

Pillars That Do Nothing

By: Ronnie Scherffius

In the late 17th century, the Windsor town council commissioned Christopher Wren to complete the construction of the Windsor Guildhall near London. Wren was one of the most highly acclaimed English architects in history. He was accorded responsibility for rebuilding 52 churches in the City of London after the Great Fire in 1666, including his masterpiece, St. Paul's Cathedral. The ground floor of the building was designed to be completely open; the main part of the building being supported by eighteen pillars around the edge. This open space was designed to allow for a public market beneath the meeting chamber above.

According to Nino Lo Bello, in his book European Detours, when city fathers inspected the finished building they decided the ceiling would not stay up and ordered Wren to put in more pillars. England's greatest architect did not think the ceiling needed any more support, so he pulled a fast one. He added four pillars that did nothing—not even reach the ceiling! The optical illusion fooled the municipal authorities and today the four sham pillars amuse many tourists.

How greatly is Satan's effort to deceive man depicted in this illustration! In His eternal purposes God formulated a plan whereby His Son would subject himself to a life in human flesh and willingly give His life a ransom for lost mankind. The first century Christians lifted up their voices to God and said, "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou

hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done" (Acts 4:27-28). And Peter affirmed that we are redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet. 1:19). So perfect and complete was/is this plan adapted to lost humanity that man needs neither to modify it nor veer from it in any fashion, but only to submit himself to it (Rom. 1:16-17). So wonderful is this plan that all who in obedience come to Christ in submission will receive remission of sins and have the promise and hope of eternal life in heaven (Lk. 24:46-47; Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:18; Titus 3:4-7).

John wrote "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). From the Garden of Eden till today Satan has sought to convince man that God, the Great Architect of man's salvation has failed, that there is not adequate support for man in God's plan and unless amendments and addendums are made to the heavenly plan the ceiling will surely come crashing down. Not only this but Satan has set up more pillars (Mt. 15:12-14), but these pillars do nothing, and they certainly can never provide man the right and ability to reach up to our glorious heavenly home (Jn. 15:5). Beware of the spiritual illusions of the adversary that

have deceived many of mankind's brightest and best! (1 Pt. 5:8)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Opposite Day Is Not A Good Day

Article Selected

Have you ever played "Opposite Day"? According to Wikipedia, "Opposite Day is a make believe game usually played by children. Conceptually, Opposite Day is a holiday where things are said and done in an opposite manner. It is not a holiday on any calendar, one can declare that today is Opposite Day (sometimes retroactively) to indicate something which will be said, or has just been said should be understood opposite to its original meaning." While some might have fun with this "game," those who "played it" in the Bible lost every time.

Nadab and Abihu played Opposite Day and lost. As priests, they were responsible before God for taking "a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the Lord," but instead they "offered unauthorized fire before the Lord" (**Lev. 16:12; 10:1**). As a result, "fire went out from the Lord and devoured them" (10:2). Don't play Opposite Day with God!

Moses played Opposite Day and lost. In Numbers 20, God told Moses, "Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water," but instead "Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod" (**Num. 20:8-11**). As a result, Moses was not permitted to enter the promised land (20:12). Don't play Opposite Day with God!

King Saul played Opposite Day and lost. God had chosen the tribe of Levi to stand before Him and to offer sacrifices (**Deut. 10:8**), but instead King Saul (of the tribe of Benjamin) "felt compelled, and offered the burnt offering" himself (**1 Sam. 13:9-12**). As a result, his kingdom was taken from him (13:13-14). Don't play Opposite Day with God!

Uzzah played Opposite Day and lost. God had specified that the ark of the covenant was to be transported on poles and that "they shall not touch" the ark (**Num. 4:15**), but instead Uzzah transported the ark on a new cart and "put his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled" (**2 Sam. 6:3-6**). As a result, "God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God" (6:7). Don't play Opposite Day with God!

Certainly none of us would intentionally play Opposite Day with God! We know that would be a foolish venture! But, is it possible that we do it without even knowing? God tells us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (**Mark 16:15**). Do we play Opposite Day? God tells us to "repent and be baptized" (**Acts 2:38**), for "baptism saves us" (**1 Pet. 3:21**). Do we play Opposite Day? God tells us to "sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord" (**Eph. 5:19**). Do we play Opposite Day? Everyone who "played" this "game" in the Bible lost. Let us not try it ourselves!

Upcoming Events

Wed. June 1: Midtown Summer Series Bible Classes begin! Kids will be having a “Journey with Jonah” this summer and the Adults will be having a series on “Boosting Our Spirits.”

Sunday, June 5: Fellowship meal after morning worship with a 12:45pm service to follow. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Sunday, June 19: Youth Devo hosted by the FitzSimmons after evening worship. Girls bring deserts, boys bring chips.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Aug. 5-7: Discipleship University

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Veronica Serenil who had a biopsy last week and is awaiting test results.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltrey, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of May 29, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Mike Atkinson
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Cannady

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Lupe Escojido
Cup..... Bryant Siegel
Offering.....James Cammock
Assist.....Kirk FitzSimmons
Assist..... Will Burleson
Assist.....Mike Atkinson

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Isaac Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Will Burleson,
Kirk FitzSimmons

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Ron White
Song Leader Lupe Escojido
Devotional Mark FitzSimmons

Other

Usher.....Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays

Bryant Siegel.....May 29
Zachary Serenil.....May 31
Myra FitzSimmons.....June 1
Abigail Pawlik.....June 2
Valerie Ramsey.....June 2
Caiden Serenil.....June 3

Anniversaries

Kevin & Imelda Sheeran.....May 31

Snacks are needed for the Kids Summer Series. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway.

Food Helpers for the month of May - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
John 8:12

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of May 22, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....58
A.M. Worship.....79
P.M. Worship.....53
Wednesday Bible Class.....50
Offering week of May 22, 2022.....\$3,732

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli India
John & Carla Moore Bible Land Passages
Anthony Scherffius Southwest School of Bible Studies

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