

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #17

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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The Devastation of Division by John T. Polk II

Jesus warned of the dangers of being divided when unity is called for when He said: "But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: 'Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand'" **Matthew 12:25**.

***The Devil's work is to "divide and conquer"
those whom God desires to be united.***

Adam and Eve, whom God had joined together (**Matthew 19:4-6**) in marriage, the serpent separated from God, then united them in sin (**1 Timothy 2:13-14; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 5:12**). This certainly applies to every married couple today.

Cain and Abel were separated by Cain's evil works (**Genesis 4:1-8; 1 John 3:11-12**). This certainly applies to siblings today.

Nimrod arose as a "hunter of men" who distinguished himself from others by establishing kingdoms whose natures are like Nimrod's name ("he rebelled"): Babylonian, Assyrian, Philistines. These kingdoms, even today, show the tendencies to fight God's unity. In fact, the rise to power through human government appeals to the same kind of "ego-maniacs" (**1 Samuel 8:1-22; Hosea 13:9-11**). Only when God puts one of His servants in "power" does good come from it (ex. **Joseph-Genesis 41:14-46**; an **Israelite king** who followed God's direction from Scriptures-**Deuteronomy 17:14-20**; the **prophet Daniel-Daniel 2:1--49**; even a non-covenant believer such as **Cyrus, 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-8; Jeremiah 29:10; Isaiah 44:24-45:8**).

A divided America has been overcome by her enemies:

Every hyphenated American has surrendered to the enemies of the "United States of America." This country is no melting pot when segments pull it apart, each for its own selfish agenda. Whether ethnic, labor union, religion, racial, gender, or profiteering has been the motive, *this country has been brought to desolation by the Devil's appeal to selfishness!* Those who only fight for a segment of the population's "rights" have shredded the flag of unity that once represented this Union.

Whoever sold Americans the "bill of goods" that politics is best with a "2-party system" shut the door on free speech. When Socialists controlled the Democratic Party, and compromisers controlled the Republican Party, then all the Federal politicians now "IN" office have effectively dismantled the "States rights" which provided the strength of the U.S. Constitution.

A divided church of Christ has been severely injured by her enemies, as in:
"Liberals," those whose Sadducee-like disregard for, and defaming of, strict obedience to the certain Word of God, go beyond the doctrine of Christ; and **"Conservatives,"** those who make Pharisaical judgments and regulations based upon their ignorance of the Word of God, fall short of the whole counsel of God. Whoever said the churches of Christ should be divided is wrong (**1 Corinthians 1:10-13**), and whoever thinks we should be divided into either of two-parties is also wrong. *Every hyphenated Christian has given over to the Devil!* This is the very point of discussion in **1 Corinthians 1:12**: "Now I say this, that each of you says, 'I am of Paul,' or 'I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ.'" *NONE should dare add a doctrine or title to the God-given name "Christian"* (**Acts 11:26**).

Apostasy has but one direction, neither right nor left, liberal nor conservative, but anything away from the truth: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" (**1 Timothy 4:1**). "Depart" is "*aposthsontai tines*" which indicates no direction or particular doctrinal stance, but only away from the faith. Thus, whether speaking lies in hypocrisy (complete "liberalism") or making rigid rules on marriage and food (complete "conservatism"), which direction one went in apostasy was never the issue. The issue was the disregard for the Word of God, whether spoken or written. That only "some" would depart indicates that the "mainstream" of the body of Christ would remain faithful! The "brotherhood-is-going-to-Hell-in-a-handbag-without-our-sound-deliverance"- sectarians have no proof of their paranoia.

Just as in America today, there is a mainstream who remain loyal to the founding documents of this country, there is in the churches of Christ a mainstream who remain loyal to the founding documents of the New Testament. Since Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (**Luke 21:33**); and John wrote: "the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God

abides forever" (**1 John 2:17**); then no one who honors God's Word will ever move away from faithful practice of It. ***Apostasy, whether in Government or church, may be remedied only by a return to the foundational principles of the organization.*** No changes made, even incrementally, should stand between a citizen and restoration of the original. One must return to the beginning to realize the blessings originally intended by the founders. In America, it has to be the U. S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, and in the churches of Christ, it must be a return to the foundation cornerstone of Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 2:14-22**).
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Salted Speech **Colossians 4:6**

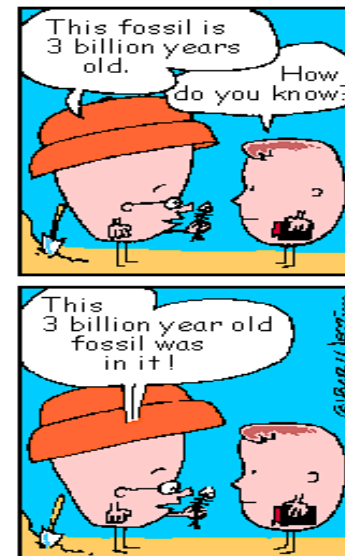
- ~ **Hope is the only thing stronger than fear.**
- ~ **Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, Anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.**
- ~ **If there is no struggle, there is no progress. -Frederick Douglas**
- ~ **When one door closes, another one opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door.**
- ~ **Trust yourself, You know more than you think you do.**



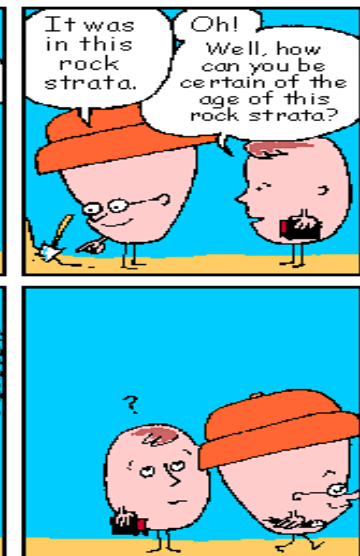
"A FALSE WITNESS SHALL PERISH, BUT THE MAN WHO HEARS HIM WILL SPEAK ENDLESSLY." **Proverbs 21:28**
 ~Gossip, Lies, & Propaganda
 Have Sprinter's Legs



MYTHING EVOLUTION



THEOPHILUS CARTOON



AFTER EDEN

