

chapter one

THE MYSTERY OF WILLFUL, SINFUL SUPPRESSION AND REVISION OF CHURCH HISTORY BY ITS LEADERS

“There is nothing so close, that shall not be opened, and nothing so hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light. And what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye on the house-tops.”^[1]

One of the most troubling and disconcerting discoveries made by this writer is the intentional cover-up of Church history by evangelic ministers in positions of leadership and authority. To prove this point and testify to Satan's successful suppression of crucial facts, let the reader attempt to answer the following questions:

1. How did Constantine the Great convert to Christianity?
So what?
2. At which Church Council was image worship legalized?
What's the big deal?
3. Who were the Paulicians, Cathars, Albigenses and Waldenses?
Should we care?
4. What was the Inquisition and who was responsible?
Does it matter?
5. What issues provoked the Reformation?
Are they relevant today?
6. What are the spiritual claims made by the Papacy?
What difference does it make if they are true or not?
7. What are the spiritual claims made by the Roman Catholic Church?
What difference does it make if they are true or not?
8. Who is Mystery Babylon?
Is its identity of importance to us today?
9. Who is Antichrist?
Is his identity important to us today?
10. Is Roman Catholicism orthodox Christianity?

Can the average sincere Christian answer these questions? If not, why not? These are but a few key areas which will be discussed in the chapters ahead. But first let us focus on the topic at hand: THE MYSTERY OF WILLFUL, SINFUL SUPPRESSION AND REVISION OF CHURCH HISTORY BY ITS LEADERS.

Think for a moment. Use logic and common sense. To omit a portion of the truth, willfully, when one is testifying on the witness stand, whether for the defense or the prosecution, is to bear false witness. If the witness has knowledge damning to the defendant and chooses to neglect to tell the authorities information which can convict the guilty defendant, that witness is not telling the truth, period. When a witness is sworn in a court of law that person vows to “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth” before the court, jury and God Almighty. In other words, witnesses are not to add fiction to the truth, or to delete portions of the truth. Such an admonition is given by Moses:

“ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it.”^[2]

Solomon warns us in Proverbs:

“Add not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”^[3]

But these examples pale in comparison to the Bible's closing words testified and written by St. John in the REVELATION:

“I testify unto every man that heareth the words of prophecy of this book. And if any man shall minish of the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from those things which are written in this book.”^[4]

As Christians we have been given the command by the Lord Jesus to:

“...be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Jewry and in

Samaria, and even unto the world's end.”^[5]

Telling the truth is an essential element in fulfilling the job description of witness. Telling the truth about Christ, the Gospel and our eternal destiny would be prerequisites to obeying the commission to witness for Jesus. False witnesses commit perjury, a felony in our law courts. False witnesses of Jesus are liars of the worst kind. Their sin has eternal consequences for themselves and those poor unfortunates who have believed the lie. Liars are barred from the New Jerusalem, leaving eternal Hellfire their only recourse.^[5]

Our Lord Jesus never told a lie.^[6] He frequently began solemn and profound statements with “verily, verily,” so as to leave no doubt that he knew exactly what he was testifying to. Also, that the veracity of his doctrine was to be believed completely.^[7] A truthful witness testifies to only that which he or she knows to be true by firsthand or eyewitness knowledge. Speculation does not enter into the picture. When asked the time of His second advent, Christ admitted not knowing the answer. That was an extremely honest and forthright answer that might have moved a lesser man to not answer the question or change the subject.

Yet the testimony of Jesus did not stop there. Not only did he tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth whenever He spoke. Not only did He admit not knowing the time of His return in glory. He also spoke up, rebuked and reproved the lie. Whatever form that might take. The Pharisees falsely believed their heavenly destiny sure and certain. Undiplomatically, Jesus assured them that was not the case. Their father was Satan, not God the Father.^[8] They were believing the lie. Jesus knew better. Certainly silence would have been more expedient to the furthering of His kingdom. Yet for our benefit Jesus placed Himself in jeopardy. As His disciples we should model our witness after His. If Jesus exposed the lie, we should expose the lie. By doing so will certainly place us in jeopardy. For the world and false Christians love lies rather than truth, and hate those who tell the truth.^[9]

“In my father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you.”^[10]

Dispelling false rumors and lies was part and parcel of the Lord Jesus Christ's mission. That same ministry has been given the Holy Spirit.^[11]

Regenerate believers have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Thus, born again of the same Holy Spirit, believers should emulate Christ by telling the truth always, neither adding to it, nor subtracting from it, admitting when they don't know an answer, and speaking up when a lie has been propagated for truth.

With that foundation laid, might this writer share with you a question and concern which has been gnawing at his gut for some time? WHY DID THE REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM DELETE, OMIT, CENSOR, DIMINISH AND SUBTRACT THE TRUE AND FACTUAL HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AS DOCUMENTED BY HENRY HALLEY? It was through the faithful witness and ministry of Reverend Wilson Ewin that this author was apprised of this horrifying revelation.^[12] Certainly, it was not out of ignorance that the section on Church History was cut from the Billy Graham Edition. Halley's Bible Handbook has sold millions of copies with the endorsement of Christian leaders and teachers spanning decades. The information contained therein is accurate. That is why Dr. Graham distributed the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Edition to the approximately 750,000 faithful attending his crusades in the summer of 1964. He and his association wanted to educate and inform his new disciples. What on earth would be his reason to suppress factual historic information? Of course, let us not forget that Mr. Graham does not make decisions in a vacuum. His counselors, advisors, and board of directors equally share the blame. The printers who followed the Graham Association instructions to edit out 40 or so pages are also culpable. The Crusade ushers familiar with the original Handbook and/or Church history are guilty for distributing the books to the naive masses.

What, exactly, was this esteemed shepherd and his numerous cohorts trying to hide from the dumb sheep? And what was their motivation for doing so? It is this author's intent, Lord willing, to shed light on this MYSTERY.

In 1994 alone, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association grossed \$104.7 million.^[13] Let us use our critical thinking capability. In one year Mr. Graham was able to solicit over \$100 million in charitable contributions. That is hard work. In fact, for most humans it is an utterly impossible task. Imagine the planning, the meetings and the strategy required to bring in \$1 million. It boggles the mind. Imagine the number of supporters and friends it takes to accomplish that goal. Now multiply that by 100. Incredible? Now

consider the admonition of the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples who preach the Gospel:

“Freely ye have received, freely give again. Possess not gold, nor silver, nor brass in your girdles, nor yet scrip towards your journey: neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet a staff.”^[14]

In other words, do not make money your priority in preaching the Gospel. One coat, one pair of shoes, and one staff is sufficient. The Lord will supply. We ask you, how ‘free’ is the Gospel if it earns its preacher \$100 million?

“No man can serve two masters. For either he shall hate the one and love the other: or else he shall lean to the one and despise the other: ye cannot serve God and mammon.”^[15]

Apparently Mr. Graham is the exception to the rule. If \$100 million does not represent mammon, what, pray tell, does?

“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man hath not whereon to rest his head.”^[16]

Again, Dr. Graham manages to prove Jesus wrong and severely lacking in administrative abilities. Recently, *TIME* called the B.G.E.A. ‘the Rolls-Royce of revival ministries, perhaps the most efficient machine ever assembled.’^[17] Employing 525 fulltime paid workers and utilizing the free services of several hundred more,^[18] had the Reverend been alive to advise the Lord perhaps Christ's finances and earthly organization would have benefited. But, alas, Judas was placed in charge of the money bag and Christ's kingdom is not of this world.^[19]

“Blessed are ye when men hate you, and thrust you out of their company, and rail, and abhor your name as an evil thing, for the son of man's sake. Rejoice ye then, and be glad: for behold, your reward is great in heaven. After this manner their fathers entreated the [true] prophets. But woe be to you that are rich: for ye have therein your consolation...Woe be to you when all men praise you: for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”^[20]

Would someone please explain how the ‘world's most famous ministry,’^[21]

headed by the world's most famous minister, is loved, esteemed, honored and courted by Presidents, Popes, heads of State, Hollywood celebrities, and Christians and non-Christians of every denomination, while Christ was despised and esteemed not,^[22] hated by the world,^[23] betrayed,^[24] tortured,^[25] and crucified?

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own. Howbeit because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore hateth you the world. Remember the saying I have said unto you: the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, so will they persecute you.”^[26]

Yet Mr. Graham proves Jesus Christ a false prophet by garnishing the cover of *TIME*,^[27] his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame,^[28] and the Congressional Gold Medal,^[29] Congress' highest service award of honor.

“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues, and in the corners of the streets, because they would be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But when thou prayest, enter into thy chamber, and shut thy door to thee, and pray to thy father which is in secret: and thy father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”^[30]

Our Lord has revealed yet another hard spiritual truth, defining hypocrites as those who make it a practice to pray publicly on those occasions and in those locations where they may be seen by large numbers of citizens. We ask the reader to consider the numerous State functions, including Inaugurations and funerals, in which the Reverend Graham has led prayer. These events are televised to be seen by a worldwide audience, as was the recent Graham Crusade's worldwide hook-up commanding the largest television viewing audience - ever (with the possible exception of the Academy Awards).

All these remarks are by way of background in answering the extremely disturbing question as to why Graham and his organization deleted Halley's most important section dealing with the factual history of the Christian Church. And because Mr. Graham is the undisputed leader of Christianity in our generation, other than the Pope of Rome, it is only just and proper that our investigation begin with his ministry.

“The servant that knew his master's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. For unto whom much is given, of him shall be much required. And to whom men much commit, the more of him will they ask.”^[31]

If it was not out of ignorance or human error that 40 or so pages were deleted from the *Handbook*, then what was the reason? To answer that question intelligently, one must review the contents of Mr. Halley's Church History.^[32]

In his biographical sketch of Pope Innocent III, Halley has this to say:

“Never in history has any one man exerted more power. He ordered two Crusades...Forbade the reading of the Bible in vernacular. Ordered the extermination of Heretics. Instituted the Inquisition. Ordered the massacre of the Albigenses. More blood was shed under his direction, and that of his immediate successors, than in any other period of church history, except in the Papacy's effort to crush the Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries. One would think Nero, the Beast, had come to life in the name of the Lamb.”^[33]

In his summary of the Inquisition, Halley is just as truthful and candid:

“It is stated that in the thirty years between 1540 and 1570 no fewer than 900,000 Protestants were put to death in the Pope's war for the extermination of the Waldenses. Think of monks and priests directing, with heartless cruelty and inhuman brutality, the work of Torturing and Burning alive innocent men and women; and doing it in the name of Christ, by the direct order of the ‘Vicar of Christ.’ The INQUISITION is the MOST INFAMOUS THING in history. It was devised by the Popes, and used by them for 500 years to maintain their power. For its record none of the subsequent line of ‘Holy’ and ‘infallible’ Popes have ever apologized.”^[34]

In delineating the lineage of Popes from Innocent III to the present, Reverend Halley recounts particularly wicked Pontiffs:

“John XXIII, 1410-15, called by some the most depraved criminal who ever sat on the Papal throne; guilty of almost every crime; as Cardinal, in Bologna, 200 maidens, nuns and married women fell victims to his amours; as Pope he violated nuns and virgins; lived in adultery with his brother's wife; was guilty of sodomy and other nameless vices; bought the Papal office, sold cardinalates to children of wealthy families.”^[35]

“Innocent VIII, 1484-92, had 16 children by various married women; multiplied church offices and sold them for vast sums of money; decreed the extermination of the Waldenses, and sent an army against them; appointed the brutal Thomas of Torquemada Inquisitor General in Spain, and ordered all rulers to deliver up heretics to him; permitted bull fights on St. Peter's Square; was the background for Savonarola's thundering against Papal corruption.”^[36]

“Alexander VI, 1492-1503, most corrupt of the Renaissance Popes, licentious, avaricious, depraved; bought the Papacy; made many new Cardinals for money; had a number of illegitimate children whom he openly acknowledged and appointed to high church office while they were yet children, who, with their father, murdered Cardinals and others who stood in their way. Had for mistress the sister of a Cardinal who became next Pope.”^[37]

“Leo X, 1513-21, was Pope when Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation; son of Lorenzo de Medici; made an Archbishop at 8; a Cardinal at 13; appointed to 27 church offices, which meant a vast income, before he was 13; was taught to regard ecclesiastical office purely as a source of revenue; bargained for the Papal chair; sold church honors; all ecclesiastical offices were for sale, and many new ones created; appointed Cardinals as young as 7; was in endless negotiations with kings and princes, jockeying for secular power, utterly indifferent to the religious welfare of the church; maintained the most luxurious and licentious Court in Europe...”^[38]

In his assessment of the Jesuit Order, Henry Halley states “their supreme aim, the destruction of heresy (thinking anything different from what the Pope said to think); for the accomplishment of which anything was justifiable, deception, immorality, vice, even murder. Their motto: ‘for the greater glory of God.’...In France they were responsible for St. Bartholomew's Massacre, Religious Wars, Persecution of the Huguenots, the Revocation of the Toleration Edict of Nantes, and the French Revolution.”^[39] Halley further reveals Pope Gregory XIII “celebrated, in solemn Mass, with thanksgiving and joy, the news of St. Bartholomew's Massacre.”^[40] The good Reverend and author exposes the utter falsehood and hypocrisy of the doctrine of Papal Infallibility by reminding the readership that it was Clement XIV who “abolished ‘forever’ the Society of Jesuits,” while it was Pius VII who “restored the Jesuits by a decree that ‘*shall remain for all time unchangeable and inviolable.*’”^[41]

The Pocket Bible Handbook's summation of Pius IX's ministry was particularly enlightening:

“...lost the Papal states; decreed PAPAL INFALLIBILITY; proclaimed the right to suppress heresy by force; condemned Separation of Church and State, and commanded all true Catholics to obey the Head of the Church rather than Civil Rulers; denounced liberty of conscience, liberty of worship, freedom of speech and freedom of the press; decreed Immaculate Conception and deified Mary; encouraged superstitious regard for relics; condemned Bible societies, and declared that Protestantism is ‘no form of the Christian religion,’ declared ‘every dogma of the Roman Catholic Church has been dictated by Christ thru his Viceregents on earth.’”^[42]

In the same vein, Leo XIII was portrayed accurately as boasting “*he holds upon this earth the place of Almighty God,*” pronouncing Protestants ‘*enemies of the Christian name,*’ while denouncing ‘*Americanism.*’ Pius X fared little better as he was quoted denouncing Reformation leaders as ‘*enemies of the Cross of Christ.*’^[43]

As we complete our brief review of Halley's Church History, it is only fitting we let Rev. Halley himself explain why he deemed it necessary to include such shocking facts in his Bible Handbook:

“This story of the Papacy has been written as a background to the Reformation, in the belief that we ought to be familiar with the Wherefore of the Protestant Movement and the Historical Foundations of our Protestant Faith. Some of the things told herein seem unbelievable. It seems inconceivable that men could take the Religion of Christ and develop it into an Unscrupulous Political Machine on which to ride to World Power. However, all statements made herein may be verified by reference to any of the completer Church Histories.”^[44]

To the discerning reader it is by now quite obvious the reason for the B.G.E.A.'s suppression of vital facts pertinent to a true understanding of the Roman Catholic Church and the Reformation. Halley's view of Church History was not ecumenically driven. It was not ‘forget and forgive.’ Nor was it ‘let bygones be bygones.’ Mr. Graham and associates would rather concentrate on the positives and deny the negatives. But Jesus Christ never denied the negatives. His teaching was replete with warnings and woes. Jesus named names when exposing sin.^[45] In particular, His ministry positively presented the Gospel of justification by faith and negatively opposed and exposed false doctrine. In addition, Jesus gave us characteristics of the false prophet masquerading as a Christian:

1. He will be boastful and proud, not contrite and meek.[46]
2. He will have lost his salt, i.e. his ability to discern and preach true Christianity in its fullness.[47]
3. He will hide the 'negative' aspect of the Gospel.[48]
4. He will teach that breaking the commandments of God is good.[49]
5. He will feign a humble spirit by praying in public for all to see.[50]
6. He will not warn the sheep of false prophets.[51]
7. He will not be persecuted, but will instead be loved by the world.[52]
8. He will be a rich man.[53]

Of course, this list is not exhaustive. Certainly, if the Graham ministry had left Halley's Bible Handbook intact, questions might have been raised by discriminating Christians. Questions which might insinuate a very deep and serious problem with the claims of the Papacy and the orthodoxy of the Roman Catholic Church. Feathers may have been ruffled. The favor of the Papacy and Church of Rome toward Graham's ministry would be removed for daring to tell the truth. Crusade attendance would suffer and contributions would fall. But most importantly, **the identity of Antichrist and Mystery Babylon as described in the Book of The Revelation would have been made known to 750,000 ignorant sheep.** Dear reader, this is the real mystery. The mystery of the willful, sinful suppression and revision of Church History by its leaders.

Tragically, the list goes on:

-Bill Bright and his Campus Crusade For Christ International: 1994 Income...\$189.4 million.[54] One will find no warnings to Roman Catholics or exhortations against ecumenical fellowship with the Church of Rome in this ministry. Instead, one finds encouragement to partake in spiritual and social intercourse with Romanism.[55] His endorsement of Catholicism is now quite public.[56]

-Multi-millionaire Pat Robertson and the Christian Broadcasting Network: 1994 Income...\$186.5 million.[57] A guest of the Pope during his October, 1995 visit to New York, Robertson is quoted as saying:

"I came away with the sense there is a new openness and harmony between the evangelical Christians and the Roman Catholic Church, not only in America but around the world."

The Los Angeles Times also revealed Robertson's plan to form a new 'Catholic Alliance' as an adjunct to his Christian Coalition.^[58] One will find no mention of Church History, the cruelty of the Papacy or the murder of the martyrs on CBN, only an open endorsement of the Pope and the Holy See of Rome.^[59]

-Psychologist James Dobson's Focus On The Family: 1994 Income...\$93.4 million. The history and murder of the true Family of God by the Roman Church has no place in this ministry, only the unfounded speculations of men.

-The Crouch Trinity Broadcasting Network: 1994 Income...\$90.1 million. This writer cannot but wonder what percentage of their budget is apportioned to keep Jan Crouch in false eyelashes, mascara, Dolly Parton wigs, and Country Western evening gowns. Before his untimely death, Walter Martin had testified that it was their show policy to gag guests by prohibiting them from speaking out against other religions, denominations or ministers.^[60]

Upon the arrival of the 1994 Concordat with Rome entitled *Evangelicals and Catholics Together; The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium*, we see manifest before our very eyes Evangelical leaders declaring their allegiance with and seal upon the Papacy, Church of Rome, its Magisterium and its centuries of blood-letting. If students at Fuller Theological Seminary knew the truthful history of the Church and its martyrs, they might not remain apathetic to the knowledge that their President, Dr. Richard Mouw, is a co-signer. If the prisoners evangelized by Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship knew the crimes of the Roman Catholic Church, they, too, might not remain complacent and blase when Mr. Colson propagates spiritual fornication with Rome. The register of evangelical advocates in this document is truly astounding and disconcerting. Among the list are numerous educators with teaching authority. Uninformed sheep become misinformed sheep through the erroneous teachings of these biased, unperceptive tutors.

Of course, when we speak of Church History we are speaking of the fruit of Christianity. How past generations have lived out their Christian beliefs. Underlying the fruit is the system of belief or theology. Not only is the fruit of historic Roman Catholicism rotten, so is the tree and the seed from which

it grows. One cannot understand the seriousness of the errors of Rome without understanding basic biblical theology. Just how is a sinner saved? What are the true sacraments or ordinances? What do they teach? What is the role of the priest or minister? What is the Gospel? Is the office of Pope biblical? The answers to these basic questions and several others are not secret knowledge hidden away in obscure and esoteric Scripture. Perhaps to a baby sheep or unbeliever these answers may be mysterious, but to seminary educated evangelicals, many of whom hold doctorates, these answers should be obvious. Yet the catalog of names and credentials listed above proves that they are not. How can that be? This is the real mystery of Mystery Babylon.

NOTES

1. Tyndale: Matthew 10:26-27.
2. The Holy Scriptures Revised In Accordance With Jewish Tradition And Modern Biblical Scholarship, Alexander Harkavy (no publishing place or date): Deuteronomy 4:2.
3. *ibid.*, Proverbs 30:6.
4. Tyndale: Revelation 22:18-19.
5. Revelation 21:27; 20: 15.
6. 2 Corinthians 5:21.
7. John 3:11; 5:24; etc.
8. John 8:41-44.
9. John 3:19-20.
10. Tyndale: John 14:2.
11. John 16:7-11.
12. The Reverend Wilson Ewin, Quebec Baptist Missions, P.O. Box 180, Norton, VT, 05907.
13. *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT*, December 4, 1995, p.93.
14. Tyndale: Matthew 10:8b-10a.
15. Tyndale: Matthew 6:24.
16. Tyndale: Matthew 8:20.
17. *TIME*, May 13, 1996.
18. *ibid.*

19. John 13:29; 18:36.
20. Tyndale: Luke 6:22-26.
21. *TIME*, May 13, 1996, cover.
22. Isaiah 53:3.
23. John 15:18.
24. Matthew 26:45.
25. Matthew 27:26.
26. John 15:19-20
27. See note 21.
28. *Los Angeles Times*, October 14 & 16, 1989.
29. *Los Angeles Times*, May 3, 1996.
30. Tyndale: Matthew 6:5-6.
31. Tyndale: Luke 12:47-48.
32. Pocket Bible Handbook, Henry H. Halley (Chicago, 1943).
33. *ibid.*, p. 686.
34. *ibid.*
35. *ibid.*, p. 688.
36. *ibid.*
37. *ibid.*
38. *ibid.*, p. 689.
39. *ibid.*
40. *ibid.*, p. 690.
41. *ibid.*
42. *ibid.*
43. *ibid.*, p. 691.
44. *ibid.*, p. 693.
45. Matthew 23.
46. Matthew 5:3-5.
47. Matthew 5:13.
48. Matthew 5:14-15.
49. Matthew 5:19.
50. Matthew 6:5-6.
51. Matthew 7:15 ff.
52. Luke 6:22-26; John 15:18-20.
53. Luke 6:24.
54. *U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT*, December 4, 1995, p. 93.
55. New Neutralism II: Exposing the Gray Compromise, John E. Ashbrook, (Here I Stand Books, 536 Greenside Drive, Painesville, OH 44077), pp. 42-7.

56. *EVANGELICALS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM*, co-signer.
57. *Los Angeles Times*, October 8, 1995.
58. *ibid.*
59. *EVANGELICALS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM*, co-signer.
60. Bible Answer Man radio program, (early 1989, exact date unknown).