

# An Old Prophet's Years Of Laments



Prophetic Insight 3/6/2024: *Spirit-Prepared To Expose & Oppose Sacred Cows*



Mike: My hope through these Insights is to help you identify and escape the bamboozling that may be holding you back from walking fully in our Lord's promises to you. I'll be weaving together several pertinent issues, both historic and current, through these next few Insights. I hope these discussions will breathe renewed life into your own spiritual journey if you've been bamboozled by the sacred cow of **pastor oratory-rhetoric**.

•**oratory** – formal speaking in public. •**rhetoric** – eloquent expression intended to persuade or impress.

What I'll be discussing is intended to both stir up your own investigative spirit and to embolden you to take action along with others close to you in the faith. What I hope will strengthen and encourage you encompasses these points:

- ✦ The Scriptures themselves and the pattern of discipleship which Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul used.
- ✦ How my experience in being trained as a pilot and going through other life situations prepared me to understand how vital is the discipleship pattern used by Jesus and Paul in order for Christians to live in the fullness our Lord promises.
- ✦ The sacred unbiblical cow which I naively came across at seminary and then exposed and opposed.
- ✦ Your responsibility to our Lord Jesus as His own to discern by His Spirit what you're going to do if you discover you've been bamboozled by this sacred cow.

*It's because I've encountered so many Christians who are deluded by this sacred cow that these several Laments are very emotional for me to write as I recount past heartbreaking experiences. In my heart I long to see each person under the rule of my Lord and fulfilling my Father's purposes to His glory.*

## Bamboozle:

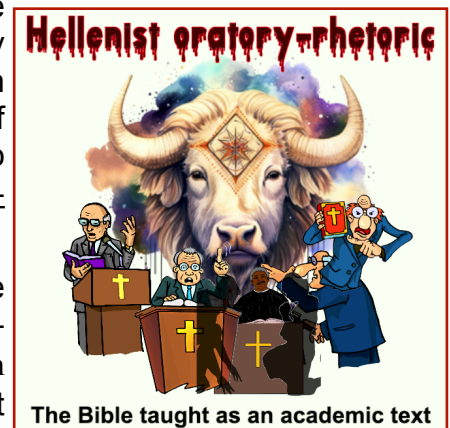
fool, cheat, pull the wool over someone's eyes, take for a ride, double-cross, spoof, shaft



As I wrote in the previous Insight, the Holy Spirit had prepared me to expose and oppose long-standing sacred cows—unbiblical practices and creedal positions that most people consider immune from questioning or above criticism. This is what took place during my first semester at seminary: exposing and opposing the unbiblical and unChrist-like sacred cow of **seminary oratory-rhetoric indoctrination of prospective clergy**.

**FYI:** The infiltration of oratory and rhetoric which were adapted from pagan Hellenism multiple centuries ago discarded the Hebraic interpersonal discussion-to-application method of training and discipleship our Lord Jesus and Paul used. When people have a chance to discuss what's being taught, they're more likely to put it into practice—which is precisely the intent of our Lord. In stark contrast, oratory and rhetoric are impersonal methods of expounding information to a non-participating audience who have no opportunity for questions or discussion. Thus they're unlikely to be changed by what they hear.

This fruitless approach has been perpetuated through the **academia of seminaries** and within congregations by the unbiblical domination of the **Nicolaitan clergy system** (see Revelation 2:6,15,16). Demonic powers over the centuries made sure that



this anti-Semitic, unscriptural style of teaching became a hallowed tradition which was immune from questioning or criticism. In the face of this institutional juggernaut, **our Lord sent me, a young and relatively inexperienced prophet whom He had been preparing. His assignment: to attend seminary to expose and oppose this sacred cow even if I didn't recognize what I was up against at first.**



The Hellenist oratory-rhetoric that's used in most pulpits does an evil disservice to Christians, maybe even to you! Through the passivity it produces, the vast majority of congregants are lulled into spiritual lethargy in a number of ways. 🖐️ They feel no need to demonstrate any love of Jesus through specifically applying God's commands to their lives (see Deuteronomy 11:13; John 14:15,21; 1John 5:3). 🖐️ They are blinded to the biblical requirement of our Lord to make fulfilling our Father's purposes and bringing Him glory the centerpiece of their lives. 🖐️ Through the deeply embedded influence of anti-Semitism as early as the 2nd century by various "Church Fathers", Hellenist religious rituals and practices entered Christianity. And these Spirit-stifling impediments are still in Christianity!

You might be so used to sitting silently during a sermon while your clergy person expounds on a passage that you think that's the way it's always been. But the **oratory-rhetoric sermon** remains one of the last forms of public discourse where people are forbidden to interact with the speaker or ask questions! And all too many clergy teach from their storehouse of *academic knowledge about Christ*. It's grievous that so many lack personal experience with the life of Spirit-empowered love in action which Christ promises in the Bible.



That's why they're unable to disciple their congregants to trust His promise, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever trusts in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father*" (John 14:12; see also 7:38,39; Mark 16:17,18). By reducing our Lord Jesus to a historical figure Who lives within the Bible's pages, these clergy "bamboozle" their congregants by hiding from them the fullness of life in the Spirit which our Lord promises. And by clinging to their own dominant clergy position of Bible knowledge repository, they make our Lord Jesus out to be a liar concerning His promise to those who wholly trust in Him. Shame on them—a crying shame!

### **I was initially naive about Exposing & Opposing the Sacred Cow of Oratory-Rhetoric**

Recently we suggested that you read our Prophetic Insight of June 24, 2013, [\*The Bible Cannot Be Just Informational Insight\*](#). I'll be using excerpts of anecdotes from that Insight so you can perceive how incredibly detrimental using only oratory-rhetoric instruction has been to Christians. ***Our Lord's methods of role modeling, instructing, discussing, answering questions and then sending His disciples forth to do the same*** have been jettisoned by seminaries and clergy alike for centuries. And you have been impacted by this loss yourself if you've been part of organized religion!

During my first semester at seminary, an older professor asked me to survey the seminary's clergy graduates so he might determine the fruitfulness of his years of teaching there. When I gave him the results of my survey he was appalled. In effect, my interview with the various clergy revealed that they completely lacked Christ's **end-all purpose** for their pastorate. (Rather, most were candid that they were administrating a stagnant religious system and making sure no one rocked the congregational boat.) Since this professor knew about my experience as a military pilot and my previous graduate studies in interpersonal management, he asked me to write a paper on what I thought churches that functioned in a biblical pattern should be doing. After he read

my paper (and it was certainly no scholarly treatise!) he asked permission to share it with other faculty. To my surprise my paper had exposed a seminary sacred cow, and many professors resented my recommendations. Some blatantly told me, "Don't show up in any of my classes!"

**My past experience had prepared me.** In *Christian academia* it's like opening Pandora's box to expose and oppose their hallowed sacred cows. In my previous Insight I told you how my Lord Jesus had prepared me when the supply officers on ships "circled their wagons", resenting me for confronting them about their sluggish method of moving supplies. They had failed to grasp *the end-all purpose* of their mission. And those professors who were obsessed with the oratory-rhetoric they relied on in their own classes took the same defensive posture of "circling their academic wagons." Their *end-all purpose* went no further than information flowing from their mouths to students' ears and notebooks!



👍 And yes, there were some exceptions who asked me to help change their classroom teaching methods so their students could effectively reproduce the ways Jesus disciplined. I soon realized that the few men who were open to change had prior years of experience on the front lines of serving our Lord Jesus. He wasn't an "academic subject" to them! Because they had a clear grasp of the *end-all purpose* for their role in their students' lives, they were elated to make any changes that would enhance the effectiveness of those who were going forth to serve our Lord.

### **The basics of flight training are applied in a congregation**

The older professor also gave my paper to "Norm", a young pastor in the local area who asked to meet with me after he read it. Norm wanted to implement the core of my recommendations for helping congregants grow as authentic family in Christ by helping each other live out His Word. I first encouraged him that out of respect he meet with the older people in the flock. Next, supported by the majority of the congregation, we reversed the morning schedule by having the worship service first, followed by the Sunday school. With this new approach Norm would go over the contents of his sermon the day before with me and another man. Then we'd develop questions which would facilitate discussion and application in the adult Sunday school. The class sat at circular tables in groups of 8 to 10 people. The questions we developed from the sermon guided the discussion to meet *the end-all purpose*— specifically applying the sermon truths to their lives.



★If you've used our online *Jesus in Your Home* video series or read *Discussing How to Restore the Early Church*, you're aware that we developed similar questions for your family and/or faith community to discuss and apply. We realize that discussion questions which help you apply God's commands to your life are rare in institutional Christianity.

It took a few weeks for the class to really get into applying the sermon through discussion, asking questions, role playing, and even receiving rebukes and corrections. Many began to take notes during the sermon to try to get the key kernels out of it. Norm used the first five minutes of the Sunday school class to answer any questions to clarify points in his sermon. He soon realized the uselessness of a traditional three-point sermon. He began to preach one distinct point, often based on something he'd heard in the discussions during previous Sunday school sessions. And he shortened his sermon from 45 minutes to under 20 minutes.

As the weeks progressed, the people in the Sunday school began experiencing what I had encountered previously in my MBA program: *Divine intervention takes place. This provides*

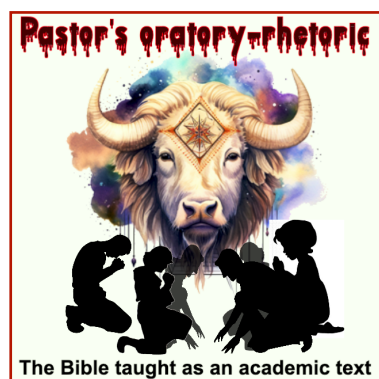


***an opportunity to personally use the application that was developed during the previous Sunday's class before the next Sunday school class.*** Experiencing God behind specific encounters and circumstances became so recurrent that we encouraged people to share their testimonies with the entire class. Everyone was encouraged and strengthened in their faith walk as they realized that our Lord was affirming their applications of His Word. And we recognized a sort of **"spiritual leapfrogging"** taking place because of the testimonies: one person's testimony would spur someone else to take an action that they'd been reluctant to do earlier.

The people at each table began contacting each other *outside* Sunday school, offering support, prayer and wisdom. Many even got together during the week and became really close friends in the faith. Their relationships became so bonded that love-grounded **rebukes and corrections** were viewed as a blessing and not criticism. There was a deep sense of caring for each other and a willingness to live in a way that represented their relationship with our Lord Jesus. The congregation grew in numbers as it developed a reputation as a **"Caring Church"**. After two years Sue and I moved to another congregation and introduced the same process to them. We saw the same results when people are given the opportunity to discuss and apply God's Word together.

### **Exposing and opposing the sacred cow of oratory-rhetoric on the front lines**

➤ While serving at the retreat center I tried to introduce the various clergy to the Sunday morning process which had matured so many followers of Jesus into caring and reproductive brothers and sisters in Jesus. It wasn't well received. In New England are a number of pulpits like the one pictured at right. These men didn't even want to hear about discussion and questions. I was once visiting a pastor at his church building which had a high pulpit. I commented that I'd rip the pulpit out if I were pastoring there. With a Cheshire cat grin he retorted, "That pulpit is the reason I'm here!"



➤ Another pastor whom I'd befriended would often rave about his own sermons and all the research he put into them. Then during an adult retreat I asked the members of his congregation, "What's the focus of worship at your church?" After thoughtful discussion they said, "We worship our pastor's sermon because that's what he worships." A few weeks later while I was in prayer the Holy Spirit ordered me to pull away from that pastor. He said, "It's because of your anointing and relationship with him that our Father hasn't removed him." I hesitated for about three weeks. Then one day the pastor called me and said, "I feel like the Holy Spirit has given you something to tell me." I then told him what the Spirit had told me. And a few days later the board of elders at his congregation fired him.

Several months afterward I was talking with one of the elders and told him about my three-week hesitation to deliver the Spirit's message. He sternly rebuked me, telling me about the damage the pastor had done among them during those three weeks. He then revealed, "For some time we wanted to fire him. But because of our respect for you and your relationship with him, the board held back. But when he told us what you had said to him, we knew it was time to let him go." I immediately asked forgiveness of both my heavenly Father and the elder.

(Meanwhile, the fired pastor went to many of the clergy in our area and blamed me for getting him fired. I couldn't tell anyone what really happened, or even ask them to call the elders—because they quickly "circled their clergy wagons", ultimately eradicating my ability to prophetically minister in that region.)

➤ After our service at the retreat center, we were living in a large city and sharing the Hebraic foundations. A young pastor, "Alex", whose congregation met in a school classroom decided to adapt the discipleship methods described in my old seminary paper. With **the end-all purpose** of helping the people put his teaching into practice, Alex began one Sunday to encourage questions and discussion during his sermon. After some hesitation the congregants really got with it. Following the service many told him how much more they derived out of what he taught. It was the first time they left the service with a renewed sense of God's purpose for them. The next day a couple who'd just moved to the city and had visited the congregation for the first time stopped by our office and told us how much it meant to them to be able to participate during the service. They were so excited that they planned to go back the following week.



**BUT** then the president of the National Evangelical Association who lived in the same city and pastored the largest congregation there heard about how Alex had changed his sermon style. He contacted Alex and ridiculed him in such a humiliating fashion that the young pastor immediately returned to his old oratory-rhetoric sermonizing. It wasn't long before his formerly enthusiastic congregants began to leave. It hurt us to see such eagerness among that group of worshippers quashed. Then the president began bad-mouthing our ministry and intimidating other clergy in the city to not have anything to do with us. It wasn't until he was removed from his pulpit for sexual perversion that his assault on us stopped.

➤ While we were living in another large city, a friend of a clergyman who was admired worldwide for his preaching asked if I would counsel the pastor, who was divorcing his wife. The clergyman had already removed the people on his board of elders who were attempting to stop him. I asked the man who was making the request if he thought the pastor would even listen to me. After some thought he answered, "No, he doesn't listen to anyone." Afterward we met a family who attended his congregation and asked them how they personally were serving our Lord Jesus. Their reply was, "We attend Pastor So-and-So's church (the pastor who was divorcing his wife) and we love his teaching!"

➤ During a seminar on the Hebraic foundations a certain pastor sat in the audience with his arms folded over his chest and a surly expression on his face. During a break he walked up to me as I was standing with a group of other attendees. At that moment the Holy Spirit told me to tell him, "Do not preach a sermon if I [the Spirit] have not given it to you." The man then told me he really hadn't wanted to come to our seminar, but some type of "inner force" had compelled him to be there. During the break the Holy Spirit had told him to stand next to me because he would be told at that time what the Spirit wanted him to do.

He called me a week later with this testimony: When the next Sunday arrived, the Holy Spirit had not given him anything to speak about. So when it came time to preach, he told the congregation he had nothing to share. Then he opened up that time for questions and open discussion. This went on for over two hours with everyone participating. After the service the elders came to him privately: "We've been waiting and praying for you to let go of control and allow the Holy Spirit to take over!"



I'd love for you to take part in our Lord's process of training so you may experience His divine intervention when you trust His promises and live them. I trust that you have the loving courage to adjust your life to be part of discipleship/training His way? But first I need to reveal how you have been bamboozled.