

The book of James

Carry up my Bones from Here

Introduction

The context of James is the early church. James emphasizes this context in his book when he says that we should not “have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons”. The record in Acts and Galatians reveals a key human failing, we are prone to have the faith of Jesus “with respect of persons”. Imagine you are a new one, you are not sure what to believe. But, you know you can trust James, after all, he is the brother of Jesus and the son of the virgin Mary. In Acts and Galatians James had a big influence on the early church and what was recorded was not a positive one. James’ experience is as much a part of the context as Paul’s experience of persecuting Christians or Peter’s experience of denying the Lord. James experience of the early church respecting him according to who he was in the flesh is relevant for him to expose false prophets, to shut their mouths, and to help those who have wandered from the truth return to the normal church life. We might think that showing partiality is extremely rare. What is the teaching of slavery if not “having the faith of our Lord Jesus with respect of persons”? When John Adams was working on the declaration of Independence his wife mentioned the fact that women were not treated as equals. The Civil Rights movement and Women’s suffrage are both based on “having the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons”. Some justified slavery saying the slaves were descendants of Ham, the son of Noah that was cursed. That is, by definition, to be a “respector of persons”. Arguments against women’s suffrage were that women were weaker, that they were too occupied with domestic duties, and that they were too stupid to bear the responsibilities of voting. Once again, this by definition, is to “hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons”. What about Nazi Germany where Jews were required to wear the star of David, were housed in Ghettos and then exterminated in camps. This is the logical extreme of what it is to be a “respector of persons” and what it is to show partiality.

Paul told us that “their mouths must be stopped” regarding the false prophets. How do you accomplish that? James tells us that no man can “tame the tongue”. “Taming the tongue” or “shutting the mouths” is a work of faith. It is the book of James, as much as any other New Testament book that will equip you to stand against a false prophet by “taming their tongue”.

Why are Christians deceived by false prophets? Like any disease you need to know what the risk factors are, what steps do you need to take to protect yourself and what are the symptoms of those who are being led astray. How do you diagnose if you have been deceived? What is the number one safeguard against false prophets? How do you speak to someone who is deceived, how do you reach them? These are some of the issues addressed in the book of James. Many temptations can be examined: investment schemes (Bernie Madoff), national security (Benedict Arnold), elections (Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump) using the book of James. And the book is balanced, not only does it focus on false prophets but also on genuine faith. Orville and Wilbur Wright, Douglas MacArthur and Harry S. Truman are examples of people who were vilified as being false during their lifetime. These men reveal how difficult discerning the truth can be. James gives us a promise that if we lack wisdom we can ask God and He will give us this wisdom without upbraiding us. The book of James is the "perfect gift of God". The New Covenant is about giving us a new heart, a heart of flesh. The book of James is about this new heart given to the genuine believers of Christ.

False prophets are "bullies". Cults are characterized by bullying. How do you respond in a way that triumphs over bullies? This is an issue in schools and in the world, not just in the church. FDR and Marshall exemplified the way mentioned by James in their dealing with MacArthur, likewise Gandhi in his dealing with the British, and Mandela in his actions as President. Christians are destined to rule and reign with Jesus Christ and the book of James equips us to triumph over bullies.

What are the indicators that a man is genuine or false? James gives us a seven point checklist to discern. He also reveals the actions that should set off an alarm. How can a man who knows Jesus and ministers the word of God be a false prophet? James explains this and makes clear the matter of grace with three simple words. James also gives us the one thing, above all, that a believer should not do. Again, this can apply to a church, it can also apply to Germans living under Adolf Hitler, or investors considering an investment scheme from Bernie Madoff.

Finally, James explains how to return when you have wandered from the truth. The book is written to "the twelve tribes in the dispersion". He identifies what led them astray, why they followed this false leader, and what is the path that leads back to a normal church life. It applies to traitors and scam artists of all kinds. James focus is on judging why you were deceived. This is not for us to judge others, but rather that we can remove the beam from our own eye.

2 Pet 2:15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing.

What is the path back to God? James gives us that path. The word "dispersion" refers to the pattern of distribution of individuals within a habitat. The kingdom of heaven is like a field where the Lord has distributed believers across this earth under His sovereignty. If these believers

can root out the stony heart and take a heart of flesh, then there is no place left for God's enemy. The Lord has prayed that we would all be one and overcome the world, and He has given us the book of James to help us according to His love and His purpose.

The truth is powerful whether or not you believe it. It did not matter that no one believed Wilbur and Orville Wright had built an airplane that could fly. They did not waste time arguing or debating. Instead Wilbur spent months rebuilding the plane damaged by the customs office and then in a demonstration lasting less than 5 minutes took off, circled the field and landed. Likewise, it didn't matter that the British did not believe Gandhi when he said that they would pack up and leave on their own. It was the truth and it was what they did. However, for a false prophet his power is based on you "believing" his word. If you reject his word then he is powerless. For example, the followers of Hitler claimed that he "struck a chord with us, he uttered what was in the consciousness of all of us". Charisma exists as an interaction between a speaker and an audience. Hitler told them what they wanted to hear. It is like a virus that needs a host to infect, without a host there is no life and no power. When we deal with our heart we will deal with the virus. As a rule James makes it clear we are not to judge our brother, however he also points out that teachers are subject to a "stricter judgement". It is foolish to argue that the New Testament forbids us from judging teachings, that is akin to forbidding discernment, prudence or wisdom. Jesus tells the church in Thyatira that He has this against them, that they tolerate that woman Jezebel who teaches His believers to commit spiritual fornication. This book teaches us to discern the teachings and teachers, it doesn't teach us to judge our brother.

2Pet 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

I will reference my personal experience with the Local Church through some of the discussion on the book of James. This group was founded by Witness Lee, a coworker of Watchman Nee. Since some may not know this relatively small and obscure Christian group it is important to give you a little background of key issues, doctrines, events and people.

Watchman Nee

When Mao took over China Watchman Nee remained and sent Witness Lee to take "the recovery" to Taiwan. Watchman Nee died in prison after Richard Nixon asked about him. One incident that is critical to this book is understanding who Watchman Nee is (author of Sit, Walk, Stand and other books on the Bible). In China Watchman Nee established a new sect of Christianity based on his doctrine "The Ground of the Church". This is a highly contentious doctrine and it is the foundation of his sect. This doctrine is based on the Old Testament typology of the Temple which was built on a specific ground. The place where Abraham offered up Isaac. Since James uses this as "the" example of being "saved by works of faith" it is really a cornerstone to understanding both the book of James and the sect of Watchman Nee. This is

also the same ground where King David offered a burnt offering to stop the plague brought on by pride. This “plague brought on by pride” is also a critical component of both James and the issues I raise with Witness Lee. The doctrine of “The Minister of the Age” exemplifies the extent of this “plague brought on by pride”. As a result it is important to introduce these two doctrines. The other incident that is crucial is Watchman Nee’s being disciplined by the elders in Shanghai for having a mistress. Witness Lee taught (in speaking, but not in writing) that Watchman Nee was disciplined for living with a woman, but that the woman was his mother. This lie was critical in preserving Watchman Nee’s legacy as a man of God, and by extension Witness Lee’s legacy as his closest coworker.

Ground of the church

According to the “Ground of the Church” doctrine you cannot just build the church anywhere, it has to be built on the “proper” ground (just like the Temple in the Old Testament). The verses in the Old Testament are clear, specific, and difficult to ignore. However, for a doctrine as important and central as this (according to Witness Lee you cannot have the real oneness of the Body unless you are on the proper ground) the New Testament references used by Watchman Nee and Witness Lee are obscure and vague. It is based on these two New Testament verses:

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that were wanting, and **appoint** elders in every city, as I gave thee charge;

And

Acts 14:23 And when they had **appointed** for them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they had believed.

According to Nee and Lee, “appointing elders in every church” = “appointing elders in every city”. You could reasonably deduce that the boundaries for each missionary was geographic, perhaps they were given cities to work in. But these two verses become the basis to say that the proper ground of the church is the geographic boundary of a city. This inference is then supported by Nee and Lee by showing that anywhere in the New Testament when the word “church” is used it is associated with a single city, and when “churches” are used it is associated with a larger geographic region (church in Ephesus, churches of Galatia). Like any good lie it is based on the truth. It is true that the Old Testament Temple is a type of the church. It is also true that the ground that the church is built on is specific and important. This ground was purchased by Christ with his blood on the cross. To try and equate this ground with the boundaries of geographic cities is an insult to Jesus. This different gospel that they preach becomes very ugly when you look at the application. Based on this doctrine all Christian gatherings are divisive because they do not claim to be the church in that city. Any other name other than “church in _____” is an abomination. Only the elders of this group are legitimate, any other Christian leader that does not submit to their authority is wrong. Also, what do you do when the church in a city has tens of thousands of members? In Taipei they

have 23 meeting halls, each with elders in that hall. So the issue isn't with different meeting halls, each with their own elders, the issue is with all of the elders reporting to Witness Lee. Only the "apostle" has the authority to appoint elders (or remove them) and they are all under his authority. So then, Watchman Nee teaches that "authority is local, each local church answers to the Lord" yet in practice every local church answers to Witness Lee and they are not "legitimate" unless he sanctions them. There are several requirements put on a local church. Each one must have a standing order with the Living Stream Ministry, receiving monthly shipments of books that they don't want. They must participate in yearly trainings, sending people and paying fees for these. And they must contribute on a monthly basis to the Legal Defense Fund, paying for the legal team of lawyers that the Living Stream Ministry controls. This legal team is used for lawsuits against others. The teaching is used to judge others and to bring the believers into bondage. Then worst of all, they are told that if they leave the "proper ground" of Witness Lee's churches then they cannot go on with the Lord.

Matt 18:6 but whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that [a] great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and *that* he should be sunk in the depth of the sea.

Minister of the Age

The second doctrine is the "Minister of the Age" doctrine. According to this the Lord is working out His purpose in this age, building His church. In each "mini time period" say the time of Martin Luther or the time of Watchman Nee the Lord has a particular vision, He gives that vision to one servant to minister and that servant is the "Minister of the Age". Martin Luther was a "Minister of the Age" and Watchman Nee was a "Minister of the Age". The vision that Martin Luther had was "justification by faith", the vision that Watchman Nee had was "the ground of the church". This doctrine is supported with an extensive review of the Old Testament showing that at any given moment in time God was moving through one key man (Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Elijah, Elisha, etc.). Then in the New Testament you can see that Peter took the lead at one time, then James was clearly the leading elder at one time, then Paul when he rebuked Peter was taking the lead, etc. But then when you study church history this teaching collapses. There was never, apart from James, a "Minister of the Age" that all other ministers appear to submit to. They use a verse from Moses saying that there will be a prophet like him, but that verse is very clearly referring to Jesus. The Old Testament type of the "Minister of the Age" is a type of Jesus and the "vision of the age" is salvation by grace. This doctrine teaches that this type of Jesus is actually a type of Watchman Nee, that is equivalent to preaching another Jesus that Paul warns us of.

2 Cor 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we did not preach,

The book of James condemns the history where he was the leading elder saying that we should not have the faith of our Lord Jesus with respect of persons. He condemns boasting and pride.

Key Issues

Lawsuits

Many Christians became alarmed by this group. Books like the “God Men” and “The Mindbenders” were published accusing the church of being a cult. Witness Lee put together a legal defense team and sued these publishers. All of the churches are required to send money to Living Stream Ministry to support this legal defense team. Ultimately the publishers of those books went broke and could no longer fight the lawsuit, hence Witness Lee won. Witness Lee’s use of lawsuits to sue Christians is a major issue many have with him.

1Cor 6:6 but brother goeth to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? 7 Nay, already it is altogether a defect in you, that ye have lawsuits one with another. Why not rather take wrong? why not rather be defrauded? 8 Nay, but ye yourselves do wrong, and defraud, and that *your* brethren

Daystar

Witness Lee was involved in numerous investment schemes. The one I refer to is called “Daystar” it was a motor home company that was located in Taiwan. He sold stock in this company to all of the saints in the United States. His sons, Philip and Timothy ran the company. The company went bankrupt yet Philip and Timothy and Witness Lee made money. Witness Lee convinced all of the saints to not seek remuneration. Selling the stock as he did violated SEC regulations. There were a number of issues with this company that had the saints sought to get their money back would have put Witness Lee and his sons in jail.

Starting around 1972, Witness Lee expressed a concern for the financial suffering of the migrating saints and their need to be able to purchase proper meeting places. I was in a meeting of visiting elders and co-workers in which he introduced the Daystar business. He shared that his son Timothy had approached him about a business and that the business seemed to Witness Lee to be ideal for us (the local churches). The brothers and sisters could invest money, earn a nice profit of around 35%, and generate significant profit for the support of the new churches. He then spoke of manufacturing only the finest product. We could produce the product in Taiwan, which would help the believers there with employment and sell the product in the USA. He spoke at length concerning how the members of the churches should only invest their surplus and that he felt very positive that this was of the Lord. The business consisted of manufacturing and selling an expensive motor home. This was certainly a very different meeting than anything I had ever attended. I and others left with our heads spinning. I was bothered and asked James Barber what was going on. He replied that Witness Lee was God’s anointed and I should be very careful about criticizing. He declared that even if Witness Lee was wrong, God would bless the endeavor. (Taken from “History by Don Rutledge” posted on the Local Church Discussions website).

Philip Lee

After Daystar Witness Lee formed “Living Stream Ministry” and put Philip Lee, an unsaved person, in charge. Philip Lee was involved in many evil deeds including molesting sisters and having drunken parties in the office. The elders brought these to the attention of Witness Lee. All those that did were slandered, libeled and excommunicated. Max Rappaport, his wife, John Ingalls, Bill Mallon, John So, etc. There is a long list of people who became aware of the sins of Philip Lee and as a result were maligned and driven out of the Local church and everyone was told to avoid them because they were “poisoned”. These were the key spiritual leaders in the church. In addition, Philip Lee was the one who forced all the churches to get “standing orders”. This means that each month the church pays for books they don’t want. The boxes of books would build up in the closet until they have no more room. At that point they have a “yard sale” to get rid of them.

Key People

Ray Graver, Benson Phillips, Kerry Robichaux and Ed Marks were all in the church in Houston at the same time I was from 1978 to 1981. All five of us then went to form the church in Irving to build a large conference center for the Living Stream Ministry and were there until 1983. So for six years I was in a church of 200 (Houston) and 100 (Irving) with these four. Today Ray Graver and Benson Phillips run Living Stream Ministry. Ed Marks is a key elder, taking over when the elders in Anaheim resigned over Philip Lee. He is notorious for signing an apology letter to Phillip Lee apologizing for the elders that had disciplined him over his adulterous behavior with sisters (married and single) at the Living Stream office. Kerry Robichaux is the “scribe”. He graduated with a degree in linguistics. He has studied Greek and has a Phd. I went to Rice university at the same time he was there. Ray Graver and Benson Phillips are notorious for refusing to listen to John Ingalls when he came to them about Philip Lee. They argued that Philip was a “local matter”. They basically stuck the knife in the back of the elders in Anaheim and then the four of them (Ray, Benson, Ed and Kerry) replaced them.

Upon coming together we attempted amid protests to mention the matter of the misconduct in the LSM office. They steadfastly refused to hear about it, but we proceeded to speak. Ray [Ray Graver] Graver then quickly rose and exited the room. Benson [Benson Phillips] (in whose home we were meeting) also rose to register his displeasure. We felt that they had knowledge relevant to the matter and wanted to confer with them about it. Benson admitted that the same sister from the LSM office (mentioned previously) had come to him in Taipei to disclose a related event, but he strongly protested our bringing this matter before them. They argued that this affair was exclusively under the jurisdiction of the church in Anaheim, and they had no business being involved. We felt, as we mentioned earlier, that it was more than local, and that since that they were leaders in the LSM operation, they could be consulted. (Taken from Speaking the Truth in Love, by John Ingalls)

James chapter 1

James 1:1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

This book is written at the beginning of the New Testament, the transition from the Old Testament to the New. Imagine how disruptive that is to Jewish believers, to once feel that you were God's elite, chosen race and now all of a sudden you have to reject much of what you gave your life to. You didn't eat with Gentiles, now you do. You used to teach that the proper ground to worship God was in Jerusalem, now it is in your spirit. You were one of the twelve tribes of Israel, the prince of God. Now you are a Christian. The burden of James is with those having trouble making that transition. There is a great divide between the Old and New Testament, signified by our crossing the death waters in our baptism. James does not refer to himself as one of the 12 tribes, but as "a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ". The fact that he is writing to the "12 tribes" should not lead to the assumption that he does not understand the change from the OT to the NT. Instead it should indicate that his burden is for them. Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that there were believers in Jesus who considered themselves "the twelve tribes in the dispersion". We cannot assume that this label was created by James. A logical conclusion is that this label already existed and James was writing to this group. The book of James should be judged based on what he wrote. I don't judge Paul's books based on his persecution of Christians. I don't judge Peter's letters based on his denial of the Lord. If you think that the book of James is influenced by his Jewish roots due to the accounts in Galatians and Acts then you should see evidence of that in the book. I disagree with Witness Lee who said:

"However, to call these believers in Christ the twelve tribes, as God's chosen people in His Old Testament economy, may also indicate the lack of a clear view concerning the distinction between Christians and Jews, between God's New Testament economy and the Old Testament dispensation, that God in the New Testament has delivered and separated the Jewish believers in Christ from the Jewish nation, which was then considered by God as a "perverse generation" (Acts 2:40)."

The books of Acts and Galatians present evidence that James was confused between the OT and NT. However, in Corinthians Paul says that the Lord appeared to James. Therefore, the New Testament also presents evidence that James did have the New Testament vision. Peter denied the Lord, later when he was sent to Cornelius house he was afraid to deny the Lord again. That experience helped him in his ministry. Paul persecuted the believers however he later received a vision from the Lord of the Body of Christ seeing that those he persecuted were actually members of the Body of Christ and therefore he was persecuting Christ himself. It is

reasonable that James failure was also critical to his ministry. James is “a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”. He is not of “the twelve tribes”. For thousands of years God moved according to the Old covenant and now, almost overnight, He is moving according to the New Covenant. It seems reasonable that God would be concerned for those having trouble making the transition. I have come to the conclusion that all believers will have to deal with false teachers, false prophets, and false Christs. I believe that this book shows us the way to discern between the temptations of a false faith and true religion.

This term “tribes” is what really stands out as being “off”. But how hypocritical is that? What is a denomination if not a “tribe”? The word “tribal” indicates a strong loyalty to one’s group. We should have a strong loyalty to Jesus Christ. James may be the only book of the New Testament truly written to the current situation among Christians. False prophets create “tribes”, a sect dominated by loyalty to a particular man. Consider Adolf Hitler and his speech when he was appointed Chancellor of Germany in 1933: “Never believe in foreign help, never in help which lies outside our own nation, our own people. Within ourselves alone lies the future of the German people.” Hitler’s vision was to make Germany a very distinct “tribe”. This is true of cult leaders. Within weeks of a speech warning Germans not to talk with outsiders people were being arrested and sent to concentration camps. Torture was commonplace. This was a movement of violent revolutionaries and there was brutal suppression of any opposition. To have a strong loyalty to any other man indicates a false prophet. This term [tribes] indicates what the burden of James is. He is concerned with the people who have been led astray.

The twelve tribes do refer to the Old Testament, which had been done away with. To take issue with this term is correct. The fact that they are “scattered” is not a good expression, and emphasizes even more how negative this situation is, like bones scattered in the valley in the book of Ezekiel.

Eze 37:4-5 Again he said unto me, Prophecy over these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah. Thus saith the Lord Jehovah unto these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.

The book of James is speaking to “the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.” We are bone of the Lord’s bone and flesh of His flesh. These bones have the resurrection power in them. The believers were led astray and scattered like dry bones in the valley. But James has been given the word to speak to these scattered tribes. That doesn’t mean that his vision isn’t clear, but rather that he is a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph commanded his brothers to take his bones up out of Egypt, God commanded Ezekiel to speak to the dry bones, and James received a vision of the Lord Jesus to speak to the “twelve tribes which are scattered abroad”. This is the stewardship that was entrusted to James. This is the dispensation of the grace of God that was given to James for us. Speaking to the “twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” is according to the dispensation of God to fulfill the word of God and is in faith. So then, is it James who is not clear concerning God’s New Testament Economy, or Witness Lee?

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

I first began to deal with being bamboozled by a false prophet when I heard many different experiences, going all the way back to Mainland China in the 1930s to the present. Experiences within the cult and experiences of those leaving. You can count your experience as a joy if you know one thing: "that the trying of your faith worketh patience". This is a virtue that is greatly undervalued in our society. Nobody extolls patience, and as a result we rarely ever see a "perfect work". If you want to have a perfect work, a work that is entire and wanting nothing, then you need patience. Eleanor Roosevelt clearly had her faith tried by the Russians and others when she had the UN write a universal declaration of human rights, but those trials worked patience in her, and that patience resulted in a perfect work. The same can be said of the Wright brothers and their invention of an airplane. They spent 7 years developing, building, testing, modifying and rebuilding. These tests are a crucial test of the spirits.

1Jn 4:1-6 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

To "confess Jesus" is to declare your faith in Jesus. According to James declaring your faith in words without works is dead. We declare our living faith in Jesus in our actions, in our works of faith. If you listen to the words of a false prophet you are deceived, but if you look at their actions it is clear as day. When you do a "work of faith" you are declaring that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh".

4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Our entire experience of the trials in the Lord's Recovery Church produced patience. It has caused us to reexamine everything we thought we knew. It has humbled us. It has caused us to draw near to God.

For example, everyone appreciates how big an impact George Washington had on holding the revolution together, overthrowing the biggest superpower of the day, and beginning the US on our course. When you look at George Washington the most stunning quality is "patience". He demonstrates a quality we rarely associate with great generals.

But, Benedict Arnold was also a key contributor to our success. When you look at Arnold you see what a child thinks is important in a general, courage and brilliant success.

1. Without the French we would not have won in the way we did, perhaps not at all. The French joined us after our victory at Saratoga and that should certainly be credited to Arnold. Certainly not to Gates who is remembered far more for his memorable flight from future battles. Gates talent was the one much more common with generals, taking credit for someone else's bravery.

then

2. When Arnold's treason was revealed it helped galvanize the cause. Those supporting the Patriots were often just giving lip service but not supporting the troops with anything substantial (just as James said: **15 If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, 16 and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit?**)

The revolutionary war tested our faith and produced "patience", and Arnold's treason was a great motivator. It exposed the emptiness and two facedness that was tempting many. I argue that "false prophets" like Judas and Balaam are a key component in bringing the church to maturity. James is speaking to those who were led astray by their own temptations, pointing out that this was a test of their faith that produces patience and you need this to get a perfect work.

Benedict Arnold succumbed to the temptation, being a double minded man, and decided that since he wasn't being paid he would use his position in the army and as governor of Philadelphia to enrich himself. Perhaps this is not unlike the false prophet's reasoning, justifying his many schemes to make merchandise of the saints. He tries to serve both mammon and God, but can't.

(25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?)

The Patriot army was paid with IOU's from the Continental Congress which many did not believe in. Many soldiers sold off their "pay" for 15 cents on the dollar to "speculators" likened to "whores". When the US government paid off these debts some cried foul, saying the money should be given to the soldiers. Ultimately it was decided that they got the 15% when they wanted it and the speculators had demonstrated more faith in the Union. This is not unlike Witness Lee's profligate sons who like Esau traded any inheritance they might have for a pot of beans. Just because Esau, or Benedict Arnold, or Philip Lee sold their inheritance for a pot of beans doesn't mean that this is what it is worth. Those that gave their life to the Lord are rewarded accordingly. These temptations are not "strange" but are common to all who seek a better kingdom. A "whistleblower" is a person who is working for the company that is committing crimes, they sneak the information out, similar to letting spies out, and this information brings down the company. You could compare the "whistleblower" in the case that exposed the big Tobacco companies to a prostitute. It was a work of faith that he did to expose them. This is similar to what Rahab the harlot did, and God also considers this a work of faith. When you

deal with a cult like the church of Scientology you will need a “Rahab” to help expose the sins and prosecute them. For every cult leader there will be a Rahab who will bring them down. Some people can ignore their conscience, but there will always be those who can't.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Definition of wisdom — any action (including counsel) that you will not be ashamed of at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Proverbs 1:7).

This is something that every Christian wants to know. How does the false prophet deceive many? How do I prevent it from happening to me? And, if I am stuck in this organization how do I get out? If you are in a position like Rahab how do I get the spies out? If you are not familiar with the word “upbraideth” it means to find fault with someone, to scold. God is not here finding fault, on the contrary our experience in being deceived showed we had some basic failings and if we pray God will provide the wisdom we need.

1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Surely we questioned the things we saw in the Lord's Recovery Church. Didn't you see saints publicly shamed in the meetings? Did you question that without wavering, or when you were told that focusing on the negative things is “death” did you get driven by the wind and tossed? I am thankful for my experience in the Lord's Recovery Church because they taught me you cannot waver. When I was younger I spent time on the ocean. There is only one good way to take on heavy seas and that is head on. If you turn to the side you will be flipped, if you try to run with the waves they will drive you into the rocks. In the Lord's Recovery Church it was the same. If you are going to rebuke them then you have to do it head on, to his face, in a meeting with a hundred witnesses.

1:7-8 For let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

The Lord's Recovery Church taught me I could not be double minded. Almost immediately I was called into a meeting in Houston with a number of elders and was told “I already had 2 strikes against me”. No one told me what the two strikes were but I understood this to mean that if I got another one of these mysterious strikes I would be excommunicated. So I had to decide “Lord's Recovery Church [LRC] or conscience”? I decided if I wasn't true to my conscience I didn't want to be in the LRC. So I decided to ignore the warning. I didn't know what the two strikes were, and therefore I could get them at any time, so I lived with the thought that on any given day this could be the day they excommunicate me. As a result I wanted to keep a short account with the Lord. Once you are kicked out you will not have another chance to release your burden, do it now, don't wait. The temptation was to be double minded and the result of listening to that is

that you are unstable in all of your ways. Many years later I finally had some idea of what those two strikes were. On two separate occasions and to two different brothers (Kerry Robichaux and Ed Marks) I indicated I was more interested in reading the Bible than in purchasing Witness Lee's books. They must have reported this to the elders who viewed this attitude as something to nip in the bud. They were double minded, trying to serve God and sell books, but when push came to shove they could only sell books.

According to James a "double minded man" is in contrast to a man of faith. You know that a man is a "double minded man" because he is unstable in all his ways. We know that the Lord's Recovery Church was unstable in all its ways, going through turmoils every 10 years. Excommunications, lawsuits, recriminations, etc. We have also deduced that these turmoils, though always blamed on others, were the result of unrighteousness in the Lee house. According to James a clear indication that the group you are in is not operating based on faith is that they are "double minded" and "unstable in all of their ways". They are trying to answer to the Lord Jesus and also to some other authority. You can't do that.

This is revealing. If you see a "brother" who is unstable in all his ways, what you are seeing is someone who is not a man of faith, but is double minded. There are many testimonies of those in the lead who acted in an abusive, perhaps sinful, perhaps confusing way. They were unstable and they were double minded. Anyone in contact with a false prophet will have these moments of confusion, they will see the "instability", the "rebellions", the "rants", the "outrageous acts". James fellowship makes it clear that this is the result of a double minded man.

9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, **10** but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. **11** For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

In the church there is no "Minister of the Age" or "super apostle". Referring to saints as being "rich" in the word, or in life is a major red flag. When you examine them under the bright light of day they instantly wither.

12 Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

The main temptation that we all face is the temptation to blame others for our mistakes. After WWI the Germans who fell for this temptation embraced Adolf Hitler and others like him. They wanted to believe that their loss in the war was due to the Jews, blame them, and presented a policy of removing the Jews from Germany. Oscar Schindler received the crown of life. It is possible to endure temptation. It is possible to receive a crown of life in the midst of the most horrific crimes perpetrated by a false prophet.

In the LRC they want to blame “poor Christianity” or “degraded Christianity” for any failings they may have had. Create a scapegoat. But, true religion is to visit orphans and widows in their trouble. Street gangs and poor schools are not the problem, they are the symptom that the Christians have become “twelve tribes in the dispersion”. The temptation of the false prophets is to blame the orphans and widows, whereas true religion is to visit them in their trouble.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. **15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

The reason we got ensnared into the Lord's Recovery Church is we were drawn away by our own lusts. Perhaps the idea that you were special or better than other Christians was the lure. Any discussion of special revelation, special blessing, or proper ground is a major red flag. The ground of the church doctrine is a quick and easy way to make your group better than others while also making all other groups wrong. The minister of the age doctrine is a quick and easy way to let you know that you have the best ministry, better than any other one.

If you were tempted by “Hitler” is was not from God, you were drawn away by your own desires. Those desires result in sin, and that sin must be confessed and repented of, otherwise it brings forth death. The same is true if you bought into the “ground of the church” doctrine, or the “MOTA” doctrine, or “deputy authority”, or you watched as people around you were excommunicated, slandered and maligned by sleazy men. These men even sued Christians with a legal defense team supported by your donations.

Why did Germans accept Hitler? He appeared to be a strong leader that would lead them out of a depression and who would deal with terrorism. Yes, there was a temptation that this man would solve your problems. But his solution was to sterilize the handicapped, and even exterminate them. His solution was to blame the widows and orphans.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

If you justify the Lord's Recovery Church saying “how could this be false if the teachings are good” know that “every good gift is from above”. The “truths” didn't come from the false prophet, the truths came from God. This is a big issue with many. They think that a false prophet cannot share good gifts. Since they received light and revelation while under his ministry they give credit to the false prophet. This is a deception. If you received a good gift or a perfect gift it came down from the father of lights, not Balaam, or Judas or Gehazi.

My experiences in the Lord's Recovery were genuine, they were real, they were of God. But those gifts were not a result of Witness Lee's ministry. Every perfect gift is from above. My

salvation was a result of the word of truth. The false prophet tries to take credit for my personal experiences of Christ, and that is deceitful. Witness Lee did not spin golden truths from straw.

2Pet 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

God is the one who brought us forth by the word of His truth. The purpose is so that we could be a "first fruit" to Him among all of His creatures. If we are going to overcome Satan then we need to have this faith.

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

We are becoming "the righteousness of God". This is what it means to take up your cross and follow Jesus. This is what the process of sanctification is. We saw the wrath of man in the Lord's Recovery. The lawsuits are only one example. We saw leading ones berating people in public. We were taught that we owed these brothers our life because of the good and perfect gifts they gave us through their ministry. We were railed upon concerning the damage that the "rebellious" ones did. None of this produced "the righteousness of God".

The goal is to produce the righteousness of God. If that is not your goal you are a double minded man. You are being led about by your lusts and desires. The appeal of Hitler was to give an outlet to the wrath of man. That kind of message does not produce the righteousness of God. Witness Lee appealed to those who liked the term "degraded Christianity". That is merely the outlet to the wrath of man.

THE ISLAMIC STATE IS URGING JIHADISTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE TO CARRY OUT TERROR ATTACKS DURING WHAT A GROUP SPOKESMAN PROMISED WOULD BE "THE MONTH OF CONQUEST AND JIHAD."

These terrorist attacks we are seeing are the wrath of man, they do not produce the righteousness of God. These men who are calling for this behavior and urging this behavior are "false prophets".

Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath -- good advice for those who are politically active. Did any of the pundits give Trump a chance to win the nomination? How about Bernie Sanders, anyone predict he would do that well? The advice is to be swift to hear and slow to speak. When Ronald Reagan was president many characterized him as someone who would get us into a war and yet he played a leading role in the end of the cold war. Who would have thought that LBJ would have been the one to get major civil rights legislation passed? Teddy Roosevelt,

the one who advocated carrying a big stick, got a Noble Peace prize. These examples of the righteousness of God being produced weren't produced by the "wrath of man" or the commentary of the pundits. When I hear the commentary of pundits it sounds like the "wrath of man" and it does not produce the righteousness of God.

Hitler's book, Mein Kampf displays his wrath. "He who wants to live, should fight, and he who does not want to fight in this world of eternal struggle, does not deserve to live." Talking about who does and does not deserve to live does not produce the righteousness of God. He elaborates on this referring to those that were "supporting unworthy life forms" (referring to disabled and mentally ill) and "have also allowed them to breed". He passed a compulsory sterilization law. Later he authorized the killing of tens of thousands of disabled Germans. He justified these actions because of the basic principle of "survival of the fittest". The righteousness of God is summed up in the laws of Jesus, to do unto others as you would have them do to you and to love God with all your heart. Hitler produced the holocaust, not the righteousness of God. He claimed that he was invading Czechoslovakia because he "wanted to right the wrongs of the territorial settlement at the end of the first World War". Once again, the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Lay aside all those things that keep us from running this race. It is amazing to me to see that those who taught me to deny the flesh, deny sin, deny the self, deny the world were at the same time embracing these very same things. When I met Philip Lee I couldn't understand why Ray Graver was embracing someone who was overflowing with wickedness. Let me explain. I was a full time worker on the construction site in Irving. We were donating our time to build this structure and I worked on this site for 18 months without charge. This was a major conference center for the Living Stream Ministry. Philip Lee, Witness Lee's son, was in charge of the ministry and came to the construction site to visit. Ray Graver, the foreman of the site, gathered 12 full time brothers together under the pretense of "fellowship with Phillip Lee". We stopped what we were working on and went to lunch with him. He had a very expensive lobster meal at some fancy Chinese restaurant while the rest of us sat around and watched. This restaurant was far more expensive than anything we would eat at. His lunch probably cost around \$120 with the tip. There was no fellowship, just watching this fat glutton eat. Later I wondered why we were there, what was the point? Then I realized, he could put a \$120 lunch on his tab if it was "fellowship" with the full time workers. This does not stand out as excessive when you say that 14 people were there. I only met him once but immediately knew this was not a godly man but one that overflowed with wickedness and evil.

Salvation by grace begins when we lay aside all filthiness, repent of these, and are baptized into the name of the Triune God. To repent and be baptized is to be a doer of the word.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

How many preach good news to orphans and widows, or raise up churches, or care for small group meetings? Listening to messages and thinking you are something spiritual is just deceiving yourself. Talking about preaching the gospel without actually doing is a big red flag. A false prophet is not concerned with “the righteousness of God”. What he wants is to “make merchandise of the saints”. Buy his ministry, his books, his conferences, and whatever else he sells. This is a major point. Everyone in the Lord’s Recovery Churches is taught to be a hearer of the word. You cannot have a ministry, you cannot publish (Titus Chu was excommunicated for doing this).

“Through Brother Lee’s fellowship over the years, we have long realized that there should be one publication among us. The one publication is not only a testimony of our oneness in the Body but also a safeguard for the unique ministry in the Lord’s recovery. Without one publication, there is no way to preserve the integrity of the Lord’s ministry among us, which is crucial to the practical oneness among the local churches.” (Blended Coworkers, 2005, as quoted by Steve Isitt).

You cannot give to charity because every dollar is going to support this ministry. You may faithfully give to the church, but they in turn must pay monthly fees to Living Stream Ministry [LSM] for a standing order and other fees for the legal defense fund. You cannot do something outside of the meetings because they consume all of your free time and vacation time. Everyone is required to take part in two trainings a year, amounting to two full weeks of vacation time. The false prophets convert the saints to “merchandise” and they do this by making them “hearers only”.

The false prophet, like Hitler was all about having large, impressive meetings filled with people who were “hearers of the word” and not doers.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

There is a contrast here between two kinds of people. Those who are forgetful, they forget what kind of man they are, they forget the law of liberty, and by extension they forget the kind of man that Jesus was. The other kind are blessed. They continue in the law of liberty, they are a doer of the work.

It is important to approach an election realistically, realizing the kind of mistakes that we make. The pundits are the “hearers” of the word. For example, Douglas MacArthur was full of faults. He was truly a backstabbing prima donna who was manipulative and egotistical. That said he was also a brilliant general who coordinated the navy, air force and army in a virtuoso campaign. He was masterful in his handling of Japan after the war. If you were just a “hearer” of

MacArthur's words only, then you would have condemned him, and many did. But since Marshall and Roosevelt were also doers, also fighting the war, they were able to work with him as they also did not forget what kind of men they were as well. In fact, all the "doers" like Halsey were able to work with MacArthur. If you judge MacArthur by his words you would reject him, if you judge him by his works you would praise him. You cannot judge rightly if you are a hearer only. When Wilbur Wright was in France preparing his airplane for his demonstration he was completely vilified in the press as a liar, a fraud, and a cheat. However, for those at the factory who saw the work he did every day in preparing the airplane, they knew he was the true deal. Why, because they also were doers.

Truman is another example. His political career began under a party boss in Missouri. He was viewed as a political hack doing the bidding of his boss. However, this view was incorrect and over time people, including Roosevelt saw that. Truman did as much as any man, certainly as much as any politician, to win world War II. His committee saved the US government billions of dollars in their contracts and insured that the equipment the US army got worked. If you judged Truman by his associations you would reject him, if you judged him by his works you would praise him. Roosevelt was a doer, he was able to judge Truman rightly. He knew he was going to die shortly and wanted to install the best man as president that he could. He judged that this man was Truman. If you don't want to be deceived by the false prophet you need to be a doer of the word.

And Continues in it

There is a caveat in our covenant of salvation, we have to continue in it to be blessed.

1Jn 2:18-19 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, **they would have continued with us.** But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

A simplistic view of the Bible is that "once you are saved you are always saved". Salvation is based on a covenant. Like any covenant each party has certain obligations and responsibilities that they must live up to. "Going out from us" is referring to the fellowship of the apostles. Witness Lee's teaching of "Deification" (the process by which man becomes God) is an example of him not "continuing with" the fellowship of the apostles and making it "plain that he was not of" the apostles.

Witness Lee (Li Changshou) is on record asserting "The Bible does not teach that believers will ever be deified [made God]."0 He also said, "The fact that we have the divine nature with the divine life does not mean that we shall ever be deified." In his closing years, however, Witness Lee recanted and adopted deification, an Eastern Orthodox notion. He dubbed it the "High Peak," saying "The high peak of the divine revelation...in the Holy Scriptures...is that *God became man that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead.*" (Nigel

Tomes, LSM's Deification Doctrine -- Biblical or Blasphemous?, posted on the Local Church Discussion website)

When Witness Lee taught that the church cannot be truly one unless it embraces his "ground of the church" doctrine he "went out from" the fellowship of the apostles. When Living Stream Ministry sued other Christian publishers they "went out from" the fellowship of the apostles. When someone teaches that Old Testament prophecies and types concerning Jesus Christ as "the minister of the age" refer to Watchman Nee and Witness Lee they go out from the fellowship of the apostles and "they went out that it might become plain that they are not of the apostles".

Witness Lee used these verses to imply that if you don't "continue with the LRC" you will lose your salvation. When they appear before the Lord's judgement seat they cannot claim ignorance. They knew this word, they knew what it meant to leave the fellowship of the apostles, they just willfully ignored it.

He 8:9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; **because they did not continue in My covenant**, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

It is difficult to consider that Witness Lee was not saved. Instead I would ask, did he continue in the covenant? Every "false" prophet appears to be the real thing, but they are manifested as false because they do not continue in the covenant.

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 **But you must continue in the things which you have learned** and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

Don't you love the fact that the evil men and impostors who are deceiving others are themselves being deceived? Isn't it astounding that these false prophets can do things deserving of having a millstone hung about their neck and cast into the sea, and yet they think that by saying "Lord, Lord" and by "doing works of power in the name of Jesus" that therefore they must be saved? Did Paul stutter? Didn't he clearly say that "you must continue in the things which you have learned"?

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue in them**, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

The purpose is not to judge another man, but rather "taking heed to ourselves and to the doctrine". At one time in my life I accepted and taught the ground of the church as a Biblical teaching. However, after taking more careful heed to this doctrine I now can see the error. Yes, the ground of the church is a Biblical concept, found in both the Old and New Testament. This ground was purchased by Jesus on the cross. Abraham's offering up of Isaac was a work of

faith and a burnt offering. The reality was God the father offering up His son on the cross to pay for our sins. David's purchase of the mountain top was also a sacrifice to God to pay for the sin of pride. Jesus is the real King David, His sacrifice was the real payment for our sins. What Jesus bought was not some ephemeral boundary of a worldly city which changes frequently over a couple of hundred years. He bought us. We are the dirt he paid for. I never received, accepted or taught "deification". My break with the Lord's Recovery Church first suffered major cracks by 1980 based on teachings on sanctification. Witness Lee taught that a 2nd generation member (one who was born into the Lord's Recovery Church) was more sanctified than a first generation, and a third generation (grandkid of someone in the LRC) was more sanctified than a 2nd generation. I also never contributed to the lawsuits, but I did not publicly oppose them. These decisions were made when I was still a new brother in the church and felt I was little more than a spectator in the discussion. I did buy into the MOTA [Minister of the Age] teaching as a newbie, thinking that it would help me understand church history which I knew nothing about. As I read church history this teaching did not enlighten at all and on the contrary was found bogus over and over. I was never able to see in church history that there ever was a "minister of the age" other than Jesus Christ. Though the account of James in the book of Acts comes closest. This is why James condemnation of having the faith of Jesus with respect of persons is such an important part of this book and the New Testament record.

Col 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Our hope is for eternity. When Witness Lee slandered the sisters in the "Sister's Rebellion" or slandered and libeled John Ingalls, or Max R., or John So, or Bill Mallon he did not continue in the faith. Instead he was moved away from the hope of the gospel in order to protect his pathetic little empire here on Earth and hide his sins and those of his profligate sons.

Rom 11:22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Once again, did Paul stutter? If you don't continue in His goodness you also will be cut off. Did Witness Lee and these others continue in His goodness? If not why is it so difficult to think that he was "cut off"?

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

This is a marvelous expression, "pure religion". Many cults think that they are the "pure ones". Hitler stressed over and over how they were the pure Aryan race. Many false prophets teach

that Christianity is “degraded”, full of “hypocrites”, “dead”, “corrupt”, etc. There is some truth to this depending on your background and experience. But what is “pure religion”? Is it to sit and listen to “the prophet” and learn to “parrot” the prophet? A false prophet is driven by greed to make merchandise of you. If he is condemning others for not being “pure”, then beware.

Witness Lee made the word “religious” synonymous with dead. Clearly that is not a valid New Testament understanding of the word. He and others under him did not “bridle their tongues”. We have numerous testimonies and examples of things said that is just astounding. “Even when Witness Lee is wrong he is right” is one example. Witness Lee saying that Daystar was when “the saints lost their virginity” is another. Benson Phillips saying that the Lord’s Recovery is “just another fundamental church” to the newspaper. The brother in Houston testifying in the meeting that “this is not just someone who walked in off the streets, these are our children”. Ed Marks apologizing to Phillip Lee. Dennis Cooley telling me “how dare you” talk to Ed.

Visit orphans and widows? No one was encouraged to do that. There was no fellowship on that. Keep yourself unspotted from the world? Like the example of Timothy Lee, or Phillip Lee? Widows and orphans are the weakest and most vulnerable in society. Society is the safety net to support these ones. Compare this with Adolf Hitler in 1939 when he authorized the killing of the disabled. This should have set off alarm bells among Germans and the world. Hitler taught the Germans to despise the weak. This is the single biggest safeguard -- visit orphans and widows in their trouble. This will protect us from the false prophet. I compare this to what Jared Diamond teaches in Guns, Germs and Steel. The reason for the success of certain civilizations is that they kept domesticated animals. Sheep, cattle, pigs, and chickens protect us. They give us childhood diseases. These diseases, like measles, mumps and chickenpox are not usually fatal to children, but if you get the disease as an adult it is much more dangerous. Those that got the disease as a child were immune. In the same way children exposed to a “false prophet” will find it relatively easy to repent of their error and go on. Children are easily deceived by a false prophet and are also easy to repent. From that point on they may be immune to that deception and temptation. When you care for orphans and widows in their trouble will give you a completely different perspective of the false prophet and that will protect you. The false prophet will prey on the weak, so if you “visit them in their trouble” you will, by definition, be visiting them while they are being preyed on by the false ones. As a result you will be exposed to all kinds of false prophets, become immune to their schemes, and be matured into a church that can rule and reign with Christ.

Ps 10: 2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor;
Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.
3 For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire;
He blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord...
13 Why do the wicked renounce God?
He has said in his heart,
“You will not require an account.”
14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief,

To repay it by Your hand.
The helpless commits himself to You;
You are the helper of the fatherless.

To keep yourself unspotted from the world v. 27.

Fraudulent investment schemes are a major red flag. Worldly men running the ministry should have been a major red flag. The argument is that “no one is perfect” and that like the sons of Noah our job is to cover his sins. But here is the rub, when it pleases the false prophet he is more than able to condemn all others. No one else is on his level, he is unable to receive fellowship or rebuke from anyone. Every other group is devoid of life, has no vision, and in many other ways is deficient. Yet according to James if you are really concerned about “pure religion” then you are concerned about not being spotted by the world. So yes, no one is perfect, just because someone has sinned does not mean we condemn them, but it does mean they are not fit to run the ministry. Only after one has confessed their sins and repented should they even be considered fit to return, and this only under careful supervision.

If a group of Christians has the attitude of caring for the weak they are protected from mistreating the members of the congregation. These cult leaders and false prophets are by necessity abusive. They are sinning, people will discover the sins, these ones must be dealt with in an abusive way. This is how they make their converts into a son of gehenna. Caring for the weak will protect you more than a standing army. This is why the Spaniards defeated the Incas. This is what really wiped out the American Indians. It was the diseases that the Europeans had been exposed to by keeping sheep and other domesticated animals.

“The receptivity of the great masses is very limited, their intelligence is small, but their power of forgetting is enormous. In consequence of these facts, all effective propaganda must be limited to a very few points and must harp on these in slogans until the last member of the public understands what you want him to understand by your slogan. As soon as you sacrifice this slogan and try to be many-sided, the effect will piddle away, for the crowd can neither digest nor retain the material offered.” (Adolf Hitler: on propaganda)

Think about the few points and slogans that Hitler pushed. He boiled everything down into a couple of slogans. “One people, one empire, one leader”. “Fuhrer command, we’ll follow you”. “If the Fuhrer only knew!” (indicating that Hitler could do no wrong and the problem was because he didn’t know about it).

Likewise, consider the slogans in the Lord’s Recovery Church in 1987:

Statements made by some of the trainers in Taipei amazed us, as I am sure they did many others. Some examples are as follows:

- 1) “There is no need to pray about what to do; just follow the ministry.”
- 2) We don’t even need to think; we just do what we are told.”

- 3) "Follow Witness Lee blindly. Even if he's wrong, he's right."
 - 4) "If you leave the training, you'll miss the kingdom."
 - 5) Our burden is to pick up Brother Lee's teaching and way to make us all Witness Lees, like a Witness Lee duplication center."
 - 6) "To be one with the ministry is to be one with Brother Lee, the office, and Philip Lee."
 - 7) Since Christianity is in ruins, the Lord raised up the recovery; since the recovery is in ruins, the Lord raised up the FTTT.
- (Taken from Speaking the Truth in Love, by John Ingalls)

Yet these slogans were never remotely like James slogan:

Visit orphans and widows!

Keep yourself unspotted from the world!

Any saint who knows the New Testament teachings logically and reasonably and who is faithful to the Lord according to His holy and unchanging Word would not care for the unbridled speakings in the present turmoil. (Witness Lee, Elders training Book 10, chapter 1, section 6)

According to Witness Lee if you were a "faithful one" you would not care for these speakings, you would not take heed to the doctrine or yourself. He is banking on the intelligence of the "faithful ones" to be very limited and their capacity to forget to be enormous (just like Hitler). There is no suggestion about a "perfect work", or having patience, or asking for wisdom. Enduring temptation to James means to endure the temptation to shut your eyes, ears and mouth like the 3 monkeys. For Witness Lee enduring temptation means exactly the opposite, enduring the temptation to open your eyes, ears or mouth. His term "a faithful one" is equivalent to James use of the term "a double minded man". Being "a faithful one" to Witness Lee means that you are willing to ignore his sins and his son's sins so that you could be part of his empire. James doesn't refer to this as "faithful one" but as "double minded one". Whereas to be a faithful one to James means to do a work of faith similar to Abraham that obeyed God, even if it meant sacrificing everything. It meant doing a work of faith similar to Rahab, who was like a present day "whistleblower". That is exactly the opposite of Witness Lee's meaning. Which is more logical and reasonable, to listen to Witness Lee or to listen to James?

My Experience

It is much more important for us to consider what James is saying in light of our own experience than it is to worry about whether or not others are true. James says "keep yourself". We can keep ourselves, this is what we can control, we cannot control what others do. The purpose is to examine our own experience to determine if we have wandered from the truth.

Ultimately I left the local churches because I felt my faith, without works, is dead. I saw works as “applied faith”. It wasn’t important to me if they were or were not “on the proper ground”. What was important to me was that I was faithful to the Lord.

The Wright brothers work in building an airplane was a work of faith. The process they used is a perfect example of the scientific method, yet when I read about it they seem more in tune with prayer and fasting. Those that knew them didn’t describe them as scientists, but as monks. How do you work on a project of this magnitude for seven years financing the work out of your own pocket and do a complete and perfect work? It was as though they followed the book of James to a T. They kept themselves unspotted from the world throughout the entire process. They did a perfect work, a complete work, a work that was the product of patience. They drew near to God (since no one else knew how to build a working airplane, much less how to fly it without getting killed). God heard their prayers, the prayers of righteous men, and answered them. Everyone else wanted to do it, the best and brightest were given lots of money to do this and yet everyone else came in a distant second to the Wright brothers. They exemplified single minded men of faith. Despite metaphorical gale force winds there wasn’t the slightest hint of them being unstable or double minded. What I find the most touching in their story is how they would reject so many arrogant and haughty with their attempts at bribery and yet young children could walk right into their work shop and they would answer and explain the plane to them.

I am a teacher in the inner city (Brooklyn). I work in a building that was shut down a few years ago due to crime and failing students. My first year at the school I had less than 30% of my students pass the year end exam. Every year since then I have made steady improvement, so that this last year I had 90% pass. The average passing rate for schools in our cohort [25 similar schools to ours] is 55%. Our results are the best. But the difference is that I am trying to automate my process. Since my process is automated I could easily take a licensed teacher in this subject, show them what I am doing, share with them the lessons, and they would immediately have similar results. A teacher who had 55% passing last year might jump to 80% in a single year. The principles I use will apply quite well to every math and science class. They should apply to Social studies and foreign language as well. I am also thinking of ways to adapt these techniques to writing essays. Leveling the playing field in education is one way to visit widows and orphans. No one wants a handout, what they want is a chance. My goal is to get 100% passing this year. At that point I may be able to begin training other science teachers.

Like the Wright brothers this has also taken me seven years, I also have read up on everything that I feel is relevant to my pursuit, and I have paid for everything I needed out of pocket. I also have developed all of my lessons, from scratch. When the printing press was created it allowed for anyone to get books from great teachers, like Newton. You no longer needed to sit under a professor to get the benefit. The radio, tv, computer, and now internet have moved us further along so that the distinction between an elite education and a public school education should no longer be some great chasm. Ultimately we may arrive at the point where we are truly judged solely on our character. This will do more than any law that the government could pass to visit

widows and orphans in their trouble. After all, if you want to visit widows and orphans in their trouble, visit an inner city school.

Returning to the Wright brothers. Over the course of their study, design, and building an airplane they spent \$1,000 of their own money. At approximately the same time the US government spent \$70,000 with some so called expert in the field for a failed attempt. It is nice to think “hey, I’ll give some money to support this venture” but you would have given it to the failed attempt because the Wright brothers did not receive investors or donations. Likewise, I have also spent a similar amount, though it is more than \$1,000 it is less than what they spent once you bring it into today’s dollars. I also do not accept investors or donations. Why should I? The amount I am spending is well within my ability, why waste time and energy seeking money I don’t need and that wouldn’t help me. That is the rub. Why does the “expert” seek \$70,000? He is obviously a hireling. This is not a labor of love and most likely not a work of faith either. I hear various preachers spouting on and on about what a big difference the church would make if everyone tithed. But James says what a big difference each one of us would make if we each did a work of faith. The gospel is not that Jesus saved us so that we could tithe and solve the world’s problems with money. The gospel is that “greater works than these” shall we do. A true man of God is not out shilling for donations, he is doing a work of faith. Do not misunderstand me. A genuine believer in Christ is generous, one who gives to charity, and one who is a cheerful giver. But, that giving is also a “work of faith”, just like Orville and Wilbur Wright did. It is not so easy as dropping a check into an offering box. It is called a “work of faith” because it involves work and it involves faith. If your giving does not involve work and does not involve faith it is not “a work of faith”. James doesn’t tell us that pure religion is tithing. He doesn’t say that pure religion is when the pastor visits orphans and widows. We are charged to visit orphans and widows. A banker did this and came up with micro loans. Doctors did this and came up with “Doctors without borders”. Politicians did this and came up with “The Marshall Plan” and “The New Deal” and “The Voters rights act”. Lawyers did this and came up with “Brown vs. Board of Education”. I imagine that when the Lord returns there will be those who say “Lord, Lord didn’t we give lots of money for good works in your name” and the Lord will say “depart from Me ye workers of lawlessness”.

James chapter 2

[James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.](#)

The relationship of Witness Lee with Watchman Nee was key. Whenever I or any other new one in the Lord’s Recovery church wondered who Witness Lee was they were told of Watchman Nee and how Witness Lee was his closest coworker. The respect of Watchman Nee was one of the pillars that the entire Lord’s Recovery Church rested on. One mistake I made was to feel that Watchman Nee was clearly and undeniably a man of God, therefore if he judged that Witness Lee was also a genuine man of God (hence his closest coworker) then I could too.

According to James this is "having faith in our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons". Who better to say this than James. I suspect that many believers in the early church felt the same way about James, the brother of the Lord. He is the "brother of Jesus, surely we can trust his judgment". The false prophet exploits this vulnerability.

The teaching on MOTA is a teaching that forces saints to have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. They confuse respect of persons with submission to the Lord's authority.

Consider Bernie Madoff. He was once the head of the Nasdaq. That adds credibility, people feel a guy like that is already established financially and is not going to threaten his reputation with shady deals. It was the "respect of persons" that helped him build his business and rob people. It is a proven fact that crooks in uniforms have an easier time in deceiving people. People tend to trust the uniform and ignore common sense. Consider the experiments where people were asked to administer electric shocks to strangers. Approximately two thirds of them did, why did they do it? We have been trained to be a respecter of persons.

The email's released by wikileaks prior to the Democratic National convention expose the fact that the DNC and Clinton operated "with respect of persons". In addition the "never Trump" movement was also symptomatic of the Republican elites operating "with respect of persons". Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump have exposed the political parties operating with respect of persons. The pillar of Hitler's ideology was that those of pure German ancestry were better than others. This is respect of persons.

2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, **3** and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," **4** have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Do you "love Jesus only"? Do you reject the bias, unrighteousness, and hypocrisy? By being a respecter of persons, this is precisely the thing that you thought you rejected. James points out that we have fallen into the same trap that everyone else fell into as well.

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? **7** Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

Witness Lee dragged people into court and sued them. He had a "legal team" that was supported by the donations from all the churches. This team oppressed the poor, they won their legal battles because those they sued didn't have enough money to fight in court. Bullies blaspheme the noble name by which we were called.

Rev 13:5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words

You cannot claim that you are submitting to authority, i.e. head covering, if you are denying the Lord's authority. The apostles fellowship forbids the use of lawsuits between Christians. Once Witness Lee begins to drag saints into the court he is no longer under the authority of the apostles fellowship. Submitting to him is no longer a matter of deputy authority but of respecting man's person.

Ps 10:2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

The discussion of being partial to the rich and having them sit in better seats is an analogy, he begins that discussion in verse 2 saying "for", he is explaining, and then verse 5 sums it up that he is talking about faith. The phrase "the poor of the world" could refer to lacking anything, not merely money. You could walk into the Lord's Recovery Church meeting hall lacking "spiritual credentials". In the Lord's Recovery Church it makes a big difference if you are "2nd generation" or 3rd generation, etc. This was referred to all the time. They even taught that you are sanctified by your parents being in the church, so then if you are 2nd generation you are more sanctified than if you were saved directly into the Lord's Recovery Church and if you are 3rd generation then you were even more sanctified. This was a major flaw in their doctrine of sanctification. They had respect of persons. The leaders were ga ga over a man, so much so that they were willfully blind to all the sins perpetrated by his sons.

Ohio — The "New Way" promoted by WL [Witness Lee] and LSM [Living Stream Ministry] was one of the bleakest periods in our history. All the leaders were "sized up" based on how zealous they were for the ministry. Distinctions were made among the brothers concerning who were absolute for the ministry and who were "lukewarm" towards all the new changes coming down the pike. I heard numerous stories about brothers who just loved the ministry being judged by those who were absolute for the ministry.

All these distinctions between the brothers, and the evil reasonings which precipitated numerous conflicts, came directly from LSM headquarters. LSM operatives used ministry zealots, longing for advancement within the program, to undermine many local elderships. Many of these ambitious ones became judges with evil reasonings, looking with suspicion at the brothers they one served with and considered them as enemies of the gospel and God's "move" on earth.

LSM did little to minimize these disturbances; rather they seized upon opportunities to fuel the conflicts and drive wedges between the saints, especially in those regions like the GLA where their influence was limited. Oftentimes, all manner of evil was justified for the greater good, defined narrowly as "WL's burden."

Donald Trump has been involved in thousands of lawsuits and drags people into the courts. Mitt Romney is also one who drags people into courts. Regardless of how you view Benghazi you have to be impressed that this lawsuit eclipsed the 911 investigation. It is almost as if they didn't want to find out the truth concerning 911. The rich oppress you, that is the word of God.

8 If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; **9** but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. **11** For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

According to the "Minister of the Age" teaching in any "age" there is only one minister commissioned by the Lord Jesus to release His vision. Martin Luther and Watchman Nee were examples. The royal law is to "love your neighbor as yourself" but the teaching of MOTA is contrary to that law and therefore is sin. This doctrine is the foundation for "super apostles".

The application of MOTA and deputy authority in the Lord's Recovery Church is sin.

Ray and Deputy Authority

Ray [Ray Graver] was strongly bent toward the teaching of "Deputy Authority." He believed that in every activity of the church deputy authority should be manifested. Before the consolidation in Houston a few brothers in Waco and Lubbock were given copies of the "Eldership Papers." These were messages given by Witness Lee in Taiwan. One of the main points was that there was an order in the eldership and in all manifestations of God's work. There was a number one elder, a number two elder, a number three elder, and so forth. The same was true in the practical service in the church, such as cleaning the meeting hall, serving in the children's meeting, and preparing food for a love feast. Until the number one person made a decision, there would be discussion (fellowship) regarding a matter, but once the "number one" gave his judgment all fellowship was over on that matter and any desire for further discussion was considered to be dissension and against God's authority. (Taken from "History by Don Rutledge" posted on the Local Church Discussions website).

If you contribute money to LSM, which you must if you are in the LRC, then you are supporting practices that are contrary to the Lord's commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. You are caught in sin.

The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, investigated allegations of communist activity in the U.S. during the Cold War (1945-91). Established in 1938, the committee used its subpoena power and called citizens to testify in high-profile hearings before Congress. This often produced questionable revelations about Communists infiltrating American institutions and subversive actions by citizens. HUAC's tactics contributed to the fear, distrust and repression that existed during the hysteria of the 1950s. This was the definition of partiality and was contrary to the Lord's royal law to love your

neighbor. "The Un-American Activities Committee in the House of Representatives was the most Un-American thing in America!" Harry S Truman

"We love Adolf Hitler because we believe firmly and profoundly that he was sent to us by God to save Germany. To those who follow him there is no quality that he does not possess to the greatest perfection." Hermann Goring, 1934. One leader of the Deutsche Christen Movement referred to Hitler as the "embodiment of the eternal will of God". He was referred to as "Germany's saviour from Bolshevism and Marxism". He was praised for restoring Germany's greatness. This is the logical extreme of showing partiality. He told the Germans' they were "a superior race" and they in turn called him "Germany's savior" this is, by definition, showing partiality.

12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

We are going to be judged at the judgement seat of Christ by the Law of Liberty. The Lord's law to love our neighbor as ourself is the basis by which we'll be judged. My experience in Houston at the time of the Sister's rebellion was similar. We were forbidden from contacting certain people even though they had been pillars in the church for years. As the internet began we were forbidden from accessing it. Most saints did not have a TV, having a TV was considered worldly. Because of the frequent hospitality that was given saints would know if you had a TV, drank alcohol, had a computer, etc. In some ways the lifestyle was similar to what I read about in Romania. Even Witness Lee boasted of receiving reports about different churches, elders, saints, etc. as though he was maintaining a dossier on the saints in the Lord's recovery.

Since the ones who initiated this rebellion have made it so obvious, even through the printed page, I feel that after such a long period of silence I should let you know some of the facts... For the details in full, see the book entitled The Fermentation of the Present Rebellion. It is published by Living Stream Ministry and is free of charge... Many words that have come out of those who are participating in this rebellion should be considered as "perverted things". (Witness Lee, Elders Training Book 10, Chpt 1, Sect 5)

In this book the Fermentation of the Present Rebellion Witness Lee had John Ingalls villified and slandered by Kerry Robichaux and Ron Kangas. It is clearly libel and as a result it is difficult to get a copy of that book now.

James 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

This last expression is interesting "mercy rejoiceth against judgment" or "Mercy triumphs over judgement" is very important. Merciless judgement is abuse, it is bullying. The way to react to seeing the merciless judgments and abuse in the Lord's Recovery Church or anywhere is with mercy. This mercy causes rejoicing and it conquers the merciless judgments. For example I

remember a story about a man at work who made a mistake that costs the company \$20,000. He expected to be fired and went into his boss to offer his resignation. The boss said "fire you? I just paid \$20,000 for your training!"

In another example Douglas MacArthur did things that would have gotten most generals fired. There were numerous events where FDR and Marshall would have been justified in firing him. But, they didn't. Now I cannot imagine anyone today, with perfect hindsight, not agreeing that this was a great decision to not fire him. His accomplishments are without any doubt or dispute the actions of a brilliant general.

For many years I have wondered about a verse in the Psalms that says "with God there is forgiveness that He might be feared". I could never understand that. How is it that "forgiveness" makes it so that "He might be feared"?

Suppose an ambitious person slanders a co-worker to the boss in hopes that firing that person will advance their own career. If the boss believes it they might fire the person without mercy. But, that is the intended result. The fact that "with you there is forgiveness" will put people in fear who would attempt this kind of slander. Ultimately, the act of slander can now blow up in the face of the slanderer, which puts the fear into them.

The same is true of bullies. How often does some kid in school do something to provoke others, when they respond they are the ones who are disciplined by the teacher.

Let me share my own experience. The elders in the Lord's Recovery and I were at odds over the partiality they showed to some. I had moved to Odessa Texas, a small group gathering and it was quickly growing into a vibrant church. The Texas elders sent George Whittington out to take control of the church. When he first got there he preached for an hour talking about how worried the elders were about this one brother, he used drugs, he was unstable, etc. The only person he could possibly have been referring to was me. As he talked the horror on the faces of the saints as they looked at me in shock was evident. As soon as he finished I jumped up with a testimony (that is the practice in the local church). I ignored everything he had shared and focused solely on the verses that had been referenced at the beginning. Shock and disbelief at my chutzpah. As soon as the meeting was over the brother of the house I lived in cornered me with a number of saints behind him and asked who George was referring to. I told him I didn't know, ask him. That caused outrage. The next meeting George doubled down talking about how this brother was also a homosexual but that the elders were just concerned with his salvation. I again was the first to share when he finished, ignoring everything he had said and focusing solely on the Bible verses. Within about a month more saints migrated to Odessa from Houston, these saints had known me from the first days in the church. The saints immediately went to them to see what was what. They exposed everything as a lie. To cover for his lies George then said he was talking about my life before coming into the church, before I had been baptized. As outrageous as this was (how did this man in Dallas know about my life in New York before I came into the church? Also, did he just blaspheme the Lord's saving work

on the cross and the power of a public confession of baptism to wash away sins?) I again ignored everything and continued to focus on the verses. The other saints made the points that I would have made had I responded, and by ignoring him he quickly became irrelevant with nothing to say.

14 What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

Here is where many stumble. For example, when Watchman Nee was caught in sin, living with a mistress, and was excommunicated by the elders in Shanghai this was a test of faith for Witness Lee. If he was faithful to God it would be similar to Abraham offering up his son on the altar. He would have to sacrifice everything that he had from God. He didn't do this. Instead he put forth a fabricated story that the woman Watchman Nee was with was his mother and from that point on it became clear he was a false prophet and his ministry was built on a fabricated story. He thought the lie would save him, instead it condemns him. Anyone who argues that Witness Lee is saved does this based on his written and spoken ministry, his "faith". Those that question Witness Lee do so because of his works. His lies, slander, libel, lawsuits, and not continuing in the fellowship of the apostles. Witness Lee is an example of someone who says they have faith in Jesus, but doesn't have the works of Jesus manifested in the flesh.

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? **17** Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

That was precisely what was happening at Valley Forge. The Continental Congress was telling the army to "be warmed and filled" and yet they were naked and destitute without any aid. It is astounding that at a time when the US was relatively prosperous in growing food the army was starving to death. Valley forge was an example of "faith without works". When Benedict Arnold was revealed as a traitor it exposed this vain faith of the Continental Congress. Many realized that they couldn't just send the army out without also supplying them. Benedict Arnold, like a false prophet, exposed the emptiness of their faith without works and motivated the country to have a living faith, not a dead faith.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

The false prophet always claims his faith is shown by his words. But James says it is your works that show us your faith. Witness Lee defrauded the saints with Daystar, and then coerced all of the defrauded ones into not filing a claim for their money, and then he mocked them saying "they lost their virginity". He was a false witness, slandering saints and then having them excommunicated, most notably with the "Sister's Rebellion". Slandering others and then robbing their vineyard happened repeatedly and he taught his disciples (Ray Graver, Benson

Phillips, Ed Marks, Kerry Robichaux and Ron Kangas) to do the same. If you want to see Witness Lee's faith look at his works.

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

There is no doubt that Witness Lee believed that there is one God. But James makes it clear, that believing in one God does not distinguish you from the Demons.

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

The single biggest indicator that Witness Lee was a false prophet was that he fabricated a story about why Watchman Nee was excommunicated by the elders in Shanghai. If he had been honest it would have been similar to what Abraham did when he offered his son on the altar. Being honest about Watchman Nee's sins would have been similar to offering up your ministry and every promise God had given you on the altar. But he didn't, he lied. Likewise you could say Ray Graver and Benson Phillips did the same thing. When John Ingalls told them about Philip Lee, had they treated that fellowship honestly and uprightly it would have been similar to offering up their ministry on the altar and everything God had promised them. So then if you look at their faith, the faith of Witness Lee or the faith of Benson Phillips or of Ray Graver, their faith was without works. You say you believe Jesus has the power over death, but when you were asked to take up your cross and follow him you balked. Fabricating stories and lying was foolish. Pretending that fellowship from John Ingalls was a "local matter" therefore they could cover their ears to the sexual abuse of sisters by the President of Living Stream Ministry is foolish. Ray Graver and Benson Phillips were fully involved in the construction process of the Living Stream conference center in Irving at this time. Therefore they were senior men working for Living Stream Ministry, lying about the President of Living Stream Ministry not being something that they were accountable for was foolish. Thinking you could stab John Ingalls in the back and then take his job through these lies is foolish.

The false prophet is a foolish man. He teaches that he is carrying out God's vision of the age and that the book of James is in the Bible to show us the possibility that a godly man may lack a clear view of God's New Testament economy.

Many words recorded in the Scriptures are the words of Satan, evil men, God's opposers, and even the nonsensical talk of godly men. Furthermore, all the words of the Scriptures were breathed out by God and recorded for a particular purpose. In Genesis 3 the purpose is to expose the subtlety of the enemy. In Acts 21 and in the book of James the purpose is to show us the possibility that a godly person may lack the clear, heavenly view of God's New Testament economy.

(Witness Lee, Lesson book, Level 6: The Bible -- The Word of God, Chapter 20, Sect 1)

Yet his scam is based on a fabricated story. For him to tell the truth is similar to Abraham offering up his son on the altar. Balking at that, fabricating a story, is equivalent to "faith without works".

Hitler also fabricated a myth in of him being an almost God like, flawless human in the movie "Triumph of the Will" (1934).

Proverbs 14:5 A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.

22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

Abraham had a son based on faith in God's promise. That faith in a God of resurrection was made perfect when he was faithful to God to offer this son on the altar.

23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Offering Isaac up on the altar was accounted to him for righteousness. Lying about Watchman Nee's excommunication is accounted to Witness Lee as unrighteousness. Covering your ears about the sins of Philip Lee, lying about it not being relevant, and then facilitating these sins by replacing John Ingalls is accounted to Ray Graver and Benson Phillips as unrighteousness.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

What Rahab did is similar to what a "whistleblower" does today. They work for the evil company, are privy to the evil deeds, like a prostitute, yet they figure out how to get the spies out safely to expose this evil. The whistleblower who exposed the sins of the tobacco company risked everything, as Rahab did, and was justified by his works. The same is true of cults like the church of Scientology. There will be a "prostitute", an insider, who will get the spies out safely and that is a work of faith.

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

We can see this with all of those taking the lead in Living Stream Ministry and taking the lead in the Local Church. Kerry Robichaux and Ron Kangas wrote a whitewash of what took place with John Ingalls. How does someone who professes to know Jesus, the way, the truth and the life write a book of lies? Ed Marks signed an apology letter to Philip Lee for the discipline imposed on him by John Ingalls and the Anaheim elders. How does a man who teaches others about righteousness and dealing with sin apologize to an adulterous and abusive man because some tried to prevent his abuse? The Blendeds signed and approved the excommunication of Titus

Chu based on bogus and unscriptural complaints. How do you condemn a man for publishing a Christian ministry when that is what you yourself do?

James chapter 3

It is crucial to respect authority. Police, teachers, parents and elders cannot function if their is no respect. James understands this but warns

3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

3:2 For in many things we offend all.

Becoming a tyrant, or abusive is an example of the kind of offense and condemnation you can receive.

Fear and respect are connected. Fear can be a good thing and we teach it to our children. We use the term "healthy respect" to indicate a "good" fear. However this kind of fear needs to be taught, you are not born with it (though it seems man is the only animal that is not born with it, human babies naturally cry, a behavior strange in the wild, even among top predators). The Bible says that "the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom". However, if there was no forgiveness with God then we all would have struck out long before we had a chance to learn this fear and begin to get wisdom.

Psalm 130:4 "But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."

It is difficult to learn is that forgiveness is the secret to a good fear, a "healthy respect" that does not include contempt, or hatred. For example, a student in our school stole a laptop. We were able to use video footage to prove this. The school required this student to return or pay for the stolen laptop. They could have been expelled, but instead the student has returned to the school after making restitution. As a result with this student there now is "fear". They know that if you do something like this they will get caught and have to pay the price. They have a "healthy respect" for the school's security. Now this same student can pass this same lesson on to their peers. There is no hatred or contempt for the school because the incident was treated in a dignified way. This is how you can teach respect in a way that avoids the mistakes James warns of.

This verse is also translated as follows:

3:1 My brethren, be not many teachers, knowing that we shall receive the stricter judgement.

Some are offended that I am using Witness Lee and his two sons as examples to illustrate and explain many of the things taught by the apostles. This is not reasonable. We use Peter, Paul,

John and James frequently to make a point and see no issue with that because they have been given to us as examples.

We use many from the Old Testament to do the same, once again for the same reason.

Once you use your personal testimony to teach and share with others you should not take offense that others do as well. This is like a person writing an autobiography of themselves and then being offended that others also write biographies that are less flattering. Alexander Hamilton could well write a glowing biography of himself and the absolutely critical role he played in the formation of the country. He could describe some of his sacrifices as selfless. That said he clearly had human foibles (hence the death of himself and his son from duels) as well as failings (his mistress). Likewise, others could describe him as a "bastard". You reap what you sow, and when he debated others he was not above destroying his opponent as well as their position, hence he made many enemies.

"As I had a close and spiritual contact with Brother Watchman Nee for twenty-five years, and as I was involved in the same unique work with him for the Lord's recovery for such a long time, I felt burdened to write a biography for him that the life and work of such a witness of the Lord might not disappear from those after him, but rather might be kept, as it should be, to minister Christ according to God's desire to the generations to come. (Witness Lee, Watchman Nee, A Seer of the Divine Revelation, introduction).

To publish a biography of Watchman Nee and then complain that others are discussing the life and testimony of Watchman Nee or Witness Lee is hypocritical. You cannot accurately and fairly discuss Witness Lee without discussing Phillip Lee, Timothy Lee, and the Living Stream Ministry which by extension includes Ray Graver, Benson Phillips, Ron Kangas, Ed Marks and Kerry Robichaux. Once again, for these ones to complain of a discussion of their actions and behavior when they themselves have done exactly that in discussing the "Minister of the Age" referring to either Watchman Nee or Witness Lee is hypocrisy.

John Adams referred to Alexander Hamilton as "That bastard brat of a Scottish peddler!". This is accurate, though the word "rat" seems particularly obnoxious. Still, John Adams claim that he never slandered Alexander Hamilton is disingenuous. His defense is that these words were "true". My response is what Paul said to Titus:

12 One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."
13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith

You need to speak the truth in love. There is no love in what John Adams said. He should be rebuked sharply. The Lord's commandment is that we love one another, where is the love in this word of his? The issue is not that it wasn't true but that it demonstrated he had no love. This is a fair warning to all of us. Yes, we can tell the truth concerning these ones, but we must

do this "in love". Rebuking sin with the hope that the sinner will confess and repent is proper. Condemning or judging a brother is not proper.

"Honesty is the cruelest game of all, because not only can you hurt someone -- and hurt them to the bone -- you can feel self-righteous about it at the same time." Dave Van Ronk

This is the benefit in looking carefully at these men, we can learn from them. We can learn what Paul and Peter and James taught. Witness Lee has offered up his own life for this examination, his written work is testimony to this fact. Just as Korah made an offering to God and this offering was not rejected but was used for the brass laver. The judgement on men like Witness Lee, Phillip Lee, Ray Graver, Benson Phillips, Kerry Robichaux, and Ed Marks is used to wash us of our own failings and help us to enter into the Lord's presence.

Jer 14:14 And the Lord said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.

You also need to be balanced. Alexander Hamilton had many enemies, they thought he was a "tory", wanting a monarchy. This is based on a deceitful reading of his words. They cherry picked his words to make it appear this way, willfully ignoring the context and other clarifying remarks. Hamilton made mistakes, he should have done a much better job of making sure his national bank was represented by those in the South as well as the North. This is something that a prudent man of wisdom would have foreseen the need for. On the other hand his enemies should recognize that he was absolutely right in seeing the need for the bank and the success of the revolution in resulting in a new country was as much the result of this as it was of the war.

Witness Lee's enemies cherry pick his writings to say that he was a monotheist. On the contrary I would argue that this is not fair. If anything I would say that Witness Lee was wrong in intentionally provoking his enemies by using easily quoted and provocative quotes designed to incite a fire. There was a lack of wisdom and love in his teaching, but it wasn't a preaching of a monotheistic God. He incited his duels every bit as much as Alexander Hamilton did. Most of the battles I saw him wage were completely avoidable if he had had love and humility and if he had walked in the way of peace.

James 3:2b If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Pr. 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

By definition the “arrogance of Witness Lee” is folly. The lies and fraud of him and his sons is folly. The damaging of names and reputations by him was folly. Devising the “sister’s rebellion” was folly. Sowing discord among brethren was folly.

3 Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

The tongue is similar to the rudder on a ship or the bit in a horse’s mouth.

Pr 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Witness Lee’s pride by definition is folly.

Witness Lee had no time for New Testament scholarship. He summarily dismissed it along with the rest of Christianity. “Since World War II...,” he observed,¹ “there has not been one publication that is weighty concerning Bible exposition, the divine life, or the truth.” Neither did seminaries and theological education escape his ire; “Christianity...has been...opening seminaries and educating students of theology. However, these theological graduates have not gotten into the depths of the Bible...” he asserted, adding,² “Christianity has not published a single book of great spiritual value.” W. Lee impugned their materials as fraught with “peril and risk.”³ In contrast, “We have a pure system of publications which comprise all the main things of the divine, spiritual, and heavenly things,” (Nigel Tomes, LSM’s Ignorance of the Synoptic Problem, posted in the Local Church Discussions website)

His arrogancy is folly. His evil way is folly. His forward mouth was folly. Forward – easily irritated by unimportant things, unyielding, disobedient, I would use the term “litigious” to describe forward.

12:1b he that hateth reproof is brutish.

Witness Lee’s response when John Ingalls went to him about Phillip Lee demonstrates that he hated reproof and was brutish.

13:5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

Didn’t the righteous elders in Anaheim resign because they hated lying, isn’t Phillip Lee a loathsome man, how would you describe the elders that wrote and signed the letter apologizing to Phillip Lee? Ed Marks testified that that letter made Witness Lee very happy. Being happy about a lying letter that apologizes to Philip Lee (They apologized for the discipline he received for his sexual abuse of sisters working in the Living Stream Office while he was President. His

actions were evil and deserved rebuke and censor. Apologizing for that rebuke is a shame to the Lord's name.) is evidence that Witness Lee was a loathsome man.

14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride:

Witness Lee had a "rod of pride" in his mouth. He rebuked all Christian teachers, and all Christian gatherings. This reveals that he is a foolish man.

Pr 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin:

Witness Lee once say that the Daystar event (the fraudulent and criminal sale of this company to saints in the church in violation of SEC regulations) was when "the saints lost their virginity"! He was making a mock of sin. His unbridled tongue revealed he was a fool.

17:15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

Witness Lee condemned the just in the Sister's rebellion and also in sanctioning the whitewash of what took place with John Ingalls. He repeatedly justified the wicked, namely his two sons.

Ps 7:14 Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity;
Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood.

15 He made a pit and dug it out,

And has fallen into the ditch which he made.

16 His trouble shall return upon his own head,

And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

Tamed is different from domesticated. We have tamed Lions and tigers and bears, but we have not domesticated them.

8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Witness Lee's lawsuits against Christians were an attempt to "tame the tongue". He was upset at what people had written about him and his followers. He tried to "tame their tongue" with lawsuits. But, according to James no man can tame the tongue, no lawyer, and no court. It is the miracle of salvation that we are given a new heart. Our stoney heart is taken away and we receive a heart of flesh. It is only through the redeeming work of Christ on the cross and through faith in Jesus Christ that our tongue can be tamed. So Witness Lee's lawsuits reveal he

despised the fellowship of the Apostles, it also reveals that he was not doing a work of faith but rather a work of man. This is evidence that James was right, no man can tame the tongue, regardless of how much money you set aside for your legal defense fund.

9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

We consider that blessing God with our tongue is a sign of salvation. Perhaps, but a man who blesses God and curses man with his mouth, that is a sign of a false prophet.

10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Yes, a man professing to know God and speak for God should not do this.

11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

This is a key indicator of a false prophet. If he was truly ministering the living waters then how could he also be ministering salt water? No spring in nature does that. Rather this reveals that in his heart there is evil.

Ps 28:3 Do not take me away with the wicked And with the workers of iniquity, Who speak peace to their neighbors, But evil is in their hearts.

We are not able to judge the heart, but we are able to judge the deeds, the endeavors, the works of the hands. With Witness Lee if you judge him by the words of his mouth it is confusing, as though it were a spring of water that was both fresh water and bitter. But if you judge him by his deeds it is clear, they were wicked, evil, and he was a worker of iniquity. He spoke peace, but acted in a way that was evil.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

Consider Eleanor Roosevelt's conduct in the UN when she got the universal declaration of human rights codified.

It is an example of someone who showed by her good conduct works done in meekness of wisdom. The stories from people involved talk about her works, how untiring she was. They also speak of her meekness in dealing with the Russians who were obstinate and pushed for the inclusion of economic and social rights. It was Mrs. Roosevelt that persuaded the US State department to accept the inclusion of economic rights. The Russians also claimed that racial

bias in the US disqualified the US from writing this document. Mrs. Roosevelt didn't disagree, rather she proposed that the Russians could come to the US to document racial bias if the US was allowed to also visit Russia and document injustices there as well. It was really the "meekness of her wisdom" that won the day and her tireless work. Delegates prayed "please make Mrs. Roosevelt tired" and told her that UN delegates have human rights too! The declaration was written as Mrs. Roosevelt wanted, in simple, concise prose. It is based on key documents in history (Bill of Rights, Magna Carta, French Declaration of the Rights of Man).

People who love soft methods and hate iniquity forget this; that reform consists in taking a bone from a dog. Philosophy will not do it. John Jay Chapman

When the Declaration was finally adopted, Ambassador Charles Malik of Lebanon declared: "I do not see how without her presence we could have accomplished what we actually did accomplish." Mrs. Roosevelt said the real challenge was one of "actually living and working in our countries for freedom and justice for each human being." "Meekness of wisdom" is in contrast to an "arrogant and haughty spirit".

If you want to know who is "wise and understanding among you" compare their works with those of Eleanor Roosevelt. She was willing to listen to and work with the Russians, led by Stalin, at a time when they could be viewed as "the evil empire". Compare this with how Witness Lee treated John Ingalls, or how Ron Kangas treated Steve Issitt or how Ed Marks treated me. They exemplify an "arrogant and haughty spirit".

However, what I meant to be an earnest appeal to leaders in a spirit of fellowship was instead taken by them as an attack. To my great surprise I was placed in a discipline mode in my locality, until I could repent for the booklet I wrote. I found nothing to repent for, but did apologize for upsetting those leaders in my locality who were bothered by the writing, and suggested to them that we put the matter aside and just go on in the church life. Instead of receiving me and this step of submission to them, a case was built against me as one who opposes God's government; and I was kept in an isolated mode which served only to inspire me to do much more research and a ton of work that more than confirmed my initial booklet.

Up till today I still know of no respectable attempt by any leader to refute my writings. But if I am as LSM leaders say, "a man of death", "a wolf among lambs", the "embodiment of the Accuser of the brethren", and more, why aren't clear, cogent public announcements made about me to warn the churches. "I expect Steve Isitt will write evil things until he dies and someone else will take his place" - What evil things? "It seems this will never end", says Ron Kangas. My writing does not end because such reckless speaking by LSM does not end, which began when three books emerged excoriating former leaders, and obliterated their standing among us. The adversarial position by LSM was set from that time forth against former leaders, and also against any righteous appeal or honest challenge to the seeming inviolable borders of LSM publications. (Steve Isitt, 2013).

Jer 50:29 "Call together the archers against Babylon.
All you who bend the bow, encamp against it all around;
Let none of them escape.
Repay her according to her work;
According to all she has done, do to her;
For she has been proud against the Lord,
Against the Holy One of Israel.
30 Therefore her young men shall fall in the streets,
And all her men of war shall be cut off in that day," says the Lord.
31 "Behold, I am against you,
O most haughty one!" says the Lord God of hosts;
"For your day has come,
The time that I will punish you.
32 The most proud shall stumble and fall,
And no one will raise him up;
I will kindle a fire in his cities,
And it will devour all around him."

In contrast to "meekness of wisdom" you have "boasting and lying against the truth".

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

On a tennis racket there is a "sweet spot" at the center of the racket. If you hit the ball in this spot you will get maximum power and maximum control. The entire racket is working together, every string, the entire frame, the balance of the racket, etc.

However, if you ever watch a professional tennis match between two top performers you will see that odd mishit which does make it over the net for a winner. I have seen Federer look quite embarrassed by one of these. You might wonder "why not do this more often"? The answer is simple, for every mishit that winds up a winner there are 3-4 mishits that wind up as unforced errors. The only reason these mishits do fall in for winners is that the opponent has to focus on the power and accuracy of a ball zipped into the corner when hit in the sweet spot. As a result the top players play to hit the sweet spot and are sheepish when they get a lucky miff.

"Boasting and lying against the truth" is like a person who is not using every string, instead they think that it is their one string that has all the answers. Occasionally they do have a lucky hit that lands for a winner. But the mishits are astounding -- making torture a cornerstone of your foreign policy, being clueless that Russia has already rolled into the Ukraine with their army, insulting a man who was a prisoner of war when you yourself have no military record, and of course campaigning to be the commander in chief by insulting parents of a war hero killed in action. Haughty arrogance complains that stories about him are "not written good", clueless concerning his ignorance. His explanation of how "Russia would not enter the Ukraine" if he was

president because he would recognize the annexation. Fantastic window into his "solutions" to difficult issues.

In comparison to Trump's campaign many Germans disliked Hitler in 1928 because he "shouted out really simple political ideas". Others said "I thought he wasn't quite normal". Still others said "he put forth certain claims that were in no way valid". In that election he only got 2.6% of the vote. It was only in the wake of the Wall Street collapse in 1929 that Hitler's appeal began to be felt. The banks collapsed, people lost their jobs, and just like the US, two parties surged, the communists / socialists (similar to Bernie Sanders) and the fascists (similar to Donald Trump). Like Trump, Hitler thrived in an environment of political crisis.

We saw this with Witness Lee who thought that there was no one else beside him, and he alone. He was like someone hitting many mishits and when the occasional one does land in the court boasting of how no one else can do that. He insulted everyone. He had no educational background and mocked those who did.

Meekness, on the other hand uses every string. The Body of Christ is composed of many members, all with a measure of Christ, all with their talents, and that this battle is won by an army, not by one egotistical, narcissist. We saw this with Eleanor Roosevelt who realized we needed the talents of the Russians, and we saw this with Truman who required his commission to be unanimous, giving the two Republicans on it fantastic respect. These two scaled mighty strongholds.

Proverbs 21:21 He who follows righteousness and mercy

Finds life, righteousness, and honor.

22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty,

And brings down the trusted stronghold.

23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue

Keeps his soul from troubles.

24 A proud and haughty man— "Scoffer" is his name;

He acts with arrogant pride.

Meekness of wisdom is often confused with cowardice. For example, Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler. The difference is this. If you are being maligned, as FDR was by MacArthur you can display "meekness of wisdom" by choosing to overlook this for the sake of having the best general in the theater overseeing the operation. On the other hand, if the attack is on others, as Hitler was doing in Czechoslovakia you cannot overlook the attack on your ally. That is not meekness but cowardice.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

There is another form of “wisdom”. This refers to the skill involved in manipulating people, opinions and perception. This “wisdom” is earthly because it is focused exclusively on accomplishing an earthly goal without any consideration of eternity or the Lord’s judgement. It is sensual because it is focused exclusively on the perception of men, how it appears, how it sounds, how it looks. Once again it ignores the Lord who judges the hearts. Finally it is demonic, because this is the wisdom of the demons. Following this wisdom places you in the Lake of Fire with them. If you see confusion and every evil thing then know that envy and self seeking exist.

Deut 28:20 “The Lord will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.

The bitter envy and self seeking is revealed when they boast and lie against the truth. You can see this on both sides of the aisle when they deny the errors of their respective candidate. I have found many of those who commented on the hacked emails of the DNC to be “boasting and lying against the truth”. A careful examination of the thousands of lawsuits of Trump may reveal that his backers have also been “boasting and lying against the truth”.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

1. **Pure** — there is no place for lascivious people like Phillip Lee, or wicked adulterous men like Timothy Lee. The false prophet will have a confusing (mysterious) world of iniquity. Witness Lee's sons, his business ventures, the two different personas (the one in public speaking to the church vs the one behind closed doors). The false prophet will mock sin. He will lie. He is driven by covetousness.

When Ron Kangas called Steve Isitt a “Man of death” there was no response or denial of the sins. There was no “pure conscience”. Likewise when I talked to Ed Marks his response was to cover his eyes like the monkeys who “see no evil”. That is the antithesis of a “pure conscience”.

2. **Peaceable** — there is no place for a legal team that sues and attacks others. The false prophet is exceedingly boastful. Everyone who has sat under his ministry knows this. But they are confused, it seems he is boasting in God. Yes, he is clearly boasting in his ministry, but it seems it is one and the same with the ministry of Jesus Christ. How do you know? The key word is peaceable. If you are boasting in yourself then you are not peaceable. Steve attempted repeatedly to contact and fellowship concerning these issues based on the Lord’s word in Matthew 18. Likewise when I tried to fellowship with Ed Marks I did it in a peaceable way, but their response was to throw me out of the meeting hall saying they “didn’t want to deal with this at this time”. That is not peaceable. Slander, libel, excommunication and lawsuits are not peaceable.

Rom 16:17 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

3. **Gentle** — there is no place for the kind of brutal loyalty displayed in Houston and described in the book the “Thread of Gold”. True wisdom is gentle. The false prophet is a bully who will condemn people in public, ridicule, slander, and even libel. He’ll put together a legal team to sue others. Calling a person who is attempting to deal with sins and reconcile offended brothers a “man of death” is not gentle. Accusing me of doing something wrong when Dennis Cooley said “how dare you speak to Ed”, a person I have known since 1978 is not gentle.

For your iniquity teaches your mouth, And you choose the tongue of the crafty. Job 15:5

4. **Willing to yield** — Witness Lee refused to yield when John Ingalls presented the sins of his son to him (see Speaking the Truth in Love, by John Ingalls). Wisdom from above is willing to yield. It is a hallmark of the false prophet that he is not willing to yield. His testimony is that no one is on his level. No one is qualified to rebuke him. To question him is to “rebel” against “God’s move on Earth”. The presumption is that his opinion was God’s leading. Hitler was famous for not being willing to consult with others, not willing to listen to others, and not willing to yield.

Ron Kangas and Ed Marks have made it clear they are not willing to yield, even after 20+ years. Even after Phillip Lee and Witness Lee are both dead. False prophets can appear charming, fair and balance, until you touch a critical matter of sin. Suppose Ed Marks did come out and apologize for his role in apologizing to Philip Lee. It might come out that this was the quid pro quo for him to be named as an elder of Anaheim. This could expose Kerry, Ron, Ray and Benson as well as the other Anaheim elders. The entire devious plot could unravel. It would be like hitting a hornets nest. This is why they are not willing to yield.

5. **Full of mercy and good fruits** — There was no mercy in Witness Lee’s fabricated “Sister’s rebellion”. There was no mercy in his sanctioning of “The Fermentation of the Present Rebellion”. The real wisdom is full of mercy. Witness Lee’s ministry was full of cursing of man. Cursing those in “rebellion”. Manufacturing rebellions, whitewashing the sins of his family, slander and libel of any that would stand up to him or might stand up to him.

How many saints have been stumbled by this? To take up a burden for the saints stumbled is mercy, the response by Ron Kangas, Kerry Robichaux, Ed Marks, Dennis Cooley and James Chu. shows no mercy. Therefore, the fruit is poisonous. It is not just Phillip Lee that had leprosy; it has spread to them all.

Matt 7:15-16 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

6. **Without partiality** — The “Minister of the Age” doctrine is permeated with partiality with some saying “even when he is wrong he is right” similar to “If the Fuhrer knew!” You will discover that the false prophet is full of partiality. Whether it is justified with a doctrine of “deputy authority”, or with “minister of the age”, or with “the proper ground”, or with “the vision of the age” or with degrees of sanctification. Think of the partiality shown to Phillip Lee. He is willing to excommunicate top leaders, consider them the “canary in the coal mine”. He will slander the innocent. Think of the partiality that Hitler enforced. Forced sterilizations, exterminations based on those who are handicapped, have a different ethnicity, a different religion. His proclamation that the Germans were a “superior race”.

Steve Isitt's experience with Ron Kangas and my experience with Ed Marks demonstrates the partiality shown in the LRC. Let me give you some detail about the extensive relationship that I have had with Ed Marks, Dennis Cooley and James Chu dating all the way back to 1978. I came into the church in Houston in 1978, essentially the same year that Ed Marks also came into the church. We were both young brothers in college at the time, he was at the University of Houston, I was at Rice. For three years we fellowshiped frequently as I would visit the brothers house at UH, I would also go over to George Farmer's house and Dirk Engel's house, two brothers that were mentoring Ed. One year Ed gave me his old car. We both moved to Irving together when LSM built the conference center in Irving. A church was established in Irving with about 100 members. Ed lived in the apartments overlooking the construction site. I was a full time worker on the construction site and would visit Ed's apartment from time to time. A few years later I went to the Full Time Training in Taipei and was a trainer while I was there. This training was run by Living Stream Ministry. While I was in Taipei Ed was in Anaheim, also a trainer in the Full Time training being conducted in Anaheim. I visited Anaheim during this time and took Ed and a second elder from Anaheim to lunch. Yet in 2015 I am in the basement of the church in New York City on a Monday night. They are having a small pot luck dinner with about 20-30 saints. Ed was sitting at one table and I went up to talk to him. This is where Dennis became outraged with “how dare you talk to him”. My experience with Dennis also dates back to 1978. During the winter training that year I attended the video training in NY because my family lives in New York. Both Dennis and James Chu were there. I was a frequent visitor to the church in New York every year after that, whenever I would visit my family in New York I would also swing by the church. I generally would stay at Dunton house on the weekends, which is when James Chu also stayed there. So I literally lived with James Chu over many years. The church in New York sent me to Taipei as their representative for the Full Time Training. When I returned to New York I lived in Dunton house until I stopped meeting with the church about 2 and half years later. My hiatus was strongly related to the sins of Witness Lee and his sons. With this as a context I came and talked to Ed, one on one, discreetly, during this meal. But, due to the relationship that James Chu was trying to forge with LSM they did not want to deal with the sin from 20 years earlier at this time. That is partiality. Imagine the hubris, you don't deny the sin, you haven't ever dealt with it, never repented of it, yet even after 20 years your response is “he doesn't want to deal with this at this time.”

7. **Without hypocrisy** — Saying one thing and doing another. Teaching others how to deal with sin, but not dealing with your own sin. Teaching others that we only follow the teaching of the apostles but then ignoring it when you want a lawsuit. you will discover that the false prophet is a hypocrite. Look at His teachings on dealing with sins. How does his behavior line up with his teaching? How about his disciples? They teach people correctly on how to deal with sin, but they themselves don't do that. They are full of hypocrisy. Do not be deceived by the teaching, the question is "what about their actions"?

Matt 23: 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. **28** Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

I decided, after my study of James, that his burden was the same burden that Joseph gave to his brother when he charged him to "carry up my bones from here". Joseph, a type of Christ, ended up dead in Egypt. In the same way metaphorically Jesus' Body, the church, ends up in the whitewashed tombs of the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees. These hypocrites are the "false prophets" that lead many astray. The burden of James is not for the hypocrites, but for those dry bones, that they might live again as the Body of Christ which has conquered death. But to do that you have to "carry them up out of here". That is what the book of James is doing.

My little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth. 1Jn 3:18

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. -- A genuine man of God or prophet of God will have the fruit of righteousness. These are what distinguishes the genuine prophet from the "false prophet". Genuine prophets will be those who are making peace. They sow in peace and their fruit is "of righteousness". LBJ made \$1 million dollars off of his radio station. That was his fruit, but it wasn't "of righteousness". The airplane that Orville and Wilbur Wright made was their fruit, and it was "fruit of righteousness". Truman saved the US government more than \$1 billion with his commission. That saved money and better oversight was his fruit as an overseer, that was "fruit of righteousness". Witness Lee made money from Daystar which he then used to set up Living Stream Ministry. That is his fruit, but it is not "of righteousness" but of lies, deceit, and slander.

Ohio: Witness Lee made a big deal about "death" by spiritualizing certain Levitical ordinances about touching dead bodies. None of the apostles had done such a thing, but that is besides the point. Like his use of "leprosy" and the "re-plastering of houses" in Leviticus for all those branded rebels, Lee was able to contrive teachings whenever needed to protect himself from being accountable. It was like Lee was telling us, "you may think I have sinned, but if you say a thing, then you will be dead, and that's far worse."

The result is to hold the saints in fear and to negate the feelings of their conscience. How powerful and controlling is that? Our conscience is trained by God's word to be sensitive to sin, the violation of God's commands. **Lee successfully established an alternate standard which bypassed the consciousness of identifiable sin, and introduced the new standard of "death" which only he could identify and use**, when necessary, to divert attention from sin within his ministry to death within his accusers.

Thus, until this date, no one at LSM has ever negated a single statement made by Steve Isitt. If they did, calling it a lie and him a liar, then they would have to address the facts of the case, something they dare not do. The actual facts of history are what LSM fears the most. Thus, by categorizing all that Isitt has written as "death," and labeling him a "man of death," they strike fear in all their members without following any of the New Testament prescriptions for addressing sin, or a sinful brother.

James chapter 4

4:1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.

While in the Local Church it was amazing how many "rebellions" there were. I came in during 1978 in Houston which was the Max Rappaport rebellion and Sister's rebellion described in "The Thread of Gold". A few years later you had the early 80s with the John Ingalls and Anaheim Elders rebellion described in "The Fermentation of the Present Rebellion". John So and the European churches left en masse. Bill Mallon and others also left. Once Witness Lee died Titus Chu was excommunicated by the Blendeds because he dared to publish Christian materials outside of the Living Stream Ministry. Living Stream Ministry would sue churches to seize their meeting halls. Rebellions and lawsuits are evidence that there are lusts warring in the members. There were "rebellions" in South America, Asia, Hong Kong, Germany, Africa, and the list goes on and on.

This is quite similar to Hitler and all of the "rebellions" he put down. Killing Roehm and the other leaders of the storm troopers, Gregor Strasser, and two of Von Pappen's aides.

The sins of Philip Lee and Timothy Lee instigated many of these "rebellions". The sins of Witness Lee perpetrated these wars. The sins of Kerry Robichaux and Ron Kangas and others facilitated and colluded. So when you see these take place, until you are clear on what the lusts were that were warring with the members you still do not understand, you need to know both sides of the altercation before you can make that determination. Therefore, if the "leader" sees it as rebellion for you to investigate what happened, know for a certainty that this "leader" is false.

The unfaithful will be caught by their lusts Pr. 11:6

The false prophets will teach about denying the flesh, denying lusts, denying the pleasures that war in your members. They will teach that coveting is a sin. Yet even though they know these things are sins, they are the motivation for their lawsuits, their slander, their libel, their “wars” and excommunications due to the so called “rebellions”.

All Christians have these temptations, lusts, flesh, the world. We need to fear lest after we preach to others we also fall according to the same example.

Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The “New Way” was an attempt to create a training for evangelists to evangelize the world. They modeled their approach on the way the Mormons and Jehovah Witness spread the gospel. Accounting techniques used in business were incorporated. Assembly line techniques were used creating a gospel approach with a systematic use of a tract called “the purpose of man” and baptism of people in their bathtubs. The plan was to then bring these people into home meetings that used Living Stream Ministry booklets to teach the people. It was a failed attempt to create a new market for Living Stream Ministry books.

Even though the “New Way” was a failure there were pockets of success. I worked on a campus with two other saints. This campus was a graduate school in Engineering. One brother would go through the campus at night preaching the gospel. I was not able to go with him because I worked at night to support myself. He would refer those who received his gospel to an English class that I taught in the afternoon on campus. I used the Bible to teach this class, but I created all the lessons and it was both an English class and a Bible class. Those that just wanted to learn English could do so without any problem. But there would always be four or five that were more interested in the Bible than the English. For those, a sister would arrive at the end of my class, pick them up, and take them to a home meeting that was near the campus. In this way we were able to gain 18 brothers for the church in about six months. However, when Living Stream Ministry learned of our success they wanted and ultimately forced the saints to use their ministry in the small group meetings, killing the success we had with their brand of propaganda. It wasn’t about the gospel, it was about selling books.

The Recovery Version of the Bible was a major translation work done by the Living Stream Ministry to create a “new” translation of the Bible to correct some of the errors of the King James Version. However, the translation does not differ in any significant way from the 1901 American Standard version. The only reason it is different at all is to push any heresies of Witness Lee and so they could copyright a “new” version. The real purpose of this work was to put a Living Stream Ministry copyright on a version of the Bible along with Witness Lee’s footnotes. These

books sell for \$50 to \$100 each depending if it is the New Testament or Complete Bible. They are called “gold bars” inside Living Stream Ministry and are essential to all meeting with the Lord’s Recovery because reading and quoting footnotes during the meetings is virtually mandatory.

Living Stream Ministry embraced a practice called “standing order” for every and all books published by the Living Stream Ministry even though the churches could not sell these nor could they return books that were not sold. One practice typical of the Local Church is called “pray reading”. This began as a prayerful way to read the Bible but was soon usurped by Living Stream Ministry so that saints were taught to pray read Living Stream Ministry booklets. Thus creating a new market for Living Stream Ministry books. They buy books to pray read each morning for “morning watch”.

The false prophet will have worldly schemes to raise money. He is motivated by greed and will “make merchandise of the saints”. By definition he will scam and defraud the saints, make friends with the world, akin to spiritual fornication and adultery. He will make decisions that violate the Apostle’s fellowship because of this friendship. He can talk a good game, quoting scriptures, teaching Biblical theology, but make no mistake, if there is a false prophet there is friendship with the world. Lying and deceit are second nature to the world. It is not difficult for them to be a “wolf in sheep’s clothing”. The world is their strategy, their understanding, their knowledge base. The world is where they are comfortable. Standing orders, training fees, free labor, fleecing the sheep, this is the modus operandi. They have no choice because they worship money.

Matt 4: 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

The false prophets will teach that making friendship with the world is enmity with God. They will teach that the Cross of Christ crucified the world to me and I to the world. They know that spending the money defrauded from others on pleasures is sin. They know that defrauding saints to make deals with the world is akin to spiritual fornication and adultery, it is according to the behavior of Jezebel. They know it is sin, but do it anyway.

Ps 50:16 But to the wicked God says:
“What right have you to declare My statutes,
Or take My covenant in your mouth,
17 Seeing you hate instruction
And cast My words behind you?
18 When you saw a thief, you consented with him,
And have been a partaker with adulterers.
19 You give your mouth to evil,
And your tongue frames deceit.

20 You sit and speak against your brother;
You slander your own mother's son.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

How proud, how arrogant to know these things are sin and yet do them anyway. It is the kind of arrogance of an adulteress who thinks her "weak" husband can do nothing in response to her sins of adultery. As though the Spirit can do nothing. This is the underlying thought behind "once saved always saved" doctrine. This is why the false prophets tell the Lord "did we not do works of power in your name" and then are stunned when He responds "depart from me workers of iniquity for I never knew you". This is why some of those in the church in Sardis will have their names "blotted out of the book of life". This is why the false prophet is in the Lake of Fire before the Great White Throne Judgement. He chose to be judged at the Judgement seat of Christ, thinking he was a Christian and not even realizing his judgement was the Lake of Fire.

Our salvation is a covenant, like marriage. Just because a woman has a ring and her husband's vow does not mean that if she becomes an adulteress there is nothing he can do. If she breaks the covenant he is no longer bound by it. Likewise, if we break our covenant with God, then God also is no longer bound by it. Balaam received God's word, but was not saved. Judas received God's word but was not saved. Gehazi was with Elisha in his ministry, but fell according to this example. Some of those in Sardis had their names "blotted out of the book of life".

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Pride confuses the issue of salvation by grace. We see this in many Christian congregations. The "holier than thou" attitude is arrogant and something that God resists. To say that 2nd generation saints are more sanctified than first generation, but less sanctified than 3rd generation also feeds into this "holier than thou" attitude. To say that you cannot be truly one unless you subscribe to Witness Lee's doctrine of the ground of the church feeds into the "holier than thou" attitude. The MOTA (minister of the age) doctrine is a proud doctrine, the ground of the church doctrine is a proud doctrine, the deification doctrine is a proud doctrine.

Deification—man becoming God—is now a tenet of the faith in LSM's Local Church; it is part of their creed. "We in the local churches hold that man may become God in God's salvation,"⁷ declares LSM's K. Robichaux. LSM asserts this is "absolutely scriptural."⁸ LSM's K. Robichaux says "We are also confirmed by the ancient testimony of the church." He appeals to the Roman Catholic Church & Eastern Orthodox Church for support.⁹ Indeed some Orthodox statements seem to echo W. Lee, such as: "The deification of the human being [is] the goal of the economy of salvation." & "The economy of God consists in the deification of the created world..." (Nigel Tomes, LSM's Deification Doctrine -- Biblical or Blasphemous?, posted on the Local Church Discussion website)

These doctrines are not compatible with “salvation by grace” and confuse this issue.

2Cor 11:4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Many of us who left the Lord’s Recovery have had to go through a process. We have testimonies of how we “resisted the devil”. We had to fellowship with one another to cleanse our hands of our involvement in the Local Church. The Lord’s Recovery fed our ego as “God’s elite”, repenting of this organization is a humbling process.

What is the Lord's recovery? Strictly speaking, the Lord's recovery is the Lord's reserving “seven thousand” for His name. Because we have adopted this attitude and taken this ground, our actions and behavior have been a cause for some misunderstanding by others. We are misunderstood by society and by our relatives and friends. We do not follow tradition, and we do not even follow religion. Religion is going downward, while the recovery is going upward. (Witness Lee, Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 1: The Vision and Definite Steps for the Practice of the New Way, Chapter 7, Section 2)

False prophets will teach submission to God but have done everything to reject and avoid all culpability for their actions. We submitted to God when we obeyed his word to be baptized. This was our entrance into this covenant. We are required to submit to God. We left the world behind when we went through the waters of baptism. This is a requirement of this covenant. We crucified the flesh with the passions and lusts. This is what our baptism was all about. It is the same with the temptations of these false teachers. First, you must submit to God.

Let me share my own experience. After that meeting in Houston where I was told I had two strikes and then decided to ignore the warning since they did not give me any idea what the two strikes were, they then upped the attack. I was sitting in a Friday night meeting, after the message there was a time of testimony and one by one different front row brothers stood up and their testimonies were a very clear attack on me. They did not use my name, it was insinuated, but everyone in the meeting knew who they were referring to. I was stunned. I had no idea what happened or why. I was standing on the side of the meeting hall after the meeting was dismissed, I was by myself and confused, when this 12 year old boy came up to me that I knew (this was highly unusual for someone this young to be in this meeting, but he was. He quoted to me a song they sing in children’s church “you can talk about me just as much as you please, I’ll talk about you down on my knees”. I took that as a word from the Lord so I went home, got on my knees and prayed. What came to me was the Lord’s word in Galatians how “we did not give place to them, not for five minutes”. So, Sunday morning as soon as the message was over I was the first to jump up with a testimony. The brother sitting next to me

was so shocked he at first tried to hold me down with his arm. But it was as though I called their bluff and they evaporated. Step 1 submit to God, step 2 resist the devil and he will flee from you.

You will know something is wrong, you will see things that offend you and your conscience. It is crucial to "resist the devil". So, once you are clear that "something is rotten in Denmark" you must submit to God.

False prophets are slaves of the devil. They will flee from anyone with a backbone who stands on the truth in the word. Stand, demanding to see the actions, deeds, and behavior, looking into independent witnesses to verify the claims of the false prophet and he will flee. Think about Ed Marks terrified that I was going to raise questions about his apology to Philip Lee during a small meeting. Think about the leaders of LSM, they are well aware of this forum, and yet do not have the slightest integrity to respond. Kerry Robichaux graduated from an elite university and portrays himself as a "scribe among scribes". Why does he not defend the charges that I make? I have torn down the fundamental pillars of the Lord's Recovery (Ground of the church doctrine, and the concept that Watchman Nee is a "Minister of the Age"). This forum is a clear example of what it means to "resist the devil and he will flee from you". Our baptism was an example of us resisting the devil and him fleeing from us.

So you have submitted to God, gone into the death waters of baptism, resisting the devil. Now what?

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Draw near to God All things work together for good to those that love God. The first thing that should happen is that this strengthens your prayer and seeking of God.

Once again, they teach this. They teach the necessity to have a close fellowship with the Lord. They teach how important oneness is in the body of Christ. They teach that Satan's strategy against the church is to attack this oneness. Then they themselves attack this oneness by speaking evil of brethren (so and so is a "man of death"), judging their brethren (John Ingalls, Max Rappaport, John So), their meeting (divisive, not on the proper ground), their worship (dead Christianity). They separate themselves from all other Christian gatherings (many examples of how their campus work will not take part in non denominational gatherings of all believers on campus) and denounce all other teachers (according to Witness Lee there are no other good Christian teachers beside him). They claim to be "drawing near to God" while at the same time separating themselves from all of those who serve and worship God. When we went through the waters of baptism we drew near to God.

Ps 145:1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,
Give ear to my supplications!
In Your faithfulness answer me,

And in Your righteousness.
2 Do not enter into judgment with Your servant,
For in Your sight no one living is righteous.
3 For the enemy has persecuted my soul;
He has crushed my life to the ground;
He has made me dwell in darkness,
Like those who have long been dead.
4 Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me;
My heart within me is distressed.
5 I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all Your works;
I muse on the work of Your hands.
6 I spread out my hands to You;
My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Selah
7 Answer me speedily, O Lord;
My spirit fails!
Do not hide Your face from me,
Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.
8 Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,
For in You do I trust;
Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,
For I lift up my soul to You.
9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies;
In You I take shelter.
10 Teach me to do Your will,
For You are my God;
Your Spirit is good.
Lead me in the land of uprightness.
11 Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake!
For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.
12 In Your mercy cut off my enemies,
And destroy all those who afflict my soul;
For I am Your servant.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners;

After going before God clear up any sins you may have participated in. You may need to repent, seek out some, make a confession, even a public confession.

Their hands are covered in the blood of the innocent they have slain. They teach others to cleanse their hands yet they themselves do not confess, they do not repent, they do not seek forgiveness, and they do not take the Lord's blood to cleanse themselves of this sin. Once again think of Ed Marks, he teaches others how to cleanse their hands from sin, yet when asked about

the apology letter more than 20 years after the fact his response is "he doesn't want to deal with this at this time"! We were cleansed in the waters of baptism.

2Tim 2: 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

What is your biggest fear, that the Lord's Recovery Church has a monopoly on all things God? Face it, your heart is double minded. You worship Jesus Christ but also are giving a nod to the false prophet. Purify your heart, you only need to be faithful to Jesus Christ and to your conscience. Get rid of all those errors about being an "elite" group of Christians, the "only" ones standing on the ground. Purify your heart from any partiality or respect of persons, you need to hear Jesus only.

Matt 17:5 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

They are double minded. Outwardly they appear men of God. Inwardly they have wicked imaginations and schemes against many of God's people. Outwardly they appear holy, inwardly they are cutting deals with lascivious men like Philip Lee. Outwardly they can teach others to draw near to God by mixing prayer with the Bible, inwardly they are scheming at how to sell "Gold bars" by making their version of the Bible an essential purchase by all members at around \$100 each. Baptism is a testimony that we were absolutely for the Lord. This was a step in purifying our heart from being double minded. But this is not once for all, it is a process we go through every time we obey God's word.

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

It would be great if your repentance caused everyone else to repent as well, as if a single domino falling would do that, but be realistic. John Ingalls wasn't that domino, John So wasn't that domino, it is highly likely you aren't either. So, you should mourn. When I left I mourned the loss of 20 years of my life. I mourned the loss of all the people I knew, all the relationships I had. I mourned because I felt a responsibility for what took place.

2Cor 12:21 and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

There is no sign of repentance or shame with them. No sign of a conscience. Baptism was a testimony that we were ashamed of our sins and past life.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

When you are knocked down you have to get back up. There are other Christians and other gatherings. Let the Lord lead you, pick yourself up, humble yourself in the sight of God and trust that He will raise you up.

Ps 25:9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

The false prophet lifts himself up. Instead of humbling himself he is boastful and arrogant in the sight of the Lord. Baptism was humbling. But we were raised up out of those waters.

11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

One of the key events was when Ron Kangas called Steve Isitt a "Man of Death" because Steve was trying to deal with the double minded and call for reconciliation and repentance.

Their throat is an open sepulchre; With their tongues they have used deceit: The poison of asps is under their lips: Rom 3:13

Titus Chu was accused of being rebellious publicly and through the internet. Do unto others as you would have them do to you. I met with Ed Marks to ask him about his involvement in signing an apology letter to Phillip Lee. I was immediately kicked out of the church meeting hall, saying "how dare you" bring this up. I had known Ed Marks since 1978. What you see in the Local Church is that there are two classes of saints, the "elders" (leaders, also referred to as Blendeds) and everyone else. Apparently a common brother like myself has no right to speak to an elder like Ed Marks. They have forgotten that there is only "one Lawgiver who is able to save and to destroy".

Do not speak evil of another brother. This is key. Condemn the sins, the slander, the libel, the abusive practices, the false doctrines, the systematized error. Do not speak evil of the brother. Ron Kangas was the one who said that Steve Isitt was "a man of death". That is to speak evil of a brother. How often were we told that someone was "poisoned" and that we were not to in any way communicate with them. That is to speak evil of a brother. I tried to communicate with Ed Marks and Dennis Cooley was the one who said "how dare you" try to talk to him. Dennis Cooley was the one who kicked me out of the meeting hall in NY based on James Chu's word because they didn't want to talk about the sins. I am open to communicating with anyone in the Lord's Recovery Church or LSM. Steve Isitt tried repeatedly to speak with various brothers including Ron Kangas.

The false prophet is not a doer of the law, but rather a judge. The false prophet sets himself up as a judge of all and is able to be judged by no one. Submitting to God's word to be baptized is an example of being a doer of the law. It was our first step into this kingdom.

Ohio: Before I left the LC's, the Lord led me to study the Brethren and their early splits. I studied their early principles, and how they diverged over time. I found one of John Darby's earliest writings to be very significant. I have posted this before. **Darby felt that their unity was based upon a common judgment of evil.**

This has become the basis for all exclusivism. Both Nee and Lee followed Darby in this line of reasoning concerning the uniting bonds of the church. History tells us that years after their initial split, inclusion in exclusive Brethren circles required the judgment of George Muller. If new congregants or assemblies refused to condemn Muller, they could not receive the "right hand of fellowship" from Darby and the exclusives.

Thus the oneness of the LC's has little to do with the seven "one's" in Ephesians 4. Ask Titus Chu, he got quarantined for allowing drums and guitars, asking for clean sheets, and publishing his own books. Same thing happened to Dong in Brazil. This is why the Blendeds will never work with outside churches; sue them yes, but never work with them, because they were trained by Lee that oneness is not what we have in common, but how we judge others.

And remember ... only the headquarters in Anaheim can decide what we are to judge. And when convenient, the "victims" may change from from time to time. I understand this month they like the Catholics for teaching deification.

12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

You should ask this question of anyone who judges another brother or sister. "Ron Kangas, who are you to judge Steve Isitt?" If you seek hard enough you will learn that the false prophet has set himself up as a someone in a position to judge others based on a fabricated story. This is the cornerstone of his falsehood and deceit. We chose to be baptized because we judged that the Lord is able to save and to destroy. It was our testimony.

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

You need to reconcile with God immediately. There is no guarantee that you will have a "year" to get this straightened out. Don't procrastinate, don't pretend that you have time to work this out. There is no guarantee of that.

2Cor 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Think of the boasts made by Hitler's SS newspaper: "because no power on Earth can stop us, We will bring the Jewish question to its total solution." Or consider Hitler's charge to newspapers that "the leadership is always right". Or "I intend to set up a thousand-year Reich and anyone who supports me in this battle is a fellow-fighter for a unique spiritual—I would say divine—creation... Rudolf Hess, my assistant of many years standing, would tell you: If we have such a leader, God is with us." (quoted by [Richard Breiting](#) in *Secret Conversations with Hitler: The Two Newly-Discovered 1931 Interviews*, p. 68, 1971). All such boasting is evil. Repent.

It is difficult to understand this if you have never had the experience. But for those who remember the "New Way" who could forget this:

"Our research concludes that to succeed in The New Way there are two principles: first, to produce one full-timer out of every twenty saints, and second, that one-fourth of the number who meet should set aside two to three hours to go door-knocking, four weeks a month, fifty-two weeks a year, continuously week by week... In this way, one person can gain one a week, which is approximately fifty a year. Thus, five persons can gain two hundred fifty in a year... If there are one hundred people meeting in a church, and these one hundred all go out to knock on doors every week, each person should be able to gain one person to be baptized every two months. By the third year, there will be close to five thousand persons, which is a fiftyfold increase. After several more rounds there will be five billion, the total world population." (Witness Lee, *Bearing Remaining Fruit*, Vol 1, Chapter 1, Section 1)

All such boasting is evil. Witness Lee's boasting is every bit on par with Hitler. The false prophet is characterized by boasting, all of which is evil.

Ps 101:5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor,
Him I will destroy;
The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart,
Him I will not endure.
6 My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land,
That they may dwell with me;
He who walks in a perfect way,
He shall serve me.
7 He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house;
He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.
8 Early I will destroy all the wicked of the land,
That I may cut off all the evildoers from the city of the Lord.

Once again I would repeat that although others have made these mistakes, they are easy to make, these are common temptations, and we should work out our own salvation with fear and trembling lest we also perish after the same example.

James chapter 5

5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

The riches of the world will be of no account when the Lord's judgement comes. Also, all of those riches will become corrupted and moth-eaten. The riches of the Lord are eternal.

You have condemned, you have murdered the just, he does not resist you. This was so true in the Lord's Recovery Church, how many did we see excommunicated, condemned and banished without so much as a single word of resistance.

1. **Riches are corrupted** -- Living Stream Ministry claims it is the storehouse of riches. But it is clearly corrupted. The cornerstone of the ministry, the ground of the church, is an error. The teaching of MOTA (minister of the age) is an error. Watchman Nee has been exposed for the sins which Witness Lee tried to cover up, the foundation of His Ministry.

Here we see that James charges the believers to keep the perfect law of freedom in relation to three things: bridling the tongue, visiting orphans and widows, and keeping oneself unspotted from the world. None of these is a crucial item in God's New Testament economy. By this we see that James does not tell us to keep the perfect law of freedom in the New Testament practice. Rather, by charging us to bridle our tongue, visit orphans and widows, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world, he is speaking of Old Testament practices. (Witness Lee, Life Study of James, Chapter 13, Sect 3)

Visiting orphans and widows is fully in line with the Lord's command to love one another, the one commandment of the New Testament.

John 13: **34** A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; [a]even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **35** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

That is a crucial item of the New Testament.

Bridling our tongue cannot be done by man, it can only be done by the sanctification of the Spirit, this is another crucial item of the New Covenant, God will remove the stony heart and give us a heart of flesh.

Rom 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye presented your members as servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity, even so now present your members as servants to righteousness unto sanctification.

Our tongue is a member of our body. Bridling the tongue is one example of “presenting your members as servants to righteousness unto sanctification. This is not an Old Testament practice, as Witness Lee claims but a New Testament practice.

This process of sanctification is depicted in our keeping the Lord’s table, one of two ordinances given to the church. The eating the Lord’s Body and drinking His blood will change us. To partake of this table we must repent of sins, including an unbridled tongue. Witness Lee’s teaching on deification is an example of idolatry and of an unbridled tongue. How can Witness Lee claim that the Lord’s table and fleeing idolatry are not crucial items of God’s New Testament economy?

1Cor 11:14 Wherefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. **15** I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. **16** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a [g] communion of the blood of Christ? The [h] bread which we break, is it not a [i] communion of the body of Christ? **17** [j] seeing that we, who are many, are one [k] bread, one body: for we all partake [l] of the one [m] bread. **18** Behold Israel after the flesh: have not they that eat the sacrifices communion with the altar? **19** What say I then? that a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? **20** But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have communion with demons. **21** Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of demons: ye cannot partake of the table of the Lord, and of the table of demons. **22** Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

Keeping ourselves unspotted from the world is done through the washing of water in the word. This process is signified in our baptism the other ordinance given to the church to keep.

1Pet 3:18 Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; **19** in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison, **20** that aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, [i] wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water: **21** which also after a true likeness doth now save you, *even* baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ; **22** who is on the right

hand of God, having gone into heaven; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

According to the New Testament if you love God you are not a friend of the world, this is the second commandment given to us by Jesus.

Matt 22: 37 And he said unto him, [a]Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

James is referring to the only two commandments given by Jesus for us to keep, and the only two ordinances given to the church to keep. According to Witness Lee "None of these is a crucial item in God's New Testament Economy". These commandments and ordinances given to us by Jesus are not to be broken. These are the "bones" of the Lamb. The statute of the Passover was not to break a bone (Ex 12:46). I don't understand why Witness Lee teaches that these central and critical items of the New Testament were Old Testament practices?

For example in 2:9 and 10 he says, "But if you respect persons, you commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law, yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." This word indicates that James still practiced the keeping of the Old Testament law. (Witness Lee, Life Study of James, Chapter 13, sect 3)

Once again Witness Lee has confused the New Testament with the Old Testament. Jesus gave us a commandment to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Therefore, if you respect persons you violate the Lord's commandment. This is not a Mosaic law it is one of the commandments given to the believers. You cannot love God with your whole heart and teach deification. This is not the Mosaic law, it is the royal law given to us by Jesus. Witness Lee's ministry is corrupted.

2. Garments are moth eaten -- Garments represent the righteousnesses of the saints. The "righteous acts" of the false prophet are full of holes. Their "charitable works" are just a cover for their covetousness. When Donald Trump attacked Hillary Clinton's charitable foundation as a fraud it was the perfect opportunity for Clinton. If the foundation was not a fraud respond to his attack by itemizing all the wonderful things you had done, release the books to show how every dollar was spent. He asked for it, give it to him. Surely if they had something to boast of they would have jumped at that opportunity. But, her garments are moth eaten. This is how she has gone from being broke to having over \$100 million in seven years.

3. Gold and silver corroded -- corrosion is a witness against you like a burning leprosy. The money that the false prophet gains as a result of fabricated stories that make merchandise of the saints. This is corroded and stained with sin. When your money is the result of fraud then it is going to corrode.

4. Wages kept by fraud, of laborers and reapers -- cry out as a witness. Daystar is an example of fraud. Both the Anaheim and Irving meeting halls were built with the labor of those who were donating it to God, not to the “prophet”. That is fraud.

5. You condemned the just -- The false prophet will condemn the just. When you see just men around you being condemned you need to examine this very carefully. When you are forbidden from examining the facts lest you be “poisoned” know for a certainty that a false prophet is in charge. Witness Lee did this. Hitler did this. Balaam did this when he taught Balak how to put a stumbling stone before the children of Israel.

Acts 1:16-25 Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

6. You murdered the just -- Slander and libel of so many ones. Read the Thread of Gold as an example of what took place.

Jn 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

All of these things are a testimony of the various witnesses that will take place, if not in this age, then at the Judgement Seat of Christ. This is why the False prophet is thrown into the Lake of Fire before the Great White Throne Judgement, he is judged at the judgement seat of Christ.

The email scandal of Clinton keeping classified emails on a non secure server is a good example of her riches being corrupted. Surely as we are given more of her emails via wikileaks it is the equivalent of the corrosion of her riches being a testimony against her. Likewise, Trump uses lawsuits to avoid paying the wages of his workers. No doubt the cries of these ones are heard as well. This election proves that Jesus is Lord and that whatever a man sows he shall reap. It is also a window into the corrupt way in which these people have enriched themselves. When Harry Truman left office he wrote his daughter a letter saying that he was not leaving her any money, but at least he was leaving her a good name. When Bill Clinton left office Hillary said they were “bankrupt”. Today they are worth \$111 million. They made all of that in 12 years after Bill Clinton retired and Hillary was working on the government payroll. So I suppose if they write a letter to their daughter it is the reverse of Truman, “the good news is we are leaving you with \$100 million, the bad news is we are not leaving you a good name”.

“I have been unable to save much money in my life, I have been in politics, and in politics an honest man does not get rich.” Sam Rayburn.

Think about Hitler. His generals pronounced him the “greatest military leader of all time” right after taking France. But this was right before his invasion of Russia and the Battle of Britain. Surely his “riches are corrupted”, his “garments are moth eaten” and his “gold and silver is corroded”. He “condemned the just” and “murdered the just”. And of course he tried to pay for

all this with his “final solution” by robbing the Jews. A crime that continues to witness against him to this day.

11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

So then, what was the end of Job intended by the Lord? “An arm like God”, “A voice like God”. Our destiny is to rule and reign with Jesus Christ. Everything that has taken place is under His sovereignty and works out to good to those who love God and are called according to purpose. The book of Job shows us that faith without works is dead. What is the point of Job? If I had to sum up this book in five words it is “faith without works is dead”.

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

Above all: this is the most important charge of all. “Do not swear with any other oath”. No loyalty pledge to Witness Lee. How do you know when you have “wandered from the truth”? You know when you are forced to sign a “loyalty pledge” to “the apostle” and being baptized into Christ is not sufficient. False prophets and Jezebel require strange oaths. The World requires strange oaths. Stamping your forehead with 666 is a strange oath. Do not swear with any other oath, you have a covenant with Jesus Christ, honor that covenant.

Hitler required the German military to swear a loyalty oath to him, a month after having Roehm shot. McCarthy ran the loyalty review boards used for political repression. Sacramentum was the loyalty oath required of Romans. Tertullian rejected the oath for Christians saying that Baptism is the only oath we give. Christians who refused to make an offering to the Romans God and swear by the emperor’s genius were executed. Ray Graver had elders in the Local church swear a loyalty oath to Witness Lee after John Ingalls left. Above all my brethren, do not swear with any other oath.

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

True elders do not restrain prayer. The elders of the church are known by their “prayer of faith” that “heals the sick”. In the normal church there is confession of sins, prayer for forgiveness, and healing. You know a righteous man because his prayers are heard by God.

Pr 15:29 The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

This is the best way to discern between the righteous and wicked. The wicked choose the tongue of the crafty, whereas God hears the prayers of the righteous. This is another example of a work of faith. This word is contrary to the attitude in the Lord's Recovery Church that certain ones are "poisoned" and "leprous" and must be avoided. I have seen a number of ones proclaimed "sick" or "a man of death" yet do they have a "prayer of faith" that will save these sick ones? No. So then where is their faith? If you are saved you must have faith, prayer to save the sick is evidence of this faith. This book is a work of faith intended as a prayer for the sick. My hope is that we will be inoculated against the false prophet and we will return to the truth.

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

This is the burden of James. Those involved in a "cult" or swayed by a false prophet are those who have "wandered from the truth". This book is written to turn him back from the error of his way and save his soul. James is not a hypocrite. This is his prayer for the sick. It is the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man and it avails much. If you have wandered from the truth this is where you need to return to. Lay your hands on the book of James. Return to a place where prayers are answered, sins are confessed, people are comforted, they sing psalms, worship and are healed.

Turning a "sinner from the error of his way" is also evidence of this faith. According to Witness Lee, Ray Graver, Benson Phillips, Kerry Robichaux and Ed Marks, there are many who have sinned due to the "error of their way". How many have they turned? If you have not turned anyone from the error of their way then where is the evidence of your faith?

Jude 12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about[c] by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

In my own experience, and many have this testimony, we turned from the error of our way by discovering forums on the internet. That is evidence of faith. That is the fulfillment of James word here. The mission of the forums on the internet, formed by members who left, is to help turn a sinner from the error of his ways. We have gained a lot of help from the experience of each one, surely we can get help from James and his experience.

Ps 107:4 They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way;
They found no city to dwell in.
5 Hungry and thirsty,
Their soul fainted in them.

6 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
And He delivered them out of their distresses.
7 And He led them forth by the right way,
That they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

I attended the memorial service for my uncle. He had gone to seminary but never was ordained. Instead he became involved in many issues to both "comfort the afflicted" and also to "afflict the comfortable". He supported black churches that were being fire bombed (he lived in Mississippi at the time) and his house was bombed by the KKK. Years later he met with and forgave the man that bombed his house. He was credited with starting the recycling program in the state of Mississippi. He started a head start program for inner city youth. He started an alternate Christmas guide that gained national attention long before it became a political football. His memorial service was filled with testimonies of works that he did that testified to his faith. His memorial service did make it clear what it means to be saved by grace. If that is not our testimony then I would argue you are one of the "12 tribes in the dispersion" and the book of James is written for you.

Orville and Wilbur Wright conducted all of their research and development in relative secrecy. They did not have college degrees nor were they given any financial assistance (in contrast to public failures by the best, brightest and heavily subsidized). As a result it is well documented that they were "despised, criticized, misunderstood, opposed, and rejected". They were mocked with newspaper titles like "Liars or fliers?" Even as Wilbur Wright was boarding his plane for a demonstration in France men were in the audience boldly assuring everyone that he was bluffing and a fraud. Yet two minutes after seeing his demonstration everyone that had previously despised, criticized, misunderstood, opposed and rejected them immediately made a complete apology and repentance. When the newspaper from Dayton Ohio was asked why they never published the press releases from the Wright brothers concerning their flights or even went over to the field where they were flying to see for themselves they said, after a moment of reflection, that it was because they "were dumb". The best way to convert those that doubt your faith is not with arguments, but with your work of faith. The story of the Wright brothers is the story of how they by patience and through faith converted millions of sinners from the errors of their ways. And that is what it means to "make clear the matter of salvation by grace". When they returned to Dayton the entire town proclaimed that their work of faith was proof that this is a country where anyone who believes can be saved by grace, not by money or power or position.

Jesus revealed that He was the Lord of the Sabbath. Death is the reality of the sabbath rest, and Jesus in his resurrection conquered death. Peter received the revelation that the cross of Christ cleansed the entire world. We were now in a new age, the old things had passed away. The door of the kingdom has been opened to all, Jews and Gentiles, who believe. Paul received the revelation from the head that the church is the Body of Christ, the expression of Jesus on Earth. James received the revelation on how to turn back those who wander from the truth.

1Tm 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith

Do false prophets speak the word of God? Do they have the anointing?

Ps 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

We often say “once saved, always saved”. Our salvation is a covenant with God that cannot be broken. I did not understand what constitutes salvation for the first 46 years of my Christian life. I used to think that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and you are baptized into the name of the triune God that you shall be saved. This is not Biblical. What the Bible actually says is

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

A liar or a deceiver can confess with his mouth anything and be baptized in any way you wish. How else could we have wolves in sheep’s clothing?

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

In each case believing unto righteousness is a key element in salvation.

I used to think that if God speaks to you a word direct from God that this is proof of your being saved. That also is not biblical. Balaam in the Old Testament received clear words from God and ministered them as a testimony to others. However, Balaam is a type of the false prophet, and according to Revelation the False prophet is in the Lake of Fire. This is why Jesus said that a person could do works of power in His name and say “Lord, Lord” concerning Jesus and yet not know Him. Judas received clear words from Jesus and did works of power in His name, and yet he is a false prophet. Saying “Lord, Lord”, ministering the word of God, works of power, and being baptized are all not proof of salvation. The proof of salvation is believing in your heart. We do not see what is in your heart, but we can see a work of faith.

How do we know if someone is saved? This is crucial, how else can we avoid being deceived? Also, how do we know if we are saved? We can see people who are baptized and we can hear the confession from their mouth, but how do you know if they believe in their heart? What exactly does it mean to “believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead”?

James 2:18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

Abraham’s vision was completely tied up in his being “the father of nations”. Isaac was the son according to promise. Abraham had spent his entire life following God according to this vision. Now, after all of these years God tells Abraham to sacrifice everything.

Genesis 22: 15 Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

This is when we knew that Abraham was saved. This is when you will get the full assurance of salvation. This is the “work of faith” that James refers to that is the way we can “show our faith”. Salvation is a covenant between God and Man. God signs this contract with the blood of His Son, this is how we have assurance of salvation based on this blood. Likewise the man of faith signs this contract by obeying God’s word. This is how God has assurance that you believe that God has raised Him from the dead.

I have seen the “sheer genius people have at convincing themselves of congenial conclusions while denying the truth of inconvenient ones” David Dunning. How many years and how many different ways I viewed what was happening, convincing myself of congenial conclusion!. For 40 years I was completely clueless as to what prompted the “two strikes against you” meeting with the elders! The truth of these brothers primary motivation being to sell books was an inconvenient truth to me.

What does the book of James say concerning the “Ground of the Church” doctrine?

Interestingly enough the book of James and the rest of the New Testament say nothing concerning this doctrine except through inferential interpretation. One of the problems with discussing this doctrine is the dispute over the “theory” versus the “practice”. When you raise

the issue of the practice the discussion will descend into the absurd. Comparisons are made with some of the most odious practices in human history. The local church of Witness Lee does compare favorably with the inquisition, but is that the standard we have set?

What James does say --

Tribes -- James is very clear, in black and white, that you are not to have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons. Does your church meeting (redundant I know since the definition of church is essentially a meeting of those who believe in Jesus Christ) have respect to a particular man in addition to Jesus? Ray [Ray Graver] surmised that some co-workers were one with Paul while others were not. Some were partly one with Paul." Some lost their devotion to following Paul, while others served Paul practically - which was likened to serving the LSM office (Philip Lee), that is, "serving the ministry". Ray was truly amazing in his ability to take a verse and declare some hidden economical practice that had been hidden there and applying it to Witness Lee. In addition, Ray believed that all the brothers and sisters were in a constant ongoing test regarding their faithful service to, and oneness with, "the apostle" and "his ministry", including any practical administration "the apostle" might employ. (Taken from "History by Don Rutledge" posted on the Local Church Discussions website). Saying the name of Jesus in your meeting more frequently than your favored preacher is not evidence that you don't hold the faith in respect of persons. Does your church bookroom have an undeniable respect of persons?

Based upon their "Minister of the Age" teaching, LSM's "blended brothers" have overly exalted Witness Lee's ministry. They do not hesitate to go beyond what Witness Lee said. Brother Ron Kangas proclaimed,¹⁴ *"Brother Lee could not say it then, but we can say it today; He was the wise master builder; he was the (emphasis original) minister of the age, he had the design, and he could oversee the work."* Similarly, LSM president, Benson Phillips is on record saying,¹⁵ *"we declare strongly that his [Bro. Lee's] ministry could never be over because his ministry is the New Testament ministry"* He also refers to Witness Lee's ministry as¹⁶ *"this glorious ministry, which is the New Testament ministry in all its fullness."* Thus (according to Benson Phillips) the New Testament ministry, once jointly possessed by various apostles, has become the exclusive possession of Brother Witness Lee. In making these exaggerated claims aren't the "blended co-workers" going "beyond what has been written" in Scripture (1 Cor. 4:6)? Aren't they being "puffed up on behalf of one" of the Lord's servants against others (1 Cor. 4:6)? (Nigel Tomes, *Against the Practice of Exclusivism*, posted on the Local Church Discussions website)

I am not discounting prudence, or discretion. James does not take issue with the leaders of a congregation exercising wisdom in what is and is not taught or sold. But if you are going to tell me that out of a billion Christians there is only one or two that have "a clear vision" then you are exercising your faith with "respect of persons" and your congregation is a tribe. God resists the proud. Do you use this doctrine to judge which congregations of Christians are wrong? If so you are acting tribally, and are judging your brother with evil thoughts. The issue with this

doctrine is not that some Christians feel that you should call your congregation the church in that city. No one takes issue with you wanting to be one with all Christians in that city. The issue is that this doctrine is used to judge other Christians and turn a Christian congregation into a tribe.

Many denominations today have their respective ground, but none of them are the ground of the church; rather, their ground is the ground of a sect or denomination. (Witness Lee, *The Testimony and the Ground of the Church*, Chapter 9, Section 1)

Every good gift is from above. Do you give all glory and all credit to Jesus? When I met with the LRC I was taught by Ray Graver that “we owed our very life” to “the apostle”, to Witness Lee. Eventually, Ray [Ray Graver] proclaimed that the churches were for the ministry and not the ministry for the churches! (This happened to be the reverse of what Watchman Nee and Witness Lee had taught.) Ray explained that a central key church would provide an audience for Witness Lee, “the Apostle.” That church was the “injection point” for “the Ministry” to be injected into the Body of Christ. Then others churches and saints who were one with the office would function to “get out” the riches by editing, printing, shipping, etc. Finally, each local church should focus on getting “the Ministry” into the members and spreading it to believers outside the local churches. Those brothers and sisters - and elders in particular - not promoting this program were suspect and often warned against and defamed. (Taken from “History by Don Rutledge” posted on the Local Church Discussions website). I consider this deceitful and insulting to Jesus. When I was in the LRC in Houston it was stated clearly and categorically that they showed partiality to the second and third generation saints than to new converts. This was sold as “growth in life”, “perfecting”, “degrees of sanctification” and ultimately “deification”. But when you judge saints in this way (“he is a good brother, born into the LRC, been under this ministry for twenty years, etc”) you have become judges with evil thoughts. The Lord commanded us to love our neighbor as ourself without any judgement as to growth in life. When you judge brothers according to “growth in life” or some other scale you are judging the law that the Lord gave us. This is arrogant. God gives grace to the humble, so humble yourself in the sight of God. I don’t see how you can receive this doctrine of the ground of the church without judging your brother. Can you take the table with him? If not, isn’t that a judgement? If he is “not meeting on the proper ground” is not that a judgement?

We all know the situation in today's Christianity. Among so many believers in Christianity I would say honestly that there is no growth in life at all. I was with fundamental and formal Christianity, and I saw no growth there. I was also with the Brethren assembly, which may be considered as the best among the Christians. Yet after seven and a half years with them, I was the same; I had experienced no growth in life. (Witness Lee, *Perfecting Training*, Chapter 1, Section 1)

Wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. What is the church if not the fruit of righteousness of Jesus? According to James the rich oppress us and drag us into court. If we think that we are wise in our understanding of the New Testament (for example our understanding of the ground of the church) then we should show our wisdom by our good

conduct in meekness of wisdom. It is perfectly acceptable to mourn and lament the lack of oneness among Christians, but we shouldn't contribute to that. The ground of the church doctrine can be meek if you only apply it to yourself, but the issue many have with it is that the practice of it is not meek. It is used to condemn, to judge, and even in lawsuits to seize buildings and property. The issue we have is that we have been called to submit to God. When the Lord commands us to love our neighbors, we need to submit to the Lord. In the application of the ground of the church doctrine we don't see that submission. I cannot support the lawsuits and submit to God. I cannot judge my brother and submit to God. I cannot support having faith with respect of persons and submit to God.

For three years I did not take any action. Then in April of 1980 I was visiting the churches in Colorado and New Mexico. The co-workers there told me that it would be impossible for our work to spread as long as these two books—*The Mindbenders* and *The God-Men*— existed. They said that whenever we contacted someone, the very next day that person would receive a copy of one of the two books and then would not want to be in contact with us any longer. After some careful consideration, I felt that since we had not been able to obtain a proper response from the publishers, for the sake of the future of the Lord's recovery we could not allow this damaging situation to continue to spread. Therefore, according to Paul's principle of appealing to Caesar in Acts, we filed the lawsuits. (Witness Lee, *Vessels useful to the Lord*, Chapter 1, Section 6)

Be a doer of the word and not hearers only. For example, if a brother or sister is destitute or naked you need to give them the things necessary for life. This is very common among all religions, but many of us felt it was severely lacking in the practice of the Lord's Recovery Churches. This is not because the saints were less generous or charitable. It was because any ministry designed to support the poor in the community was expressly forbidden. Again, this was not due to greed from the elders, people who were often not paid. It was because a large portion of the collection by the church went to the Living Stream Ministry each week: standing book orders, training fees, and legal defense funds. If a church had a ministry for the poor it would get back to LSM headquarters and they would then expect you to pay more. Is this part of the doctrine of the ground of the church? No. But it was most definitely part of the practice.

We do not like to set up social and charitable works such as schools and hospitals. The apostle Paul did not do this kind of work. Our service must be a direct building on the unique foundation. (Witness Lee, *Basic Lessons on Service*, Chapter 15, Section 2)

We will be judged by the royal law of liberty. When we appear before the Lord's throne there is no word, anywhere in the New Testament, that we will be judged based on whether or not we received the "ground of the church" doctrine. However, we are told in very clear language that we will be judged on whether or not we "loved our neighbor as ourself". Bitter envy, self seeking, lust, and murder are all contrary to the royal law.

The “blended brothers” exclusivity extends to God’s work. LSM president, Benson Phillips rejects the notion that Christians outside the Lord’s recovery have any part in God’s authentic work. He says,²³ “Anyone can work. *There are Christians working throughout this whole earth. I would like to say boldly that they are not working the work of God because they are not laboring in the same stream that we are laboring in....We recognize that other Christians are working, but they are not working the work of God.*” With one sweeping statement the labor of millions of believers is summarily dismissed as not being God’s legitimate work! What is the basis for this drastic conclusion? Brother Benson’s basis is Witness Lee’s forfeiting his work in Northern China to join with Watchman Nee because the Lord showed him there is only one divine stream. Benson Phillips extrapolates from W. Lee’s personal leading to every Christian worker worldwide. Yet we ask—On what basis can the Lord’s personal leading of Witness Lee become the standard for all God’s servants? Moreover, it seems Brother Benson demands uniformity in the Lord’s work beyond that required by the Lord, who said, regarding service, “He who is not against us is for us” (Mark 9:40.) Benson’s exclusive attitude contrasts with the Lord’s inclusive stance expounded by Brother Lee.²⁴ (Nigel Tomes, *Against the Practice of Exclusivism*, posted on the Local Church Discussion website).

Now it may be that there are some very pure saints who have received the doctrine of the ground of the church without envy, self seeking, lust or murder. The problem many of us have with this doctrine, though, is that you ultimately have to choose a side, either with those with the self seeking or with those who are loving their neighbor. It becomes untenable to continue in the Lord’s Recovery Church and still love your neighbor as yourself. Consider my own experience and why I was kicked out of the meeting hall. I was seeking to reconcile those who were sinned against by Phillip Lee and Ed Marks. That is to “love your neighbor as yourself”. You have to make a choice, ignore the sin and stay or else leave.

These are the reasons why we cannot cooperate with Christianity. The first reason, of course, is a matter of the ground. We cannot cooperate with Christianity because we have a different ground. The second reason is that Christianity is full of confusion—there is great confusion in their teachings concerning the church. The third reason is that we want to show God’s children a pure way. The fourth reason is that Christianity has its own mission and we have our ministry. (Witness Lee, *The Path of our Growth in Life*, Chapter 9, Section 6).

Pure and undefiled religion is to visit orphans and widows and to keep yourself unspotted from the world. Mercy triumphs over judgement. The ground of the church doctrine is a “judgement”. The doctrine is used to judge who is “proper” and who isn’t. It is very difficult to visit orphans and widows in their trouble unless you are exercising mercy. The minute you are discerning who is “proper” and who “isn’t” you are now in the realm of judgement. This doctrine displays “earthly” wisdom in literally looking at geographic boundaries of cities. The wisdom is sensual and demonic resulting in “respect of persons”, “partiality” and “tribalism”. The stereotypical “we are holier than thou”.

The people who are in denominations and divisions cannot realize and practice the real Body life because they are not on the genuine ground of oneness. The oneness of the Body can only be maintained on the unique ground of oneness. (Witness Lee, Preaching the Gospel on College Campuses, Chapter 1, Sect 5)

A feeling that is repeated by those taking the lead in the LRC today.

The Body of Christ has been a central focus of the “blended brothers” ministry. Yet what exactly do they mean by “the Body”? Do they mean the universal Church including millions of believers in every place throughout the age of grace? Or do they mean only those believers meeting practically as local churches in the Lord’s recovery? Unfortunately it seems the latter, exclusive definition, underlies much of the “blended co-workers” teaching. Hence Brother Minoru Chen is on record saying,³⁰ *“I would say that practically speaking, for us the Body today is just the Lord’s recovery.... In Brother Lee’s understanding, the Body equals the recovery. We know that the mystical Body of Christ includes all the believers, all of the redeemed ones in time and in space, but practically for us today, the recovery is the Body.”*

This statement, equating the Body with the recovery, is not an isolated example. Consider, as a further example, Brother Benson Phillips’ assertion:³¹ “Surely we have seen that when a brother leaves the church life his situation tends to worsen. This occurs because he has become an individual again. He is no longer a part of the Body.” This speaking equates leaving the practical church-life with no longer being part of the Body. *“When a brother leaves the church life,”* according to Brother Benson, *“he is no longer a part of the Body.”* An obvious deduction is that (for Brother Benson) the local churches are the Body. This narrow definition of Christ’s Body also underlies other statements like,³² *“The Body should be first. All the other local churches which comprise the Body of Christ should be number one and your local church should be second.”* Again, for Brother Benson, *“All the... local churches... comprise the Body of Christ.”* No recognition is given that millions of believers not currently meeting in the local churches, are also members of Christ’s one Body. This narrow definition of the Body leads to non-biblical claims that a select group of brothers exercise propriety rights over the “fellowship of the Body” or possess (in some special sense) the “feeling of the Body.” (Nigel Tomes, Against the Practice of Exclusivism, posted on the Local Church Discussion website).

Above all, no special oaths. Baptism should be a sufficient declaration of your faith in Jesus. When Ray Graver and Benson Phillips required elders to sign a loyalty oath to Witness Lee they stepped over a sacred line that should never be crossed. They insulted the Lord of glory. Many may claim that they didn’t sign this oath. Fine, but the Blended brothers who run the church did, the Living Stream Ministry that you claim has a “rich ministry” was the one who required it. That makes you accountable. The signs I want to see are that “the sick are healed” by the prayers of the elders. In the Lord’s Recovery Church they are condemned as “poisoned”. I never saw one “healed”. I want to see those who “wander from the truth” turned back. I never saw that, I saw

scapegoats excommunicated for the sins of the “apostle” and his sons, never saw any of them turned back.

In 1981, Benson Phillips and Ray Graver began a campaign to promote brother Witness Lee and his ministry, with the inciting word that “we owe him”. The campaign became intensified in February 1986 when the same two brothers drew up a letter of allegiance to brother Lee that was signed by 400+ elders and co-workers during an international elders’ conference in Southern California. Becoming immersed in such fellowship at that time and in the ensuing years, the leaders in the Lord's recovery were galvanized into the same mindset and embarked upon a new way in the churches that featured oneness with a man, a ministry, and a ministry office. Such a drive brought in confusion, chaos, and division in two turmoils. (Steve Isitt, 2015)

The Pledge written up by Ray Graver

Dear Brother Lee,

After hearing your fellowship in this elders' training, we all agree to have a new start in the Lord's recovery. For this, we all agree to be in one accord and to carry out this new move of the Lord solely through prayer, the Spirit, and the Word. We further agree to practice the recovery one in: teaching, practice, thinking, speaking, essence, appearance, and expression.

We repudiate all differences among the churches, and all indifference toward the ministry, the ministry office, and the other churches. We agree that the church in our place be identical with all the local churches throughout the earth.

We also agree to follow your leading as the one who has brought us God's New Testament economy and has led us into its practice. We agree that this leading is indispensable to our oneness and acknowledge the one trumpet in the Lord's ministry and the one wise master builder among us.

We further agree to practice the church life in our locality absolutely in a new way: to build the church in, through, and based upon home meetings; to lead every member to get used to functioning without any idea to depend on any giant speakers; to teach all the saints to know the basic truths in an educational way that they may teach others for the spreading of the truth; to build up the saints in the growth in life that they may minister life to others, shepherd each other, and take care of the backsliding ones; to lead all the saints to preach the gospel in every possible way; to avoid leadership as much as possible; and to have home gatherings for nurturing the saints in life and big meetings for educating the saints in truths.

We agree that all the preceding points are the clear and definite teaching of the Bible according to God's New Testament economy.

Finally, we agree that the success of this new move is our responsibility and will rise up to labor and endeavor with our whole being, looking to the Lord for His mercy and grace that we would be faithful to the end.

Your brothers for the Lord's recovery

April 11, 1986

(Witness Lee published this letter from 419 elders who signed this pledge. It is published in Elder's Training, Book 8, The Life Pulse of the Lord's Present Move, Chapter 10, Section 5. He also included a thank you letter from him showing that he approved of this special pledge.)

Epilogue

I return again to "all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose". I have wondered why does God allow His enemy to plant tares in His field? Winston Churchill's statement that "the truth is so important it must be protected with a bodyguard of lies" is interesting. Why is it that no one pays attention to what God is doing with the church? Surrounding the church with false prophets is a good way to protect it. With that in mind I was fascinated by something in the book Gun's, Germs and Steel, by Jarrod Diamond. We know that a shepherd will protect the flock from wolves and predators, what amazed me is that the flock also protects the shepherd from armies of men. Diseases in the flock will attack the shepherd and his family. But once everyone in the town has been exposed the disease will have run its course. If you have a large enough population in the region the disease will spread from town to town and then return again to the original town a generation later when you have a new batch of children. This is how we get "childhood diseases" like measles and mumps. These diseases will survive best if they do not kill the host, hence these diseases rarely kill the children, yet they do kill the adults. The diseases have specifically evolved not to kill children as that would kill themselves, yet they have also evolved to kill adults. As a result adults who were exposed as children are protected. These are the ones who have been taking care of the animals for a generation or more. As a result, when Europeans came to the New World they brought with them diseases that they had been exposed to. Because the Europeans had a great variety of domesticated animals, far greater than the New World, they brought a large host of diseases that the New World was not immune to. This is how the Incas were conquered by such a relatively small band of soldiers. In addition, domesticated animals enable man to reach the requisite population density to support these childhood diseases. Because the new world didn't have very many domesticated animals they were unable to reach the population densities necessary. We may wonder "why does God allow childhood diseases". Yet the truth is that they have protected those that keep these animals far more than our military ever did. It is similar with false prophets. A false prophet needs a "flock" to exploit. Their motive is profit and their strategy is to use deceit. As a result they will by nature prey on sheep. They are like a communicable disease. However, once we have become immune to a false prophet they go from being a curse to a blessing. The world is full of deceitful, greedy, lascivious men. If you were not immune to their deceit you would not be qualified to rule and reign with Christ. Instead you would become infected. You can become infected with deceit and greed as a child and repenting from that is relatively easy. But if you are infected as an adult it can be much more devastating, even deadly. A vaccination exposes your immune system to a weakened form of the disease or a dead form. As a result the Bible is full of "vaccine" against the scourge of false prophets. The book of James is an excellent vaccine against a false prophet. I did fall for the temptation of the "Ground of the Church" doctrine as a

new believer, but that is not the fault of the Bible. Had I been better versed I would have easily seen through it as a sham. So as James says, we are not tempted by God, but rather by our own desires. When we find the inoculation in the Bible we discover that "every perfect gift is from God". Also, now that I have repented of this I have an immunity against this temptation and can help protect the Body of Christ from this disease.