the naked and rejected wanderers that stream all over the continent of Australia.

With regard to ethics and the emphasis on compassion, brotherhood, forgiveness, he acknowledged similarities, but in as much as Buddhism does not recognize a Creator God or a Personal Savior, he cautioned against people calling themselves Buddhist Christians.

That’s what we have today. We even have Buddhist Jews. There’s a Buddhist Seder. Can you believe that?

…just as one should not try “to put a yak’s head on a sheep’s body.”

That’s what they are doing. Look at the society that they are developing. He’s a very part of helping build it.

This stuff is unreal. Brethren, I want you to understand that we are living in the time when these things are being fulfilled before our very eyes. How many people are so sound asleep and spiritually dead that they can’t recognize it? Yet, the apostles and all of those down through history wondered, ‘What would these things be? How would these things be? Here we’re sitting in the time when these men are alive and saying these things. This ought to give us a real sense of urgency what we’re doing.

Notice this beast that they’re building here, Revelation 13:2: “And the beast that I saw was like a leopard… [the body of a leopard] …and his feet like the feet of a bear… [Ever seen a leopard with bear’s feet?] …and his mouth like the mouth of a lion… [he probably had a lion’s head] …and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne and great authority.”

So, the Dalai Lama says, ‘One should not try to put a yak’s head on a sheep’s body.’ Nor should you try and put a lion’s head on a leopard, give him the feet of a bear, give him the mouth of a lion and let him speak like a man. This is unreal stuff.

Let me find some more in this book by the Dalai Lama. Here is the catch: they base everything on feelings. No one understands that demons base things on cause and induce feelings: depressions, joy, all those things. Now, listen to this.

For many Christians, attending ecumenical conferences, like going to church, is “no picnic.” But, of course, feasting and celebration are as much a part of the symbolism and reality of Christianity as they are of all religions. Hearing the Dalai Lama comment on the Gospels was definitely a feast. What impressed and surprised everyone was how much the “outsider” touched them.

So, the demons were right there working.

The exile, the person with no authority over Christians except that which was given by the Spirit, was able to show people of every faith the riches of their own banquet.

Isn’t that an amazing statement? So what they did they asked him to come and comment on the Christian Gospels.

Introduction:

The Dalai Lama has also spoken about this factor of presence in the description of his meetings with Thomas Merton. It was this same chemistry of presence…

When there is a ‘chemistry of presence,’ it’s two demons greeting each other with a purpose to work together.

…that ensured the meaningful dialogue.

Presence is one of the most important lessons The Good Heart has to teach us—Buddhists, Christians, and the followers of all faiths—if we are to learn a better way to respond to the contemporary challenge to dialogue….

Words cannot achieve a successful dialogue if presence is not there. And without this insight, words can go wildly wrong.

In his opening remarks, the Dalai Lama spoke about the importance of all the different forms of dialogue being practiced today between religions….

Since this book was printed, the Dalai Lama has been buddy-buddy with ‘El Popo’ John Paul II. Remember that picture, sitting in the meeting holding a candle? A candle is a symbol of worship of the fire-god, the sun-god. This is like demon spirits that link minds. It gives the presence.

…He affirmed the importance of scholarly dialogue. But he also said that he felt the most important and—to use a characteristic term for a Buddhist—the most effective dialogue was not intellectual exchange…

In other words, you don’t use your mind.

…but a conversation between sincere practitioners from the position of their own
faiths, a conversation that arises from a sharing of their respective practices.

This idea is common to Christian and Buddhist thinkers….

Not to Christ! Here was the reason for this meeting.

John Main’s…

Who is the one who started it and who met the Dalai Lama and they had this instant presence.

…insistence that it was necessary for Christians to recover the contemplative dimension of their faith was based on the assertion that we must “verify the truths of our faith in our own experience.” What is new about this idea in the context of The Good Heart is that the concept is applied to dialogue between different faiths, and not just to the deepening of the discovery of one’s own traditional religious beliefs.

This is very challenging and, to many sincere practitioners, also disturbing. It suggests that there exists a universal, underlying level of common truth that can be accessed through different faiths….

The mystery of lawlessness!

…When people of different faiths are in experiential dialogue with one another, the truth can be experienced through their willing suspension of exclusivity toward one another.

Meaning that you let down your guard and you don’t keep to your faith! You reject the Word of God and you let in whatever you want!

If this is true, then does it follow that each particular faith is no more (no less?) than a particular door into the great audience chamber of Truth?…..

Amazing! This is amazing stuff!

…If, as the Dalai Lama believes, the proof and authentication of all religions is the realization of a good heart…

What does God say about the heart? ‘It is desperately wicked, who can know it!’

…a human being’s innate qualities of compassion and tolerance, the same standard can be applied to dialogue, which has today become an important work and activity of all religions.

In the past, religious action could be viewed more narrowly in terms of the celebration or exploration of one’s own beliefs or rituals. Today an additional element has entered human religious activity, as we enter with empathy and reverence into the beliefs and rituals of other faiths without adopting them as our own…..

In other words, all the daughters get together, sit around and dialogue. Remember Mystery Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots? So, all the harlots are around, and they’re agreeing! All of the little harlots are gathered around now, and they’re discussing their experiences. They’re finding that they’ve had the same experience in the mystery of lawlessness as everybody else. Isn’t that wonderful and grand?

The fruit and authentication of this new activity, largely unknown to earlier generations of humanity or even regarded by them as disloyal and blasphemous, is the same as that of all religions: compassion and tolerance. Dialogue should make us not only feel better about others but also make us more conscious of ourselves and more true to our own essential goodness….

A ‘feel good’ religion.

Let me just finish the Dalai Lama with this. Please understand. I’m just reading certain sections out of this book. This book has nearly 200 pages in it. I’m just pointing out how you can detect the mystery of lawlessness. This will be the proof of the pudding.

One of my fundamental convictions is that basic human nature is more disposed toward compassion and affection. Basic human nature is gentle, not aggressive or violent. (wisdompubs.org/book/good-heart/selections)

Let’s read what Jesus says about basic human nature. If that is so, how come in your Buddhist countries you have such:

- hatred
- war
- ravage
- pestilence
- poverty
- darkness
- blindness
- stupidity

Go home and bring compassion and tolerance to them. Open their eyes to see the Truth of God, then you will do a good job. Don’t bring us your nonsense under the guise of a ‘good heart.’

Mystery of Lawlessness #3

How Iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #2
Let’s go back to Gen. 6 and let’s see how God assesses it. Let’s see what happens when you have a society come all together under the occult, which is happening today. Occultism is witchcraftism. That is pervading the whole world in various forms. People can’t recognize it because they’re not familiar with it and they haven’t studied the Word of God to know that God says; that everyone who does these things are an abomination to Him, ‘and it shall not be found so among you.’

Gen. 6—here’s how God looks at it. Remember:
- as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man
- how violent and hateful this world is
- all the murders, all the abortions
- all of the accidents
- the things that happen to people

Genesis 6:5: “And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Mankind may have moments of kindness and tolerance. He may be able to show some love and compassion, but his basic nature is not that way. If it’s that way, then I ask the Dalai Lama, ‘Why do you have to spend you whole life in meditation trying to keep and discipline yourself in that way, if it is part of human nature?’

Genesis 8:21: “And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in His heart, ‘I will not again curse the ground for man’s sake—although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will not again smite every living thing as I have done.’” That’s basic human nature. We could go on and on with it.

Human goodness, human carnality and making yourself better works for a while. Can you make yourself pleasant by putting away anger? Yes, you can! Does that remove anger from your heart? No, it does not! Can you become more tolerant by not picking at people? Yes, you can! You can also get deluded unto accepted things that are not right. Here’s what Jeremiah said and he was the only righteous man around.

Jeremiah 10:23: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his steps…. [speaking of himself] …O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing” (vs 23-24).

Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

All basic Scriptures! Brethren, the way that you discover the mystery of lawlessness is to discover and to know these basic Scriptures and never forget them.

Proverbs 14:12: “There is a way which seems right to a man…” That means upright and just.

To these people here at this seminar having the Dalai Lama over there, going through the meditative experiences and hearing him talk about Matthew 5-7—‘Love your neighbor as yourself’—reminds me of the Buddha expression, ‘Blah, blah, blah, blah.’ They were enthralled! The demons stirred them up! They though this was a wonderful experience and here’s a man who doesn’t even believe in God. Amazing! It seemed right. It seemed good. It was so wonderful that they wrote a book on it. Isn’t that amazing?

“…but the end thereof is the way of death.” (vs 12). That’s repeated in Prov. 16:25: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death.”

Proverbs 16:2: “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes...” Because:
- he’s going to justify it
- he’s going to make it right
- he’s going to find a way around it

“...but the LORD weighs the spirits” (v 2).

We’ve done an awful lot on Catholicism in the past and I’ve got the pope’s book here. I saved him for last because he’s ‘the man.’ He is the false prophet, and he is the one who is going to lead all of them together. This is called Crossing the Threshold of Hope by ‘his holiness’ so-called, Pope John Paul II. By the way, the Dalai Lama is called ‘his holiness,’ too. So, you have the spirits of the East and the spirits of the West getting together.

By the way, in listening to this tape I’m listening to about witchcraft, the only difference between the altar of the Catholic Church and the altar of witchcraft is that the altar in the Catholic Church no longer has the dagger there. It’s identical! He says what they practice is witchcraft! No question about it!

Why this book, Crossing the Threshold of Hope? The long and the short of it is, get to know the pope and don’t be afraid of him, which is an ecumenical propaganda statement. That’s the whole sum of it. Notice how slick this is.
Your Holiness, my first question will go right to the point. Therefore, please understand if it is longer than those that follow. In front of me is a man dressed in the white of ancient custom, with a cross over his chest. This man who is called the Pope (from "father," in Greek) is a mystery in and of himself, a sign of contradiction. He is even considered a challenge or a "scandal" to logic or good sense by many of our contemporaries.

I want you to see how clever this is done to knock down resistance.

Confronted with the Pope, one must make a choice. The leader of the Catholic Church is defined by the faith as the Vicar of Jesus Christ (and is accepted as such by believers). The Pope is considered the man on earth who represents the Son of God, who "takes the place" of the Second Person of the omnipotent God of the Trinity.

Notice how they hold him in such a powerful office.

Each Pope regards his role with a sense of duty and humility, of course, but also with an equal sense of confidence. Catholics believe this and therefore they call him "Holy Father" or "Your Holiness."

Nevertheless, according to many others, this is an absurd and unbelievable claim....

Now he’s knocking down all resistance of the Protestants and other religions to look to the pope as the religious leader.

The Pope, for them, is not God's representative. He is, instead, the surviving witness of ancient myths and legends that today the "adult" does not accept.

Give him a few miracles and how many will accept him? They will run! They will go gaga! Here’s the pope’s answer.

My explanation begins by clarifying words and concepts. Your question is infused with both a lively faith and a certain anxiety. I state right from the outset: “Be not afraid!” This is the same exhortation that resounded at the beginning of my ministry in the See of Saint Peter.

Christ addressed this invitation many times to those He met. The angel said to Mary: “Be not afraid!” (cf. Lk 1:30). The same was said to Joseph: "Be not afraid!" (cf. Mt 1:20). Christ said the same to the apostles, to Peter, in various circumstances, and especially after His Resurrection. He kept telling them: “Be not afraid!”....

I want you to notice how he’s twisting Scripture. He’s stating ‘truisms,’ which are part of the mystery of lawlessness. You state things that are true and then you misapply them.

He sensed, in fact, that they were afraid. They were not sure if who they saw was the same Christ they had known. They were afraid when He was arrested; they were even more afraid after his Resurrection.

The words Christ uttered are repeated by the Church. And with the Church, they are repeated by the Pope. I have done so since the first homily I gave in St. Peter's Square: "Be not afraid!" These are not words said into a void. They are profoundly rooted in the Gospel. They are simply the words of Christ Himself.

Isn’t that wonderful? The pope quotes Christ and of the mystery of lawlessness, outside of Protestantism. I’m going to save Protestantism for the next time because that will require the whole sermon. There is a lot we can cover there. Catholicism is next to the most important one and everyone is running to the Catholic Church.

Returning to your question, I would like to recall the words of Christ together with my first words in St. Peter's Square: “Be not afraid.” Have no fear when people call me the “Vicar of Christ,”...

They ought to because that’s a blasphemous title.

...when they say to me "Holy Father," or "Your Holiness," or use titles similar to these, which seem even inimical to the Gospel. Christ himself declared: "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah" (Mt 23:9-10). These expressions, nevertheless, have evolved out of a long tradition, becoming part of common usage. One must not be afraid of these words either.

In other words, he’s saying, ‘Do not be afraid to disobey God to follow me.’ Think on it! Most people read those things and it sails over their head.
They don’t know how to read critically or analyze critically or understand things critically.

Every time Christ exhorts us to have no fear, He has both God and man in mind. He means: *Do not be afraid of God*, who, according to philosophers, is the transcendent Absolute….

So now, he’s bringing in philosophies. What did Paul say? ‘Let no man deceive you with philosophy and vain deceit.’

…Do not be afraid of God, but invoke Him with me: "Our Father" (Mt 6:9). *Do not be afraid to say "Father"!* Desire to be perfect just as He is, because He is perfect. “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48).

Christ is the *sacrament of the invisible God*-a sacrament that indicates presence….

Did we read presence over here in this book on The Good Heart with the Buddha? Yes!

…God is with us. God, infinitely perfect, is not only with man, but He Himself became a man in Jesus Christ. *Do not be afraid of God who became a man!*…

You quote Scripture like that and with the little slight of hand to misapply it, most people never even get it. ‘Spin control.’ You bet!

Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, *Christ could have confidence in Peter*, He could *lean on him*…

**Come on! Spare me!**

…on him and on all the other apostles-even on Paul, who still persecuted Christians and hated the name Jesus.

Against this background, a historical background, expressions such as “Supreme Pontiff,” “Your Holiness,” and “Holy Father” are of little importance….

They are of vast importance.

…What is important originates in the Death and Resurrection of Christ.

**He makes the statement:**

What is important is that which comes from the power of the Holy Spirit.

*and they don’t mean that the way that we do.*

For example, Peter, together with the other apostles, and (after his conversion) Paul became *authentic witnesses of Christ, faithful unto the shedding of their blood.*

You rightly assert that *the Pope is a mystery.* You rightly assert that he is a *sign that will be contradicted,* that he is a *challenge.*

Then the pope takes that to himself because the old man Simon said of Christ Himself that He would be a sign that would be contradicted. So, therefore, as the vicar of Christ, sitting there in place of Christ, he takes it that way. I’m coming to where all this is going to lead.

**The Mother of God**

The renewal of Marian theology and devotion-in continuity with Catholic tradition-is another distinctive characteristic of the teaching and pastoral activity of John Paul II. *Totus Tuus* (“I am completely yours, O Mary”)…

That’s what those Latin words mean.

…is the motto you chose for your papacy. Furthermore, for some time now there have been rumors and reports of mysterious apparitions and messages of the Virgin Mary; as in earlier centuries, crowds of people are setting out on pilgrimage. Your Holiness, what can you tell us about this?

*Totus Tuus.* This phrase is not only an expression of piety, or simply an expression of devotion. It is more. During the Second World War, while I was employed as a factory worker, I came to be attracted to Marian devotion. At first, it had seemed to me that I should distance myself a bit from the Marian devotion of my childhood, in order to focus more on Christ. Thanks to Saint Louis of Montfort, I came to understand that true devotion to the Mother of God is actually *Christocentric,* indeed, it is very profoundly rooted in the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity…

Which is part of the ‘mystery of lawlessness.’

…and the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption. And so, I rediscovered Marian piety, this time with a deeper understanding. This mature form of devotion to the Mother of God has stayed with me over the years, bearing fruit in the encyclicals *Redemptoris Mater* and *Mulieris Dignitatem.*

In regard to Marian devotion, each of us must understand that such devotion not only addresses a need of the heart, a
sentimental inclination, but that it also corresponds to the objective truth about the Mother of God. Mary is the new Eve, placed by God in close relation to Christ, the new Adam, beginning with the Annunciation, through the night of His birth in Bethlehem, through the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, through the Cross at Calvary, and up to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Mother of Christ the Redeemer is the Mother of the Church.

That's where the Catholic ‘mystery of iniquity’ leads to! There are books and books on Catholic stuff; you can read those. All are those are basically true.

All Scriptures from The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version

Scriptural References:

1) Deuteronomy 1:26-46
2) James 2:8-12
3) Jude 3-4
4) 1-Peter 1:12-18
5) Revelation 17:5
6) Revelation 18:3
7) John 14:6
8) Revelation 13:2
9) Genesis 6:5
10) Genesis 8:21
11) Jeremiah 10:23-24
12) Jeremiah 17:9
13) Proverbs 14:12
14) Proverbs 16:25, 2

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

• Jeremiah 31:33
• Hebrews 8; 10
• Matthew 5-7; 5:48

Also referenced:

Books:

• *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight
• *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried & Goldin
• *Sunday Facts and Sabbath Fiction* by Russell Tardo
• *The Good Heart: A Buddhist Respective on the Teachings of Jesus* by Dalai Lama
• *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* by His Holiness Pope John Paul II
  (excerptsofinri.com/printable/crossing_the_threshold_ofhope-popejpii.pdf)

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