

or webmaster@bgea.org).

In Rubel Shelly's praise of Graham he said, "Dr. Graham has a reputation of honesty, accountability and moral uprightness" (Lovelines, op.cit.). Jesus said, "beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15). Graham uses his moral life and piety as a cloak to get his false teachings across to the American people.

It is a great evil that the Woodmont Hills elders have invited this wolf to come among God's flock in Middle Tennessee. Well did Paul prophecy by the Spirit of a similar evil in Ephesus "savage wolves will come in among you not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves (elders) men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:28-29).

Not only has Woodmont Hills shamed the churches of Christ in Tennessee because of their compromise with denominational doctrine but three other churches have publicly committed themselves to work with the Graham Crusade. These are the Community Church in Hendersonville, the church at Smith Springs, Nashville, TN, and the Harpeth Hills church in Brentwood, which is the home congregation of Harold Hazelip, Chancellor of David Lipscomb University.

Another ungodly thing about Woodmont Hills' elders inviting Graham to Nashville is that at least 37 teachers and staff at DLU attend the Woodmont Hills church (check the Lipscomb University Campus Directory for 1999-2000).

Parents need to ask themselves if they want their children to be taught and influenced by those who worship and serve under elders who compromise with the denominationalism of Billy Graham.

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BULLETIN EDITOR/ELDERS

# BULLETIN BRIEFS

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## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Franklin Gray

*"Dear Brother: January 24, 2000  
The articles you print (in Bulletin Briefs) are a good source of wholesome truth and I appreciate the good brethren who write them. I do not have an article to submit...but I do have some Thoughts to Ponder,...which have entered my thinking over the years."*

- ◆ God's Word is a store house full of knowledge that cannot be exhausted.
- ◆ In the consummation, it matters not how long we have lived, but who we served while living.
- ◆ Any assurance of salvation, which is not in accord with what the Holy Spirit reveals in the Word is not of the Holy Spirit but is of the Devil (II Cor.4:3-4; 2:11).
- ◆ We can best show our allegiance to Christ if and when, by the word of truth, our previous convictions are proven wrong and we humbly yield to the words of the Holy Spirit (I Pet. 1:22-23).
- ◆ Study the word often and permit the Holy Spirit to do his work through the word of making you wise unto salvation (II Tim. 3:15-17).

885 Golf Course Road, Eldorado, IL 62930

## NEW WORLD TRANSLATION AND 2 PETER 3:10

Jesse Whitlock

Judge Rutherford, founder of Jehovah's Witnesses, attempted to explain away II Peter 3:10 by saying that "...the apostle is here using symbolic language." The passage states that "...the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up." The New World Translation (NWT) has corrupted the text to read,

*Yet Jehovah's day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a hissing noise, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and the earth and the works in it will be discovered."*

Now let me say that there is a world of difference in a thing's being burned up and a thing's being discovered! Which had you rather hear: "Our dinner just got burned up!" or "Our dinner was just discovered!"

I recall the first time that I read this perversion of God's Word in II Peter 3. The words that immediately came to my mind were the words recorded in Isaiah 8:20, "to the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning for them."

Later it dawned upon me that this is the same error made by those who cling to the AD 70 heresy introduced from denominationalism to the Lord's church by Max R. King. Jehovah's Witnesses and the followers of Max King both have made the same error of judgement as pertains to II Peter 3.

The words "burned up" are taken from the Greek *Katakaiō* which means "to burn up, to consume with fire." The Greek for "discovered" is *Katamoeō*. The scholars have stated, "...discovered is strange and improbable" (Thayer). Also, "...discovered obviously makes utter nonsense of the place" (Burgon). The evidence is highly in deference to "burned up."

The NWT, like the current AD 70 heresy, is not even consistent. The same Greek phrase is used elsewhere in the scripture. Matthew 3:12, "...but the chaff he will burn up with fire..." (NWT). Revelation 8:7, "...a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees was burned up, and all the green vegetation was burned up..." (NWT). Why would they translate correctly in these four instances and then incorrectly

in the only other occurrence of the phrase? Because II Peter 3:10 stands diametrically opposed to the AD 70 error.

Not only is the NWT inconsistent in its translation (or mistranslation!), it also contradicts itself on this very matter. Consider the wording of Hebrews 1:10 in the NWT: "you at the beginning, O Lord, laid the foundations of the earth itself, and the heavens are the works of your hands, they themselves will perish..." Then, within the context itself notice II Peter 3:7 in the NWT: "By the same word the heavens and the earth that are now stored up for fire..." Shades of contradiction! What shall it be? Those who hold the AD 70 error are in league with the doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses. Paul warned in I Corinthians 15:33, "be not deceived. Evil companionships corrupt good morals."  
809 E. Pershing, Ardmore, OK 73401

## BILLY GRAHAM AND NASHVILLE

Jim E. Waldron

Billy Graham was born in Charlotte, NC in 1918. Graham, who is an ordained Baptist preacher, worked in the late 40s with the "Youth for Christ Crusade" both in the United States and England. His first "large-scale evangelistic campaign (was held) in Los Angeles in 1949 (World Book Encyclopedia, p.290, 1976). In the early 50s, while I was in high school at Bellevue in Davidson County, TN, Graham came to Dudley Stadium at Vanderbilt University to hold one of his "Crusades for Christ." This June he is to hold a similar "Crusade" in the Adelphia Coliseum, which is the home field of the Tennessee Titans football team.

Graham, while proclaiming an ecumenical message e.g. "join the church of your choice" has boldly taught and upheld standard Baptist doctrines such as salvation by faith alone, once saved always saved and the future establishment of Christ's kingdom on this planet and Jesus' reign for a thousand years in Jerusalem.

Salvation is *not* by faith alone (Mark 16:15-16; James 2:24). Those who have been saved by God's grace can fall from that grace (Gal. 5:4; Heb. 6:4-6) and Jesus' kingdom was founded on the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection in Jerusalem about 1970 years ago (Matt. 16:18-19; Luke 9:27; Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:33-42; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). Also, Jesus has been "the ruler of the kings of the earth" (Rev. 1:5; Eph.1:18-22) since that date (Pentecost 28 May 30 AD) Graham's contradictions of these scriptures places him in the ranks of false teachers for he perverts the gospel (cf. Gal. 1:6-9).

Of the 120 churches of Christ in Nashville and Davidson County in 1953 not one shamed our beloved brotherhood (I Peter 2:17) by bidding Godspeed to this false teacher. But now it is different. Last fall the preacher for the Woodmont Hills church (Rubel Shelly) announced "several of our shepherds wrote letters of invitation to Dr. Graham to encourage him to come to our city" (*Lovelines, Vol. 25, No. 39, Sept. 29, 1999, www.woodmont.org/whtt2539.html*).

*Cont. page 5*

Graham's response to their invitation and that of denominational preachers was "on behalf of my colleagues at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, I accept this generous invitation to partner with your church and community leaders..." (Middle Tennessee Crusade Home Page at [info@tennesseecrusade.org](mailto:info@tennesseecrusade.org))

## INNOCENT BLOOD

Jim E. Waldron

**Well did the Holy Spirit speak of such a people as "pro-choice" Americans in the last quarter of the previous century. They "shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols (of lust and greed) and the land was polluted with blood" (Psalm 106:38). Between January 1973 and January 2000 the slaughtering pens in the U.S., known as abortion clinics, killed more than 37,000,000 babies without distinction as to whether they were black, brown, red, yellow or white. In this election year we need to let the world know where we stand on the question of shedding innocent blood. Good material on this subject is found in the *National Right To Life News, Suite 500, 419 7th St. NW Washington D.C. 20004. The annual subscription rate for preachers, educators or students is ten dollars. Gift subscriptions are also ten dollars.***

See also [www.nrlc.org/news/index.html](http://www.nrlc.org/news/index.html)