

# Bulletin For Biblical Christianity Today



June 2015

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Published by Truth International Ministries

*But This MAN, because HE continues ever, has an unchangeable priesthood. (Heb. 7.24)*

*(Substance of a recent message by Dr. Ronald Cooke. Preached at Cleveland Park Bible Church, Spartanburg S.C. Pastor Dr. Ken Casillas)*

## THERE ARE NO SACRIFICING PRIESTS TODAY IN THE CHURCH

The rapid rise of MULTI-FAITH meeting places in the world today has garnered a lot of attention in the news media. These places claim they are converting to a more inclusive message and so are becoming more inclusive in their membership. John Shuck, pastor of a Presbyterian Church, in Beaverton, Oregon, publicly invites those who would want to come and worship with him to "bring your own God" to our church.

D.E Paul, son of a mega-church pastor claims that his church recognizes all gods, and all prophets, including Mohammed. He founded Spirit and Truth Sanctuary in 2012. He welcomes everyone from Wiccans to Atheists, Hindus and Muslims, on the principle that "Christ cannot and will not be restricted to Christianity." Services at his sanctuary today sometimes begin with the choir singing a

Tibetan chant. Sometimes they begin with the Hindu prayer for peace Shanti Shanti Om.

Steven Greenbaum conducts his services using texts from the Koran, also from the Sioux Indian Wisdom book, BLACK ELK SPEAKS, and also from the Humanist Manifesto, as well as the Bible. Such articles are fairly commonplace today. Sensational people and their message and errors tend to grab the attention of the news media and of various religious magazines and papers. Modern errors are set forth; but ancient errors that are far more common and every bit as erroneous and false are seldom mentioned.

If we look at what is called "CHRISTENDOM" today we find that soul-destroying errors are commonplace in almost all buildings called "churches." Should those who profess to know the truth not address these very ancient, prevalent, and destructive heresies today, as well as the gross sensational errors that are not nearly as common?

For example, notice how many "churches" today are being ministered to by sacrificing priests. Over one billion Roman Catholics will attend "church" today around the world, and watch a sacrificing priest celebrate the Mass on the Altar. Almost half a billion Eastern Orthodox worshippers this day will attend their churches and see much the same thing. Around one hundred million Anglicans will attend their churches and watch as a priest performs the sacrifice of the Mass.

Not all Anglicans by any means, for SOME Anglicans still follow the Thirty Nine Articles of ancient Anglicanism, which repudiated the Mass as a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit.

Millions of Episcopalians, especially in the United States, will gather in a religious building where a man will call himself a priest, and will sacrifice at an altar. Again, not all Episcopalians by any means, but a large number.

The World Evangelical Alliance, which claims close to half a billion adherents, engages in fruitful dialogue with these sacrificing priests. So apparently they are not too concerned about a sacrificing priesthood today. Millions of Baptists led by the late Jerry Falwell, and the late Charles Colson sought the help of sacrificing priests in the battle to save America. Men like the late Dr. James Kennedy, a leading Reformed and Presbyterian minister, and the millions who supported him, also were not concerned that he worked with sacrificing priests and used them as speakers at his seminars to save America. The only way sinners can be saved is through believing the biblical gospel. There is no other hope for America.

LET ME SAY IT AS KINDLY AS I CAN, THIS ONE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE REPUDIATES ABSOLUTELY AND AUTHORITATIVELY A CONTINUING SACRIFICING PRIESTHOOD TODAY, NO MATTER WHO DOES THE SACRIFICING, WHAT NAME THE CHURCH GOES UNDER, AND NO MATTER HOW MANY MAY FELLOWSHIP WITH AND EXCUSE, SUCH A USURPATION OF THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

This is one of the greatest and most widespread errors on the face of the earth today. Almost all of what is called Christendom is wrapped up in this error or regards it so flippantly as to require no rejection of it and certainly no attempt to refute it. I have read articles about the weird and sensational errors of the times; Booklets and even books are written on such matters and they no doubt are needed.

The fact that around two billion people are affected with such an egregious error is not considered very important today.

I want to look quickly at four points, which demonstrate that there is no need for a sacrificing priesthood today.

# **I. The Scripture here sets forth a complete contrast between all sacrificing priests and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

AND THEY TRULY WERE MANY PRIESTS, BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT SUFFERED TO CONTINUE BY REASON OF DEATH. Verses 23 and 24 have brought all scholars who seek to defend a modern sacrificing priesthood to a complete nonplus. Famous Roman Catholic commentators like Estius and even Ribera, (the famous Jesuit commentator, whom millions of non-Catholics follow today in his view of Antichrist) struggle here. It is obvious to anyone who can read that the reason for a priestly line to continue required the DEATH of the predecessor. When Aaron died: Eleazar replaced him. The continuance of the high priesthood rested upon SUCCESSION. One died: another succeeded him. BUT THIS MAN CHRIST JESUS CONTINUES EVER so obviously He does NOT NEED A SUCCESSOR! For He now rules in the power of an endless life. THERE CAN BE NO SUCCESSOR-PRIEST TO CHRIST. So no modern man can now succeed HIM no matter how hard they may try. No matter how hard they may try to get around this passage. They will find it impossible to do so without denying these Scriptures.

In fact, to claim to be a succeeding priest to Christ they MUST DENY the cardinal doctrine of Christianity that Christ now rules in the power of an endless life. They must DENY the resurrection of Christ in order to set themselves up as a successor to a dead Christ. In order to replace Christ; to succeed Him; Christ would have to die.

This man has an UNCHANGEABLE (literally UNTRANSMISSABLE) priesthood. This is the etymology of the original word, although unchangeable suits just as well. The high Priesthood of Christ cannot be transmitted to another. The only reason for the transmission of the High Priesthood of Aaron was death. And Christ is alive for evermore, which according to Paul's arguments in I Cor. 15, is the very foundation of Christianity.

Christ is now risen from the dead and therefore all the other truths that Paul set forth in that chapter now become real and permanent. Christ has risen from the dead. He has conquered death; this is the basis of his unchanging never- to- be- succeeded- high priesthood. So all other sacrificing priests today are simply impostors who must deny the unchanging nature of Christ's priesthood in order to usurp Christ's unique ministry.

To deny the truth of Christ's unique unchangeable priesthood is to take the office of Christ out of His hands. To regard Him as dead, to deny His resurrection, and to put Him back under the power of death, which the Scriptures reveal he destroyed. So a wicked and egregious error against not only the unique ministry of Christ but against his glorious resurrection.

While the high priest was alive no one could fill his office. Now modern sacrificing Priests believe they can take the office of Christ and officiate in it while He is alive. This is nothing short of demonic usurpation, which sadly goes unnoticed by millions today who are supposed to know better. One man who is regarded as a leading evangelical today said,

“ Redeeming worship centers on the Lord's table whether your tradition celebrates It as Communion, Eucharist, the Mass, or the Lord's Supper we are called to this Centerpiece of Christian worship.”

There is an unbridgeable theological chasm between the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Lord's Supper as this passage of Scripture clearly reveals. It has nothing to do with Tradition. The Inspired, infallible, and inerrant Scripture is God's only Revelation and our only authority for faith and practice.

**II. The second point expressed here is that there is a sharp contrast between the descriptions of THIS MAN and all others who pose as sacrificing priests.**

This man is HARMLESS. All sacrificing priests today are HARMFUL both temporally and eternally . This Man is undefiled. All modern sacrificing priests are defiled. Indeed the Aaronic priesthood, we are told, had to offer up sacrifice first for their own sins and then for the people's.

This man was separate from sinners. All modern sacrificing priests are part of sinful humanity. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

**III. A third contrast here is that Christ offered up only ONE sacrifice for sins, whereas modern men posing as sacrificing priests continually offer up sacrifices.**

Christ does not keep offering up sacrifices today. This MAN after He had offered ONE sacrifice for sins sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high. When He said IT IS FINISHED His sacrificing for sins was over and complete. All the modern sacrificing priests keep on offering up more and more sacrifices which can never take away sin.

The SAVING POWER of Christ stands in sharp contrast to the powerless sacrifices offered up today in many places. Wherefore He is ABLE TO SAVE. Whereas NONE of these sacrificing priests today can save anyone, not even themselves. What an awesome contrast. Between helpless sinners shuffling around their modern altars offering up continual sacrifices that can NEVER take away sin; and the GOD-MAN who has an Unchangeable priesthood, who has made the supreme and only necessary sacrifice, and who now rules in the power of an endless life, WHO IS ABLE TO SAVE to the uttermost, to the last, all who come to God through Him?

ONLY CHRIST CAN SAVE

There is no other Savior of sinners. There is no man who can save except the GOD-MAN Not even among those who call themselves sacrificing priests

Christ died as our Great High priest thus taking away the curse of the law from us. The law made nothing perfect; but the bringing in of a better hope did. The gospel of Christ is the perfect salvation. The gospel is the complete message of salvation. Nothing more needs to be done. Christ has brought immortality--literally: incorruptibility-- and life to light through the Gospel. All other remedies are imperfect. The carnal sacrifices could never take away sin; neither can all the other sacrifices offered today take away sin.

The great message of the gospel is that Christ is ABLE. We need nothing more.

#### **IV. The fact that Christ our great high Priest is now in heaven stands in sharp contrast to all other sacrificing priests today who are on earth.**

Earthly continually sacrificing priests who have never been to heaven and indeed, if they keep trusting in their sacrifices will never be in heaven, are incapable of leading anyone to heaven. Christ came from heaven to His incarnation on earth. He suffered and died and rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven again. He now appears in heaven for us, which NO EARTHLY SACRIFICING PRIEST does, making intercession for us because he rules now in the power of an endless life. No stumblebum earthly pretender can match the peerless ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it is the depth of evil to pretend that he can.

God willing more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise, the immutability of His counsel confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast and which enters into that within the veil. (Into the very presence of God) where the FORERUNNER for us has entered, EVEN JESUS, an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

All modern sacrificing priests are on earth and earthly. They are not THE way to heaven. Christ is THE WAY, THE Truth and THE life. NO ONE ELSE! Christ is our Forerunner. He knows the way for HE IS THE WAY. And NOBODY comes to the Father but by Him.

So Christ is vastly superior to all counterfeit priests no matter where they are or what they claim. They are eternally inferior, hopeless and defiled themselves, so incapable of saving anyone.

In conclusion my exhortation would be DO NOT PUT YOUR HOPE FOR HEAVEN in men who are completely inferior to the God Man. Do not risk the destiny of your immortal soul upon the kinky, unholy, harmful, and defiled sinners posing as sacrificing priests. No matter what church they claim to represent. No matter what sacrifices they claim to offer, for they are all impostors; and counterfeit priests who have no office of the priesthood now to fill. They have no power of an endless life, for death will claim them. They have no capability to SAVE any sinner. They cannot lead to heaven because they have never been there. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for He never CHANGES in His ability to save anyone who comes to Him. He continues to rule in the power of an endless life, having defeated death, and destroyed him that had the power of death, that is the Devil. He bore the curse of the Law for us and fulfilled all its demands for us, and so IS ABLE TO SAVE US. He offered up Himself the Just One for the Unjust that he might bring us to God, to heaven and to our eternal home. Amen.

Forever with the Lord Amen so let it be

Life from the dead is in that word tis immortality;

Here in the body pent, absent from Him I roam

Yet nightly pitch my moving tent

A day's march nearer home.

And when my latest breath breaks through the veil of pain, through death I shall escape from death and life immortal gain;

That resurrection Word! That shout of Victory

Once more for ever with the Lord Amen so let it be!

The difference between a preacher of the Word and a modern sacrificing priest is nothing less than the way of eternal salvation.



## *In Memoriam*



*Pastor Terry L. Holmes*

*1956-2015*

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

*1 Tim 2:7*

*I met Terry for the first time about thirty-seven years ago in Landsdowne, New Brunswick Canada in the home of John and Margaret Johnson. Terry had married Connie Johnson the youngest daughter of the family. He expressed an interest in coming to Manahath. Many people do, however he followed through and came the following year to school, traveling over one thousand miles with his whole family, stepping out on faith to serve the Lord. He attended Manahath School of Theology and received his degree in Pastoral Studies. Terry was a Pastor for 30 years where he ministered at Smith Corner Mennonite Church, East Freedom, PA; Altoona Evangelical Independent Methodist Church, Altoona, PA; and Victory Villa Community Church, Middle River, MD. Terry was a Pastor of the Evangelical Methodist Conference and was on the executive committee of the American Council of Christian Churches. He retired from the ministry June of 2014 due to illness. Our sympathies go out to Connie, Amanda, Jeramie, Kristen and the extended Holmes Family.*

## MISSION MALAWI UPDATE

The Malawi churches are still trying to recover from the January floods. Rains have been hampering travel to deliver renovation supplies. One trip took all day because of the poor roads



and the need to be dug out several times by other travelers. Samson calls the trips “challenging”. “Transport is almost unbearable, a liter of fuel is K723.60. Travel is bumpy, and rugged with tire punctures and break downs.”



Nine of the churches have major damage and two pastors have had to completely move to new locations and start their households over. The Doko Church is inaccessible due to washed out bridges –one can only walk in to the church. Pastor Maida’s and Chizimba’s homes collapsed in the flood.



Eighteen of the thirty-two churches are operating fully. Others are operating for prayer and meeting with the larger congregations for bigger activities until the work can be

completed. All the churches have been told to mold and bake bricks for thatched roof buildings until steel roofs can be obtained. They are all thankful for the renovation relief funds that have been sent but many more funds are needed.







Even with full funds it would take several months to get the churches back in condition.

For this reason we did not travel to Malawi this May, which would have been our usual visit time. We would have been hampered in travel, and holding classes would have been difficult; most of all we did not want to use funds for travel when renovation

funds are needed so much.

You can see some of the damage in these pictures. Notice the picture where all the walls and roof of the church are washed away and just the pew benches and podium remain. How discouraging it must be for the congregation that finally had a meeting place. They plan to hold the annual conferences in Bondo for Ndandanda district in late June, and Makuwa for Malire district in the middle of July. Please remember to pray daily for the Malawi churches.



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