

Great Controversy Series
The POWER and LIGHT of EVERY WORD!
Chapter 14 - Later English Reformers
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr, pastor

Paris Agreement	Francis - Laudato Si -Encyclical = Sunday Law
<p>“Emphasizing the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty,</p> <p>Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”</p>	<p>237. On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath... Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, the “first day” of the new creation... It protects human action from becoming empty activism; it also prevents that unfettered greed...Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centred on the Eucharist, sheds it light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.</p>

Is the Paris Agreement really dead? Is the Sunday Law push also dead since Trump announced that he will pull US out of the Paris Agreement and try to renegotiate? I believe now it will be accelerated!

Remember the Paris Agreement is no ordinary agreement, it is an international law that binds 195 countries under a world government system under the cover of “climate change” and decreasing carbon levels.

Trump’s announcement this week actually shows the real power of the Paris Agreement (Treaty).

“Here's why it'll take years for Trump to pull the US out of the Paris climate agreement” - Business Insider, June 2, 2017 Rebecca Harrington

“While President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he was pulling the US out of the landmark Paris climate agreement, it will take until the day after the next presidential election for the US to fully exit the pact.

Exiting the overall UN agreement would take a year, but [would likely require Senate approval](#). Trump didn't indicate that he wanted to abandon the overall treaty.”

Maybe Trump will add more teeth and enforcement behind the treaty to move toward a Sunday law first in America and then around the world. Do you think Trump’s decision to pull out maybe a strategy of the papacy. Remember Trump met with the pope a couple of weeks ago! A perfect storm is forming where do you put your trust? A SUNDAY LAW is soon coming. Jesus will no longer delay His coming. The time is now to be ready.

Darkness or Marvelous Light

Thought Question: If you had a flash light while walking in a dark cave on a very narrow path with a thousand foot drop on your left and right hand, what is the most important area that needs lit?

Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Where is the light pointed to? The path

Where is the light coming from? The lamp

The word of God is both the lamp and the light! The lamp is the source of the light. In the ancient days lamps were filled with olive oil as fuel to keep the wick of the lamp lit. The Holy Spirit represented as the olive oil throughout scripture is the convicting power of the Word of God that leads us to repentance and truth. The Holy Spirit is eternal, so the oil, the power source, will NEVER go out!

Jesus says, John 16:13 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**

Jesus is the light that is illuminated from the lamp to light your narrow path in a dark world of sin.

John 8:12 **Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

The word of God is power and light. This is what makes the Devil tremble. He knows if God's people would hold on dearly to the Word of God there is no way that they will be overcome by his deceptions and temptations.

During the deep gross darkness of Empire of Papal Rome from 538 to 1798, the Bible was intentionally hidden from the people to keep them in ignorance of God's truth. They did not want the Light of Truth to expose their corruptions, greed, and deceptions. For centuries the Word of God was locked up in the ancient language of Latin in which the majority of the common people did not speak. In many cases the Bible was outlawed and burned by the papacy.

Jesus says, John 3:19-20

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

What unified and empowered the protestant reformation during the deep darkness of the Papal Roman Empire was the WORD of God that was powered by the Holy Spirit and illuminated by Jesus Christ. There was NOTHING else. The testimony from every protestant reformer reveals that it was their study of the Word of God lead them on their journey to truth to share to the world.

The Word of God is our only hope of light and truth in these last days. NOTHING ELSE! This is the only thing that we can fully put our trust in. We must depend on EVERY WORD that comes from God Holy Scriptures.

We like Jesus will be tempted and tried severely but we must attack every temptation, tricky and lies with EVERY WORD.

What did Jesus tell the devil in his hour of trial and temptation in the wilderness?

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

We must depend on EVERY WORD, like you depend on oxygen to live, from Genesis to Revelation!

Psa_119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Proverb 30:5 **Every word** of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Not only is the word of God true and pure, but is living!

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick (Greek=living), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is living power that exposes the motives of our heart and thoughts.

Joh 6:63 (Jesus says) *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.***

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **heareth my word, and believeth on him** that sent me, hath **everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is **passed from death unto life.**

“In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.” {COL 38.1}

Who gives life to EVERY WORD?

2Ti 3:16 **ALL [EVERY WORD] scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Inspiration of God [Greek] = theopneustos [*theh-op'-nyoo-stos*], **divinely breathed in.** (Strong's Greek Dictionary)

In other words, the inspiration of God is the respiration of God. He breathed into the Word of God life. The Word of God is life that offers the gift of eternal life to ALL people! The Word of God, His Holy Bible is living. It has been “divinely breathed in.”

We are to depend on “EVERY WORD” of God: His promises, messages of love, rebuke, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Every means every WORD! We can’t add to it or take away from it.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation (Gk: explanation) .

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Remember the Bible is inspired by God, not interpreted or explained by men. If you compare scripture with scripture the Bible will explain itself. Interpretation and translation are totally different. The Old Testament of the Bible was mainly written in Hebrew. The New Testament was largely written in Greek. There are thousands of different languages around the world and a vast majority do not read, speak, nor understand Hebrew and Greek. So others can read the Bible in their native language the Bible as been translated into several languages. **Repeat - The translation of the Bible IS NOT interpretation of the Bible.**

What happens to those who try to add or take away from EVERY WORD? What example is given in the book of Revelation?

Revelation 22:18-19

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

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The same God that inspired all scriptures is the same God that inspired Revelation, so these curses apply to anyone who try to add to or subtract from any part of the Word of God.

EVERY WORD that is inspired by God DOES NOT COME back with empty results. It does what He says it is going to do!

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

This is the LIVING POWER that said let there be... and what wasn't there before now exist. That is real power!

In order to know EVERY WORD and tap into the power of EVERY WORD you must study the WORD of God, Holy Bible daily for yourself!

2 Ti 2:15 Study [earnest effort-diligence-labor] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Word of God which is inspired by God is the WILL of GOD – EVERY WORD!

REPEAT – like the reformers of the past, we MUST depend on EVERY WORD of God to make it through the last dark and evil days. EVERY WORD will take you through the fire of persecution. EVERY WORD will empower you to stand bold in giving the LOUD CRY end time everlasting gospel message with convicting power. EVERY WORD will take you through the mark of the beast crisis. EVERY WORD will take you through the time of Jacob's trouble. EVERY WORD will take you through the seven last plagues. EVERY WORD will lead you to the promise land. EVERY WORD!

Even though the Bible is at our finger tips, Satan knows that it has no power if it is ignored or neglected. The neglected Word of God has the same affect of those who lived during the time of the Papal Roman Empire, GROSS DARKNESS!

“Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind.” GC - 519

As we continue to explore the protestant reformation you will see the spoken word is great, but the written word has greater power because it is able to be distributed, read and re-read, and studied. The written word also has longevity from generation to generation.

Later English Reformers -

In England in 1382 who was one of the first protestant reformer that translated the Latin Bible to English?
John Wycliffe

John Wycliffe's ministry in England sprung forth a powerful protestant reformation that spread it's way throughout Europe, but still with great resistance and persecution by Papal Rome.

Because the expense and the labor it took to duplicate each book during the 1300's, Wycliffe's Bible could not be widely circulated. It was mainly affordable among the wealthy.

There were many translation errors that still needed to be fixed, but Wycliffe's Bible was a lamp of truth that began to expose the many errors of the papacy.

Erasmus' New Testament Greek Translation

In 1516 over one hundred years after the death of Wycliffe and about **three years before Martin Luther** nailed the 95 theses against the papacy in Wittenburg, Germany, Erasmus translated the New Testament portion of the Latin Bible, back the original Greek.

The Greek Translation in the original language brought light to the errors of other translations like the Wycliffe's Bible and was used a foundation for future translations.

As a priest, Erasmus spoke against the abuses of the Catholic church and called for reform, but never totally embraced the protestant reformation.

William Tyndale mid-1500's

English scholar who joined the protestant reformation in Germany in the mid 1500's around the same time Luther translated the Bible to German language.

Tyndale was known as a powerful reformer preacher who preached with great conviction of the heart. But he noticed that his work could be more effective if the people could get the written Word of God in their own English language.

"..a learned Catholic doctor, engaging in controversy with him [Tyndale], exclaimed: "We were better to be without God's laws than the pope's." Tyndale replied: "I defy the pope and all his laws; and if God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scripture than you do."--Anderson, Annals of the English Bible, page 19. {GC 246.3}

Determined to get an English version of the Bible to the common and poor people in England using Erasmus Greek translation he translated the New Testament to English.

While Tyndale was translating the New Testament to English he had to stay mobile because of resistance and persecution from the papacy. He left his hometown to London then eventually had to finish the translation in Germany.

With the invention and improvements of the printing press Tyndale was able to print many more New Testament English Bibles than his predecessor Wycliffe.

To escape authorities Tyndale had to go from city to city to print until he was able to print the English New Testament in Worms, Germany. This was the same place that Martin Luther had to stand before the Diet in Worms three years later.

The first print was about three thousand copies and ready to be distributed, but how would he get them to the people in England because the ports in England were heavily guarded

Tyndale with the help of merchants secretly shipped his Bibles to England on merchant boats hide within other items that merchants sold!

An enemy of the protestant reformer, the bishop of Durham, was tipped off about Tyndale's Bible and secretly purchased the rest of the Bibles Tyndale had on stock with the plan to burn them!

The plan backfired because Tyndale was able to use the money for upgrades and improvements so he can print even more Bibles!

One time when Tyndale was caught and put in prison by the papal authorities he was demanded to turn in his supporters of his work if he wanted to be released. He only exposed his greatest supporter, the bishop of Durham!

Later Tyndale was betrayed by an undercover protestant reformer who was actually the friend of the papacy in imprisoned for several months

On October 6, 1536 Tyndale was executed by the papacy. He was strangled and then burned to the stake.

Before Tyndale's death, He began the Old Testament translation

Tyndale's work armed thousands of soldiers with the spiritual weapon to dispel the darkness and save sin sick souls for the kingdom of God.

Over 481 years later since Tyndale's death, his work among those who speak English still has its influence today. That's the POWER and longevity of the written word!

"In 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the [King James Bible](#) drew significantly from Tyndale, as well as from translations that descended from his. One estimate suggests that the New Testament in the King James Version is 83% Tyndale's and the Old Testament 76%." - Wikipedia – Tyndale

Other English reformers picked up Tyndale's torch and continued the protestant reformation in England such as Latimer, Barnes, Frith, Riddleys and Cranmer.

"The grand principle maintained by these Reformers--the same that had been held by the Waldenses, by Wycliffe, by John Huss, by Luther, Zwingli, and those who united with them--was the infallible authority of the Holy Scriptures as a rule of faith and practice. They denied the right of popes, councils, Fathers, and kings, to control the conscience in matters of religion. The Bible was their authority, and by its teaching they tested all doctrines and all claims. Faith in God and His word sustained these holy men as they yielded up their lives at the stake. "Be of good comfort," exclaimed Latimer to his fellow martyr as the flames were about to silence their voices, "we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." --Works of Hugh Latimer, vol. 1, p. xiii – GC - 249

Scotland Reignited

Scotland an English country that is a part of the United Kingdom north of England.

About a thousand years before Tyndale and Luther, Columba sowed seeds of Bible truth including the seventh-day Sabbath in Scotland the years of 500 AD. Schools and evangelism center were established.

Overtime of a hundred years or more the papacy was finally able to put Scotland under their bondage!

At time of Luther and Tyndale protestant messengers silently went throughout the mountain and valleys of Scotland sharing Luther's writings and Tyndale's Bible to relight it with truth.

As the light in Scotland rekindled the persecution was increase by the papacy. Many nobles in Scotland were killed for the truth.

"Hamilton and Wishart, princely in character as in birth, with a long line of humbler disciples, yielded up their lives at the stake. But from the burning pile of Wishart there came one whom the flames were not to silence, one who under God was to strike the death knell of popery in Scotland." GC 250

Who was the man that was used to completely unshackle Scotland from papal Rome's 400 years plus of oppression and darkness?

John Knox

Studied the teachings of Wishart and turn from the Catholic papal church to the protestant reformation.

As a preacher of the reformation in Scotland he was faced with many dangers of around him. The papacy wanted his life! But after much work and the Holy Spirit's power Scotland freed itself from the papacy.

Before the queen of Scotland he defended the Bible truth. She questioned him about who she should believe the protestants or the Catholic. This was Knox reply:

"Ye shall believe God, that plainly speaketh in His word," answered the Reformer; "and farther than the word teaches you, ye neither shall believe the one nor the other. The word of God is plain in itself; and if there appear any obscurity in one place, the Holy Ghost, which is never contrary to Himself, explains the same more clearly in other places, so that there can remain no doubt but unto such as obstinately remain ignorant."--David Laing, *The Collected Works of John Knox*, vol. 2, pp. 281, 284." - GC – 251

Church of England A New Form of "Papacy"

King Henry VIII in the 1530's renounced the papal authority when they failed to annul his marriage with Catherine Aragon and started the Church of England in its place.

Rejected the supremacy of the papacy, but held on to many of the same doctrines of the papacy. Instead of the pope, the monarch of England was the head of the church.

Did the Church of England give others the freedom to worship according to the dictates of the conscience? NO. It was also about force and soon the flames of persecution was kindled throughout England.

The Church of England was basically a sister to the Papacy.

True protestant reformers who did not comply with the Church of England were heavily fined, imprisoned, banished, or banned to go to any other religious service other then the Church of England.

Many had to secretly worship in the woods, dark alleys, or in the deep part of the midnight. But they persisted even in the midst of persecution.

Many such as the Pilgrims and Puritans cross the ocean to the "New World", America, seeking religious freedom from the Church of England and papacy

John Bunyan

Late 1600's an English reformer preacher and English writer.

"Bunyan was arrested and spent the next twelve years in jail as he refused to give up preaching. During this time he wrote a spiritual autobiography, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, and began work on his most famous book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which was not published until some years after his release." - Wikipedia – John Bunyan

"In a loathsome dungeon crowded with profligates and felons, John Bunyan breathed the very atmosphere of heaven; and there he wrote his wonderful allegory of the pilgrim's journey from the land of destruction to the celestial city. For over two hundred years that voice from Bedford jail has spoken with thrilling power to the hearts of men. Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* have guided many feet into the path of life." - GC - 252

The main character in the book Pilgrim's Progress is "Christian" who went through many life challenges, questions, obstacles and temptations on his way to the celestial city. Other characters included "Evangelist", "Help", "Obstinate", "Mr. Worldly Wiseman", "Mr. Legality", "Goodwill", and many others. Powerful book!

John Wesley 1700's

Ordained priest with Church of England with his brother Charles in the 1700's.

Felt no assurance of salvation through the many forms and works of the Church of England.

John and his brother both were assigned to go to the new world and pastor in the English colonies in America

While on a ship to America they were accompanied with several German Moravians. Moravians were a protestant movement of people that was from the direct result of Jon Huss ministry in Bohemia that started in the 1400's.

Noticed Moravians were humble and did jobs on the journey that many English passengers thought it was beneath them to do.

During a great violent storm in which it appeared that everyone was going to die, the Moravians were singing and worshipping God!

John could not believe it and learned that their deep faith in Jesus gave them hope in the salvation. He learned that they did not depend on forms and rituals, but in an abiding faith in Jesus.

Once in America John continued to study with the Moravians and was converted to the true faith in Jesus Christ and rejected the papal doctrines that the church of England taught.

Taught that Christians should live a holy life through Jesus Christ unspotted with the things of the world. Charles his brother also believed.

Out of spite and ridicule they along with others that followed the teachings of John and Charles were called Methodist. But John and Charles adopted it as a term of endearment.

The Wesley started the Methodist Connection with the goal of reforming the Church of England instead starting a new church.

The Church of England and some others in England rejected the Methodist.

John recounts some of the dangers he had to encounter

An angel of God saved him from an angry mob that wanted to tear him apart.

He was hit in the head with a brick but did not feel the pain.

Another occasion John says, "for though one man struck me on the breast with all his might, and the other on the mouth with such force that the blood gushed out immediately, I felt no more pain from either of the blows than if they had touched me with a straw." GC - 259

Many Methodists suffered much persecution in England. Lied about in courts, mobs were legally allowed to take destroy their house, take their possessions, and abuse their families.

John preached, 'I may not bring down the Scripture to your taste. You must come up to it, or perish forever.'

Antinomian teaching In England

John and Charles Wesley believe in the law of God as the standard of righteousness and the breaking of the law is sin. But they had to deal with those who believed in the doctrine of Antinomian.

Antinomian taught that God law was nailed to the cross and that christian were not obligated to keep it. They taught once saved always saved and could do no wrong as long as he / she claimed Jesus. Just grace only and no law! This is the same teaching that is a great majority of Christian churches today!

The book of Revelation calls the Antinomian teaching the doctrine of the Nicolaitans

Jesus says concerning the Church of Pergamos in Revelation 2:15 **So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

Jesus hates the doctrines of Nicolaitans and Antinomians.

John 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

Mat 5:17 **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**

Wesley steadfastly opposed the errors of the antinomian teachers and showed that this doctrine which led to antinomianism was contrary to the Scriptures.

“At the close of his long life of more than fourscore years--above half a century spent in itinerant ministry--his avowed adherents numbered more than half a million souls.” GC- 264

The Wesley like many other reformers before them depended on the WORD of God as their rule of faith.

At the time of the Wesley's in the 1700's the light of TRUTH was shining brighter and brighter. The errors of the Church of England and the papacy was totally exposed. The papacy was losing it grip of it supremacy and Empire.

What happened to the Papal Rome Empire by the close of the 1700's? What seed was planted for growth for a new empire that would emerge as the Bible predicts?

To be continued... next chapter: Chap. 15 - The Bible and the French Revolution

Appeal... Every Word!