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Eternal Security False Doctrine Continues To Prey On Vulnerable Youths

The Eternal Security false doctrine has been around for quite a while, existing mostly as a benign error; since adherents always implicitly express dismay at the possibility of someone deliberately disobeying God's instructions just because they knew there supposedly was no possibility of their ever missing heaven.

A much more dangerous version of the doctrine has since emerged, which insists that even if one were to deliberately and repeatedly engage in incontrovertible sinful actions, including even apostasy, God is bound to provide a way of getting them to heaven, regardless! As it were, all one has to do was to profess Christ, and such a fellow may thereafter revert to the kind of life they were living before such professions, without jeopardising their eternal destiny in Christ. Of course, this flies in the face of several clear teachings of the Lord Jesus, such as the statement that "not all who call me Lord, Lord, will enter into heaven", (Mathew 7:21) or the admonition to "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32) who perished as she wavered between choosing either Sodom or the promised Safety. \rightarrow Continued on page 2

Voluntary MICROCHIP Implant Craze Spreads to the United States

As we have reported in previous editions of Church Arise!, several European cities and communities have embraced the concept of receiving some microchip implant beneath their skins in exchange for some benefits, bothering on "convenience" and being trendy. (see Vol 20 Qtr 1)

When we began to warn of this development nearly two decades ago, many considered it \rightarrow pg 3

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3.Jhn 4)

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

Image from https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christianpersecution/stories/eritrea-a-brief-history-of-christianity-and-persecution/



PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH INTENSIFIES IN ERITREA

Quietly but devastatingly, Christians are facing increasing persecution in the East African country of Eritrea. In the first place, since 2002, only Sunni Islam and three christian denominations are acceptable to the Eritrean government. Eritreans affiliated with other denominations are liable to be arrested and detained.

In recent times, things have become so bad that "security officials now go from house to house" to fish out those still believing in, and worshipping the Nazarene according to their conviction, contrary to government's regulatory instructions. Special Christian events such as bible study and worship services are targeted. \rightarrow p2

Church Arise! Now offers Special Seminars on Creation Science

In conjunction with the LivingScience Foundation, CA! is ready for mass dissemination of irrefutable, easy-to-follow scientific evidences that show how completely bankrupt the Evolution Theory is. A line of seasoned speakers, highly qualified and credentialed scientists, are available to present in lay terms, evidences along their various fields of specialty showing that a kind-hearted and omnipotent Genius created our world by fiat, fairly recently. Currently, these fields span Physics, Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Atmospheric and Environmental sciences. \rightarrow

The old ages of billions and millions of years ascribed to planet earth and the fossils found therein are absolutely essential to give the Evolution Theory even a veneer of credibility. Prof Joshua Ojo will be presenting irrefutable original evidences obtained by scientists from the Institute for Creation Science, USA and elsewhere which make these ascribed dates totally unacceptable to the unbiased informed person. For instance, take any coal (or even diamond) sample from anywhere in the geologic column, not only would you find considerable amount of the radioisotope Carbon-14, (dating from the time the coal was still a living tree); literally you would find the same amount of Carbon-14 in all samples, irrespective of how old they are supposed to be, based on their placement in the geologic column. This is not a trivial fact at all. Every experimental scientist will attest that it is practically impossible to detect an isotope with a half life of less than 6,000 years (such as Carbon-14) in a sample even a mere 100,000 years after it has started its decay. So the assigned dates of millions of years are at best, highly questionable.

Hard evidences abound showing that the current dating methods are seriously faulty and limited in applicability. For instance lava flow from volcanoes that were witnessed to have erupted in recent history are conventionally dated to have occurred millions of years ago! Specifically lava from New Zealand's Mount Nguaruhoe known to have erupted in 1949, 1954, and 1975 were dated as ranging from less than 270,000 years to 3.5 million years. It is also well known that, depending on what particular technique is used, dates differing by as much as a billion years could be obtained for the same rock, even by the same highly reputable laboratory! In the life sciences, several "embarrassing" realities abound, such as fresh blood being found in fossils supposedly millions of years old. (e.g. see CA! Vol 8 No 4 or http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7285683/).

So, if you could get a group of at least 10 people together in your Church, Society, or academic Department, give us a shout and we shall be happy to oblige you with real scientific data – free of any charges. We could offer you well-prepared Videos or make live Powerpoint presentations. Creation Science Clubs are being proposed for institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. If you are interested in these, kindly contact us also. Shalom.

"That thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations." Psa. 67:2

Eternal Security Error (from page 1)

And to really seal the eternal destiny of the people they are herding to hell, the new teaching strongly encourages adherents to drop their archaic "sin consciousness" thus barring them from ever repenting of any sin they may deliberately or inadvertently commit. As a matter of fact, the new strain of teaching strictly forbids any confession of sin, which it equates with the ultimate vice a "Christian" could ever commit - Unbelief. Why, that not only shows the fellow did not believe his sins are already being continuously cleansed (even before they were committed), it also exposes him as trusting more in his "work" of begging God as effective means of procuring divine favour! In salvation, "work" is absolutely excluded!

It's really amazing, and a sign of the high-level deceptions involved, indicating lateness of the hour, that otherwise intelligent young people could believe such lies from the pit of hell. Latching on to some few select scriptures with interpretations turned on its head, they conscript the rest of Scriptures to the dust bin, deemed as not applicable to "new creation realities"! It is particularly distressing to see people laugh off the several admonitions in the Scriptures to take heed, be watchful, and resist the ever prowling powerless-but-cunning Satan. "New creation realities" are supposedly beyond temptations, such as are applicable to the Apostles (e.g. I Cor. 9:25-27), and even the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Mat. 4:1ff)

Well, in addressing this issue and hopefully check its egregious spread in the Body of Christ, CA! dedicated a special 8-page Report to shed light on the subject. That major write-up is available for download and sharing on our website and <u>blog</u>. Some Excerpts are however included in this current edition (pages 7-9) We pray the Lord bless the material to open the blind eyes and effect the release from prison the multitudes of earnest sincere believers currently languishing in satan's jail-house.

Persecution of Eritrean Church (from p 1)

According to the Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), nearly <u>100 Christians were detained</u> in May2017 alone. These included 49 evangelicals who were arrested at a wedding party on May 21. The Premier Christian Radio <u>reported</u> that the number of Eritrean Christians detained in raids so far this year has reached 210.

Being detained in Eritrea is no tea party. The CSW described this latest phase of persecution as" unprecedented in its intensity and rough treatment." An article written by Emily Fuentes of Open Doors USA for <u>Mission</u> <u>Network News</u>, revealed that detained Christians are sometimes locked up in <u>storage containers</u> with very little air ventilation and temperature reaching up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Others are kept at the notoriously harsh prison of Nakura, which was created by Italian colonialists to crush political dissent in the late 19th century. Many of these detained Christians are young <u>mothers</u>, and some are locked up together with their babies. And with little <u>food</u>.

Even though the Eritrean Orthodox Church is among the three denominations officially allowed to operate, the leader of the Church, Patriarch Abune Antonios was unceremoniously removed from office back in January 2006 after he objected to undue government interference in church affairs. Since then, he has remained under house arrest at an undisclosed location, amidst report that he is being chronically poisoned by the incarcerating authorities.

This report is sourced from the <u>Christian</u> <u>Solidarity Worldwide</u> who tries to conclude a sober issue on a cheerful note, viz: "But people are still willing to risk it all for the sake of the Gospel. People are still evangelizing in this country. There are pastors having small groups and churches meet together. So you find the Gospel spreads in spite of all the fear tactics that are taking place from the government."

Microchip Implant Craze arrives United States (from p1)

extremely far-fetched that our generation would see its eventual implementation. But in that short space of time, we all witnessed the so-called "wearables" transmute to "implants" just as we predicted; and in just a few years after the mandatory implantation of several categories of people was mulled, we now see people voluntarily queuing up for the implant.

This previously a predominantly European craze has now arrived continental conservative America, as documented in a recent special report by <u>Al Jazeera</u>.

In previous articles, we have extensively shown how the implanted microchip would be the precursor to the mark of the beast of Rev 13:16-18. Already it was demonstrated that even the commercial versions (obviously obsolete by research standards) could provide unfettered access to the mind and emotion of people so implanted. It is clear that by the time this development spreads around the world (once accepted in Europe and America, the deed is virtually done), people could easily be transformed into zombies who are no longer personally responsible/accountable for their lives. It is our firm opinion that such a time clearly marks the limit that the current world order could be allowed to continue by the Almighty. When people are no longer able to think for themselves or repent of their sins, the business of evangelism is no longer applicable, and the Church might as well pack shop and return Home.

Hence, we expect the Church to be longgone(via the Rapture) before such a development would come to fruition. Indeed, 2 Thess 2:7 teaches that this kind of absolute mass control of people, so desperately required by the antichrist to manifest, would continue to meet with frustration as long as the Church is around, serving as light for the world and salt for the earth.

Meanwhile, more and more products offering more fun and "liberty" to those who would receive a microchip implant continue to flood the market. One such new product is the encephalophone. This newly invented <u>musical</u> <u>instrument</u> could be played entirely by your mind, without your needing to move a muscle. Of course you need to first have the relevant chip implanted under your skin!

Furthermore, simultaneous to the major investments in <u>brain-computer interface</u> technology, featuring the implanted microchip, the US government through its Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is also committing considerable resources to the new Safe Genes program which would make gene editing technologies safer and more easily applied. US\$65 million will be shared between seven teams involved in the four year research. Reporting this development, RNS Correspondent Tom Heneghan remarked that "waiting in the wings are new technologies such as genome editing, which can modify human genes to repair, enhance or customize human beings." They further report that "Scientists in China are believed to have already genetically modified human embryos".

The day of the zombies is certainly right on the horizon. By inference the day of the Rapture also beckons.

Aggressive Transgenderism descends to new filthy low in Europe, elsewhere

We've reported in the past (eg. Vol 19 qtr1) how so-called charities are actively promoting transgenderism among school children in All across Europe and America, England. popular politicians and other social icons are now openly declaring their homosexual activities with children; while using their money and influence to promote the practice in films and novels that continue to get rave reviews and prizes. In Vol 8 No 5, we highlighted how Alfred Kinsey laid the academic foundation for all these demonic activities. The Kinsey Institute still continues to operate as a respectable academic institution on sexuality issues today. As we also previously reported, the ivy-league Harvard University now recognizes three gender options in the community (see vol 9 no 5). A recent report has revealed that "bisexuals are at least 400 percent more prevalent" in Harvard's incoming class of freshmen than they are in the general population.

Now this deadly Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) movement is getting very active in other parts of the world. An article in <u>Israel news</u> describes increasing activities of this movement in a place like Israel where preschools are working with LGBT organizations to remove the concept of "Mom and Dad" from their curricula and sex change operations are frequently discussed even on the IDF's website . The article explains that "creation of gender disorientation, the devotion to radical feminism, and the questioning of parental rights, are central to the "new left's" (neo-Marxists') war against Western culture." It further notes that "most of the population is being brainwashed, and those trying to explain truth and logic are called 'chauvinists,' 'homophobes,' or other derogatory epithets." The LGBT movement is also stepping up her activities in a place like Australia, where socalled experts in early childhood education are advocating that the nomenclature "Father's Day" should be changed to "Special Person's Day" to totally erode the concept of fatherhood.

One of the obvious goals of transgenderism is to blur the sexual identity and thus help promote homosexuality. Afterall one of the partners in a homosexual relationship can simply claim to have changed to the opposite gender – and the couple is then to be accepted by society as normal heterosexuals. We actually see the Church of England being sucked into this trap as it recently voted to establish <u>specific liturgy</u> and services to welcome transgenders into the church.

The transgender movement is bent on bringing utter confusion to various aspects of society, for instance as in when men who "changed" to females insist they be allowed to compete in games (eg weightlifting) with natural women (vol 7 No 2) or that they treated by gynaecologists (Vol. 19 Qtr 4). Furthermore, these committed "change agents" are not only living a lie, they are insisting the rest of society must join them in the chicanery.

It's all-too obvious that the so-called genderchange operations are mere cosmetic. Not only is the transgendered person never able to perform biological functions of the new gender being claimed, in many cases, they still continue to function in their natural gender. And rather than that being a cause of embarrassment, the LGBT movement boldly hypes and celebrates it – such as when a "man" becomes pregnant (see Vol 15 No 1). What is left in fine prints in such celebrations, is the fact that such so-called "man" was actually a woman who had been cosmetically changed to a man.

A European Christian group has posted a video on YouTube vivdly exposing the ugly

extent of children being indoctrinated into transgenderism in Europe. In the video, parents and schools can be seen <u>teaching boys to wear</u> <u>girls' clothes</u>, calling children "it" instead of he or she, and providing four-year-olds with kits to teach that <u>no one is born one gender or the other</u>. The Group seems to have given up hope that things can be turned round in Europe: the video is titled "Europe is finished. Nothing will save it." Watch the video

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue =754&v=yA8fgaBSDUw)

American County Offers Reduced Jail Terms For Sterilization

In Vol 13 No 4, we reported on the call by a British Professor of Sociology and Health Sciences that the mentally and morally "unfit" should be permanently sterilized and prevented from bearing offsprings. Last edition (Vol 20 qtr 1), we also mentioned Pakistan is offering outof-court settlement/reduced jail terms to Christian prisoners who would agree to convert to Islam. These two ideas are being combined somewhere in America (in the White County of Tennessee), where reductions in prison terms are being offerred to prisoners who would agree to be sterilized so they don't give birth to children after their release.

Attempting to justify the Order, Judge Sam Bennningfield <u>said</u> it would discourage inmates with drug offenses and extensive criminal records from conceiving children that they cannot support. "I hope to encourage them to take personal responsibility and give them a chance, when they do get out, to not to be burdened with children."

This decision has however been widely condemned, and described as only one small step away from the <u>forced vasectomies</u> practiced by the Nazis in the 1930s. According to <u>District</u> <u>Attorney Bryant Dunaway</u>, offering incentives that limit someone's ability to have children is unethical and possibly illegal. "It's comprehensible that an 18-year-old gets this done, it can't get reversed and then that impacts the rest of their life," he said.

As at the time of the report, 38 men are said to be waiting to undergo the vasectomy procedure while 32 women have already received the contraceptive implant in exchange for shortened sentence. The full report can be found at <u>http://www.thedailysheeple.com/tennessee-jails-offer-inmates-shorter-sentences-in-exchange-for-</u> sterilization 072017

Interfaithism and Apostasy of the "End-Time" Kind

The infamous world's first lesbian Bishop is in the news again. Sweden's Eva Brunne recently strongly <u>called</u> for one of the Parishes in her diocese, the Seamen's Mission, to remove crosses and other Christian symbols from their buildings. Ostensibly this will make some of the non-Christian sailors (particularly the Moslems) who frequent the church's location at a dockyard feel happy and welcome. Brunne actually went on to suggest that some dedicated "Muslim Prayer Space" should be provided within the Church.

Happily enough, elders in the Seamen's Mission chose to exercise their independence and simply ignored the Bishop's counsel. Director Kiki Wetterberg summarised the Parish's position: "I have no problem with Muslim or Hindu sailors coming here and praying. But I believe that we are a Christian church, so we keep the symbols. If I visit a mosque I do not ask them to take down their symbols. It's my choice to go in there". http://www.jewsnews.co.il/2017/09/03/worlds-first-lesbian-bishop-calls-for-church-to-remove-crosses-to-install-muslim-prayer-space-3.html

The situation at the Boswell Chapel in the East Central University (ECU) in Ada, Oklahoma, US was more dicey. An organization known as the Americans United for the Separation of Church and State had petitioned the University that the permanent display of Christian symbols such as the Cross on the Chapel steeple, as well as the Lectern, Bibles, and Hymnals in the Chapel constituted an infringement of the First Amendment to the US Constitution which forbid display of religious objects on government property. The University authority seemed only too happy to clear out the "offensive" Christian symbols, especially, since the 60 year old chapel is now being used "for various religions, student clubs and events".

The anti-Christian movement was not prepared for the spirited fight-back from the Church! The social media blitz went round the

globe, including here in Nigeria via videos on What's App. The University was forced to do an about-turn. Attempting to save face, President of the University, Katricia Pierson, issued a statement conceding that the University indeed "moved too quickly." The popular factchecking site, Snopes, obviously sympathetic to the atheist's cause, tried to do some damage control and further confuse issues by claiming that Christians were the principal complainants in the case, and that the demands for Christian symbols to be removed from a Christian Chapel is somehow justified since the Chapel is not "denominational" anvwav. http://www.snopes.com/oklahoma-university-chapel-cross/

In the face-saving statement, the University undertook to halt actions, until students and faculty members have been duly consulted. However, local sources have pointed out that the promise to not take further action actually means that though no new materials will be removed, those already removed will also stay removed!. http://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/06/30/college-reversescourse-wont-remove-cross-atop-60-year-old-chapel-aftercomplaint-at-least-not-yet/

It is evident that the enemies of Christ are prepared for a long haul in the ECU. According to the Tulsa Word, another group, the atheist group called Freedom From Religion Foundation, is now demanding that the University should stop its well-established <u>sacred music program</u> as it is "religious", rather than academic."

There are several other barrages of attacks directed against the Church in the US where atheists, humanists, and other new-age inclined groups have determined to test the nation's Constitution to the limits. In one topical case, an atheist organization challenged the legality of the 70-year old seal of the Lehigh County in Pennsylvania. As at press time, a federal judge has concurred with the atheists that the seal, due to the inclusion of a cross on it, is indeed unconstitutional. and must be changed. According to Judge Smith." neither the longevity of the Seal nor the secular symbols surrounding the cross detract from the religious message that a cross conveys to the reasonable observer."

In another deliberate and systematic series of attacks, the Satanic Temple has announced a new strategy urging its followers to target Christian bakers opposed to working gay weddings by demanding they make cakes "for Satan." Lucien Greaves, co-founder and spokesperson for The Satanic Temple, observed that since sexual orientation is not a protected class under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, religious business owners who refuse to comply with provocative requests from the gay movement, might start winning cases at the U.S. Supreme Court, particularly as the defendants now shift the emphasis from "religious freedom" to "artistic freedom/freedom of speech" which is indeed protected in the US Constitution. "For this reason," according to Greaves, members of The Satanic Temple are encouraged to "Request your homophobic baker make a cake for Satan." We will see how this works out in the days ahead!

Finally, in recalling some cases of rabid interfaithism that has all but overwhelmed the Christian culture in this end-time, we cite the development in Morocco, where catholic Father Juan José Mateos Castro actually <u>invited</u> a procession of Hindus to bring the statue of their god, Ganesh, into the Our Lady of Africa cathedral, as a mark of affirmation and support. According to one <u>report</u>, "Catholic worshipperssang a Marian hymn while facing the statue of Ganesh, which the Hindus placed at the altar."

communities The Hindu from the neighboring Spanish regions of Ceuta and Melilla, had intended to leave a floral offering outside the catholic cathedral as a "gesture of respect to Christians during the end of their worship of the god Ganesh. But the Vicar General of the cathedral bid them and their statues in. He obviously didn't see any difference between statues supposedly representing Mary or some other Christian saints and that used to represent a Hindu god. Going by his recent postures and pronouncements, which have elicited strong open criticisms by so-called conservative catholics, the Pope would probably have supported the Vicar General. However, in this case, most of the council members at the Moroccan church felt outraged by Father Castro's decision, and he has been forced to hand in his resignation.

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*.. " Titus 1:16a

"ETERNAL SECURITY" DOCTRINE JUST GOT DEADLIER

Image from: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/08/Pilgrims-Progress-2.jpg



Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ve once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. (Jude 1-5)

You have probably heard of the teaching about "Eternal Security", a.k.a. "Once Saved, Always Saved" (OSAS). Chances are you probably don't think it is worth splitting hairs over. The Apostle Jude (Jude 1:1-5) however obviously encourages otherwise.

OSAS is the belief that once a man is born again, he can never lose his salvation, irrespective of what he later does or fails/refuses to do. The reasoning is that since man did not do anything to get saved (it is of course true that salvation is entirely by grace), it also follows that he should not need to do anything to keep his salvation. The parable of the wedding garment in Mathew 22:2-13 however debunks this outright. The fellow who initially got a free undeserved invitation to the Wedding later ended up in outer darkness for failing to show appreciation for the invitation by observing the expected simple dress code.

OSAS comes with special in-built mechanisms and camouflages to make the Church continue to wave it aside as trivial. On the one hand, most OSAS teachers are quick to shout themselves hoarse that even though their teachings clearly make sin a non-issue, they actually do not support living in sin. Of course, that unrealistic assertion is not borne out by evidences that clearly abound! For instance, the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States, one of the major purveyors of OSAS, recently (at their 2010 convention in Florida) had to admit "a scandal that has become all too commonplace in our own churches". That scandal was higher incidence of adultery and divorce within the denomination compared with the "unchurched" they were trying to evangelize! Unfortunately, it didn't occur to them that the situation might be related with their embrace of the doctrine of OSAS (see http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/1205/on-the-scandal-ofsouthern-baptist-divorce).

By re-posting on social media, messages of highly-respected holiness preachers, OSAS teachers quietly convey the impression that there is only a small gap between their messages and those of such men of God. Indeed, a portion of a message on the Assurance of Salvation can very well be mistaken for one on unconditional Security of Salvation, but in reality the gap is vawning! And no one familiar with the likes of Pastors Adeboye or Kumuyi could by any means attribute OSAS to them. As a rule, it is safe to specifically find out what a man of God believes about OSAS before linking them with (or, sadly, exonerating them from) the teaching. Many would probably be surprised to know that contrary to sly misrepresentations on the subject, the revered father of the Word of Faith movement, Revd Kenneth Hagin, categorially denounced the hypergrace teaching of OSAS while he was alive. In his words:

"Today there are not too many old school Calvinists -- their doctrines have been watered down -- but now there are "new school Calvinists." "New school Calvinism" is basically the doctrine of eternal security, or "once saved always saved," I believe in eternal security as long as you stay in Christ. He is able to keep you secure. But just because you are a son of God does not mean you are not a free moral agent. You still have a will of your own, and you can choose to stay in Christ or to forsake Christ altogether." (Kenneth E. Hagin, The Present Day Ministry of Jesus Christ, pp. 11, 12)

If the teaching of OSAS represents "new school Calvinism," there is yet a "new school OSAS" represented by the Hypergrace teaching which is currently on a wild rampage in Southwest Nigeria. Its major character is the vehement teaching against the concept of confession of sin and repentance from it. By this assault on a foundation stone doctrine of the Bible (Hebrews 6:1), Satan is using the hypergrace teachers in his desperate attempt to effectively block the gate of salvation to sinners.

Quietly but deliberately, hypergrace OSAS is firmly shutting the gates of Heaven against people by taking away from them, the key of repentance. How on earth did we get here?

There are two streams to this concept. On the one hand we have hypergrace teachers, typified by Chris Onayinka of the Saints Community Church, who argue that confession of sins is purely an Old Testament concept. (e.g. Onayinka 2017: The Hyper Grace Gospel of Christ. pg 176-183). Thereafter, he boldly asserts that the only place in the New Testament where confession of sins is taught is in 1John 1:9. This is of course not true. As previously pointed out, not only does the Lord directly encourage believers to admit their sins before God and ask for forgiveness (Mathew 6:12, 11:4), the Apostle James, further Luke encourages that believers confess their faults (same as sins) even to one another (James 5:16)

Having falsely claimed 1 John 1:9 as the only verse in the New Testament that "suggests" confession of sins, Chris Onavinka thereafter the word translated "confess" picks on [homologia] and fraudulently suggests that the intended meaning of the word in the verse was actually "assent". Indeed, one of the meanings of homologia is "assent"; but there are also others, including "acknowledge" or "admit." In the statement in question, which is divided into two verses (verses 8 and 9), the apostle John began by writing, "if we say we have no sin...." Clearly the only reasonable follow-up, in verse 9, is "but if we admit/acknowledge our sins". This is the translation in every other major Bible translation. And to any reasonable reader of the

King James version as well, the phrase "if we confess our sins" means exactly what it says, that if we "acknowledge our sins," we can trust God that those sins would be forgiven, they having been paid for anyway and justice already served.

With such fabricated and faulty foundations, Chris Onavinka proceeds to insist that "confession" in the New Testament can only be interpreted as an assent, in which case we can only confess positive things written concerning us in the Scriptures. Confession can indeed mean to assent to some scriptural truth, and keep holding to it - as in confession of our faith, viz, confessing that Jesus is the Lord, that we have been crucified with Christ, that we are the righteousness of Christ, that we have victory by But the primary meaning of the blood, etc. "confession" is "owning up, and admitting to some wrongdoing!" The more technical meaning could not invalidate the clear meaning that we should also confess our sins - both to God, and where necessary (mainly as a form of restitution) also to fellow men!

But then, even this insistence on a restricted and contextually inappropriate translation of "homologeo" could not sell a seriously flawed and clearly mischevious concept. Chris Onayinka has one more joker in his sleeve. He insists that the punctuation in 1 John 1:9 is incorrect. According to the inspiration he has received, he believes that the verse ought to be correctly written as:

"If we confess, our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us, ..."

In summary, we can confess all we want to; but no, we are NEVER to "confess our sins"!

Not all "New School OSAS" teachers would attempt what Chris Onayinka pushes to his largely naïve and spell-bound audiences. These other teachers admit that confession indeed means confession, no more no less. But they insist that since the Bible says we are already forgiven, going to God for confession is actually an act of unbelief. An attempt to add some "work" to "Grace." How dare we imagine that it is our confession that gets us pardon, the warped reasoning goes!

As it were, based on the fallacious grounds they are standing on, OSAS teachers are

compelled to deny even [the] basic purpose of the Lord's coming as clearly stated in Mathew 1:21, 1 John 3:8, etc. Hence, according to Chris Onayinka: Mathew 1:21 does not mean at all that Jesus will save people from their sins. Rather, "He will save (rescue and preserve) his people from the danger of their sins, that is, what sin will lead to. He will save his people from the judgment of sin" (ibid, page 129). All these violent re-wording of Scriptures are done on no other basis other than that they don't fit the definitions these OSAS teachers have set for themselves, *a priori*.

Is it then any surprise seeing our nation in the troubling spiritual and moral state it is in today? Amidst increasing preaching of the Gospel and increasing Church attendance, chaos continues to reign as people continue to revel in sin and addiction, not just in the larger Society, but also within the Church. With no visible difference between so-called believers and the heathen (cultists, Satanists, homosexuals, etc) it is little wonder the Church is being reduced to a circus show.

The basic error in most of Calvanism including OSAS, is that it confuses scriptures that apply to corporate bodies and misapply them to individuals. For instance, whereas Israel and the Church are unconditionally guaranteed eternal triumph, individuals in those entities have to work out their personal salvation with sobriety and vigilance, ensuring they do not develop a heart that departs from the living God. (see Numbers 14:30-32, Mathew 16:18, 1 Peter 5:8-9, Hebrews 3:12). Likewise eternal damnation has no individual names written on it. For instance, though a close associate was to betray the Lord Jesus, it did not have to be Judas Iscariot; and though many people will have to join the devil in the lake of fire, it does not have to be you or me! (see Psalm 41:9, Mark 14:21, Luke 22:31, John 13:21-27, Mathew 25:41, Revelations 20:10,15).

Addressing those who have already "escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust," who are called, elected, and "established in the present truth"; the Apostle Peter went ahead to offer a few simple instructions which **IF** followed and allowed to "abound," GUARANTEES Eternal Security: (2 Pet 1:5-11). Yes, Eternal Security is available – but we must accept it on the terms prescribed by its loving and omnisapient Author!

Ritual Killings (continued from back page) After some <u>26 ritual killings</u> in 12 months, and not knowing who might be the next victims, residents trooped out in a protest to the traditional ruler, asking for intervention – not necessarily to bring justice to the slaughtered, but at least halt the killings.



. 1[Image from http://www.josephwatts.org/hs-faq/]

The Badoo killings are characterised by the crushing of the head of the victim (exactly the same way the sacrificial animal is killed in the Olojo festival at Ile-Ife – see pg 119 of Ile-Ife, city of the 201 gods by Jacob Olupona). A white handkerchief is then used to mop the blood and brain matter, could then be sold for as little as N500,000. It is evident that those killing for these relatively paltry sums (compared with kidnappers) are merely the foot soldiers and agents for much bigger patrons whose interests, presumably, are in political power and influence, and eventually social engineering towards putting in place Satan's desired new world order. Recall similar atrocities associated with the infamous Washington DC Pizzagate which we mentioned briefly in an earlier article. In SW Nigeria, human ritualists enclaves exposed within the last few months included those at Mushin-Lagos. Ijave-Lagos, Ikeja-Lagos, Gbogan, Akure, Ondo, and Aagba. Outside the region, there are cases reported for instance from <u>Ilorin</u> and <u>Enugu</u>.

Following massive public outcry and intense prayers from various Christian groups, the security forces finally moved against the shrines patronized by Badoo cultists in Ikorodu. While we salute the courageous security operatives involved, the big question is whether this would be just another cosmetic show to cool down the tension in public before matters return to the status quo. For instance, one of the celebrated arrests was that of Alhaji Abayomi Alaka. However barely a few days later, the Alhaji is already walking the streets a free man again. He even boasted on video that he was not out on any bail, suggesting the matter is already closed. <u>here</u>

The Sun newspaper published a statement by Alhaji Alaka explaining his supposed innocence and basically arguing that he is just a regular traditional worshipper: "I have this deity, which I have been worshipping for over 30 years. As far as I know, in Ikorodu alone, there are over 100 deities people worship and nobody questioned them....The police searched everywhere and nothing incriminating was found, yet they tagged me a murderer and a leader of Badoo cult."

If this Alhaji is to be believed, the Badoo murders were not happening, and there are no shrines for converting the blood-soaked handkerchiefs to demon-supplied money! Not only was he arrested following credible tip-offs by notable personalities in the community and possibly arrested Badoo members, at least 5 graves – one of them fresh were identified on his shrine. The police took along pressmen and the <u>videos</u> are in wide circulation. Furthermore, Crime rates dropping rapidly even as the shrines are being destroyed.

This youtube video showed him boasting at an interview in Ogbomoso, ridiculing the police team that arrested him and suggesting special immunity from further investigation. <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgGEcM4Qf</u> <u>jU</u>. Alhaji Abayomi Alaka who boasted that his investment in Ikorodu alone is worth some 3 billion naira, also <u>reeled off</u> the names (alias) of five other personalities which he suggested must be prosecuted also, if his own matter were not dropped. These include: "Oba Ikorodu. Oba gbogbo, Be happy, Iya silifa and F1".

Unfortunately, this boasting doesn't appear empty, and sad precedents abound. For instance, despite global interest, nothing has been heard again of the ritualists at Mosarajo, Soka, and so many others (see our 2014 article <u>here</u>). Indeed there is NO record of any of these major cases that as much as got to the courts, talk less of leading to any convictions.

Incredibly, apologists abound who attempt to give <u>respectable</u> <u>academic support</u> for the continued patronage of these blood-hounding demons who parade themselves as local gods. As long as many of these ritualists remain prominent in the local traditional festivities, it becomes difficult to separate their heinous activities and so-called local traditional religion. And there lies the knot in the issue!

TEMPLE WATCH: MOUNT MORIAH'S *STATUS QUO* RESTIVENESS

Everyone who believes in Bible prophecy expects a Jewish Temple, the 3rd Temple, to somehow spring up on the Temple Mount, Jerusalem sometime in the future. Currently there are two Islamic shrines on the Mount, probably an ongoing depiction of the "bondage" mentioned in Gal. 4:25. Understandably, the prospect of a Shrine for another Deity other than the Islamic Allah is not especially attractive to the Moslem world, and even the slightest perceived attempt to change in the "status quo" at the Mount is enough to throw die-hard Moslems into a state of jitters, rapidly heating up the polity.

However, it has always been miscalculations in the Moslem world that have brought the Jews ever close to the dream of having a Temple on Mount Moriah. A classical example being the ill-advised attack of the Moslem world, (including hitherto-friendly Jordan) against Israel in 1967. Israel's supernaturally-granted victory in the resulting 7-day War led to the termination of Jordan rule in East Jerusalem. However, the Temple Mount itself was restored back to Jordan through the Waqf Foundation in order to cool things somewhat.

So when Israel, who under the on-going *status quo* is responsible for security on the Mount, took the unprecedented step in August this year, to install metal detectors and security cameras on the Mount, hell was let-loose by moslems who perceived that the dreaded change of *status quo* might be imminent. Israel's moves were in response to the unprecedented killing of 2 Druze Israeli policemen on the mount with automatic weapons smuggled into the Al Aqsa

mosque by three Arab Israeli citizens. At the point of things boiling over, Israel blinked and removed the new features, thus maintaining the *"status quo,"* for now.

As the world waits for the next mis-step by the Moslem world that would eventually get them to lose control of the Temple Mount, Israel has in the meantime shifted his anger at all the ongoing provocations to nearby Silwan/City of a lower mountain range just below David. Mount Moriah itself. There, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has authorized the construction of the Kedem Center for tourists, which featuring various archaeological and similar displays, will attempt to make the Jewishness of the region be established beyond any controversy.

Church Buildings in "Christian" Western world being systematically taken over by Mosques

Gatestone Institute, in <u>an article</u> titled France: Churches Vanish, Mosques Spring Up told the sad story of ancient cathedrals being converted to mosques and Islamic centres all over France. According to the author, Giulio Meotti, "In the last 30 years, more mosques and Muslim prayer centers have been built in France than all the Catholic churches built in the last century."

In 1907, the French state, by law, <u>took over</u> all historic cathedrals; but in recent times, complaining of economic recession, it determined that rather than continue to maintain the buildings, they should be sold off. The highest bidders were always the Moslems!

Indeed, often, the ONLY bidders were moslems; and the properties could be sold off at outrageously low prices! On some occasions, choice real estate are actually literally donated for Islamic authorities, as in the case of "the municipality of Évreux [which] voted for the provision of 5000 square-meters of land, for one symbolic euro, for the project of the Union of the Muslim Faith".

The murder of 86 year-old Father Jacques Hamel at the foot of the altar during an assault by ISIS terrorists on <u>Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray</u> <u>parish</u> ushered in a new phase for church buildings in France. Presumably, the added security concerns now make it more expedient to get rid of certain high-risk, difficult-to-secure churches. A few weeks after the murdering of Father Hamel, The <u>Church of Santa Rita</u> located in the auspicious fifteenth *arrondissement* of Paris was forcefully cleared by the police - with resisting priests dragged out by their legs! The church has now been converted to a parking lot. The same fate awaits the famed <u>Chapel of Saint</u> <u>Martin in Sablé-sur-Sarthe</u>, built in 1880-1886 and demolished earlier this year. Since the successful attack at Saint Etienne, several unsuccessful <u>attempts</u> had been made by Islamic terror cells at the Notre Dame Cathedral itself.

The situation is not much different in London. which is now being dubbed Londonstina, going by the rapid Islamic takeover of the city which is recently reflected by its historic election of a Moslem as Mayor. Speaking at the annual Ministers' Conference of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) at the Redemption Camp, Ogun State Nigeria in August, Pastor in Charge of the RCCG in the UK, Agu Irukwu gave the rather depressing statistics of the state of Christianity in London. In the past year, 500 churches were closed, while 480 mosques were planted. (see transcript of his fierv address on our blog at http://churcharise.blogspot.com.ng/2017/08/wak e-up-call-for-church-full-transcript.html).

In his comments after Pastor Irukwu's presentation, the General Overseer of the RCCG, Pastor Enoch Adeboye pointed out an even sadder picture of the situation in the United States, where 1,000 churches were planted in the outgoing year while 4,000 closed! He however concluded with a somewhat cheering and revealing story from the UK: One determined Christian estate agent asked to dispose yet another historic church, insisted on giving the right of first refusal to Christians; and that other interested buyers would be considered only if no Christian organization showed up. Well the RCCG by God's grace, showed up and acquired the property for a million pounds. Shortly after, the General Overseer recalls, an Islamic organization approached the RCCG pastor concerned, offering two million pounds for the same building! Thank God, the RCCG is too kingdom-minded to suck the bait. The flat answer, in the manner of Acts 8:20, was a resounding "your money perish with you!"

TOPICAL ISSUE: RITUAL KILLINGS IN UNPRECEDENTED DESPERATE MODE IN NIGERIA

The spate of ritual killings in SW Nigeria has reached an epidemic level – an unprecedented phase of total recklessness, perhaps indicating utter desperation by people who indulge in these rituals in search of wealth and political power.

In Ikorodu, Lagos state, Badoo cultists are no longer patient enough to wait for the occasional straying wayfarer to use in their nefarious human sacrifices, now they go in to people's residences in the dead of the night to carry out their master's service. In one of the incidents on 27th June, the ritualists scaled the fence into the rented home of the Ikehis, shattered the skulls of David, his wife Priscilla (Margaret?), and their two children. A similar attempt at neighbouring Orji family was abortive, and it provided an account of the operations of the cultists. Caroline Orji woke up around 1 am just in time to find a stark naked man and drenched in oil (indicating rituals were involved) about to shatter her husband's head with a heavy stone. According to her, the husband who apparently also woke up simultaneously with her, shouted the name of "JESUS", and the ritualist took off, "dropped the stone on the premises, scaled the fence and escaped." https://www.icirnigeria.org/10-things-to-knowabout-badoo-the-ritual-cult-terrorising-ikorodu- \rightarrow Continued on page 9 residents/.

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EXHORTATION: RESTITUTION: EVIDENCE OF SALVATION

When you are genuinely saved, you will desire to find what you can do for the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be a strong desire in your heart to reciprocate the Saviour's gesture of love. Is it so with you? When I newly got born again, there were quite a few people around me who got saved at about the same time also. We all had certain characteristics in common, one of which was: anytime there was work to be done for God, we volunteered. We did it joyfully, spending our money, time and energy. Unfortunately, when you ask some people who claim to be born again to do some work in the house of God today, they will charge you double the job's worth, while some unbelievers would just give you a normal bill. Such people need to seek genuine salvation!

Moreover, another sign of genuine conversion is the desire to right your wrongs. True salvation yearns for restitution. Nobody will experience genuine salvation without asking questions such as these: How much of my past iniquity can I correct? How much can I salvage of the damage I have done? These questions will come from your heart even without being taught the doctrine of restitution. This happened to Zacchaeus in today's Bible reading. Immediately Jesus entered his house, Zacchaeus responded to His love with these words in Luke 19:8: "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Zacchaeus, even without being instructed, decided to give 50% of his wealth to the poor, and offered to return four times whatever he had taken from any man by false accusations. This pleased the Lord. Indeed, restitution pleases God. When you restore whatever you have stolen, and whenever you right your wrongs, it becomes a testimony to the genuineness of your repentance.

When you make restitution to people you offended or cheated, it softens the ground for you to eventually present the message of the gospel to them. If you hold back what you stole, even after you claim to have been saved, you will retain the enmity of those you defrauded, and because of you, they may never respond to the message of salvation. Is there any pending restitution you need to make? Go ahead and right your wrongs. For controversial and very weighty cases, please seek counseling before going ahead.

Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye

(Open Heavens devotion for Sept 11, 2017)