

Cyber Truths By E-mail

9. Are You a Barbarian? (June 4, 2005)



Restoration Ministries International

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Dear Friends,

We finally sent the revised Demolishing Strongholds to the printers yesterday! After hundreds of hours and a myriad of spiritual battles, it was a relief to finally mail it off. Yesterday was a day in which it seemed like every demon west of the Mississippi was waiting to do whatever it could to stop us. What started out as a simple getting it all together in the early morning ended up with the disc being taken to the Post Office around 4 PM.

I ended up with chest pains and fever, so we just kept praying. We've been there before when dealing with this book! Spiritual warfare has raged around publishing offices in the past who've tried to print this book, and even to those who have helped us proof it.

We want to thank every one of you who remembered us in your prayers. This would not be out the door if it weren't for your prayers. And we want to thank those of you who proofed Demolishing for us. One person went through both her two year old daughter's broken arm, then a divine healing after the arm was X-rayed and put in a cast. The very next day after the family prayed, the cast fell off the little girl's arm and she was completely healed!

Even before the book has come out in print, almost 50% are being drop-shipped directly from the printer! This is extraordinary. So many people want to be "squeaky clean" with God so they can be fully available to lovingly serve His purposes. (You can also download a free pdf copy of the rewrite from our website. Click on "Books & Articles", and then on the printer icon to the right of Demolishing Strongholds.)

Encouragement In The Midst Of The Battle

Our Lord encouraged us to persevere in completing the work on Demolishing Strongholds through a short book we purchased from Voice of the Martyrs, "The Barbarian Way". While only 141 pages, I found I had to read it in short segments. It's book you have to read for effect, and oh what an effect it had! It's not only encouraging, but it brings deep conviction as you find where you've gotten entangled in attitudes and pursuits that fall short of your relationship with our Lord.

The author, Erwin Raphael McManus, derives "barbarian" (referring to true followers of Jesus) from the term the Romans used for anyone who was not Roman — those who don't belong. And, we who trip and stumble to follow Jesus no matter what the cost are barbarians not only to the world, but also to the civilized Christian community who have made their religious practice and programs something they can be comfortable with.

As some of you know, I [Mike] came to Christ as a "barbarian" after reading the Bible twice. Then our Lord Jesus come to me one night to tell me what I must do to follow Him. In those early days of my walk I fellowshiped with others who also simply believed without doubt what the Bible said, and believed that God still wanted the same intimate trust and obedience from us today. If it was in the Bible, we believed it! And we saw the same miraculous intervention of our Lord as they did.

But then, influenced by two Navy chaplains, I went off and got civilized. I attended seminary where we learned how to talk "Christian" and to run

"Christian" programs. Over the years I filled a lot of leadership positions in civilized "Christianity" — far more committee meetings than I want to recount — and too many sermons and Sunday school classes where it seemed nobody did anything with what they learned.

To my own sorrow I watched the miraculous disappear, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit impacted me less and less. In running civilized programs you don't need His specific guidance, and contrary to what many civilized "Christians" say, no one REALLY wants the miraculous. It's talked about from time-to-time, but in civilized "Christianity" everyone would be frightened if the miracles we see in the Bible came into our meetings! Few of the clergy I've known would want to see their organized service interrupted by some "outsider" so that a withered hand or illness could be healed.

I remember a friend of mine sharing a story about his denomination which was part of the Holiness Movement of the 1800's. During their services the Holy Spirit would come upon them for hours, and no one could move or speak. The miraculous was commonplace! One Sunday morning he read aloud about these events to his congregation, not telling them that these miraculous events were part of their heritage. When he finished telling a number of glorious stories of the meetings in the 1800's, he asked his listeners, "Would any of you like to see this happen here?" Everyone — Everyone! declared a resounding "NO!"

Perhaps a more biblical way to describe the "barbarian life" is that we would rather serve the KING and extend His KINGDOM no matter what it costs. "Barbarians" feel out of place in civilized

religion where congregations are held together more by a common commitment to creed than to a loving and "reckless" obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We want to encourage those of you who have embraced the Hebraic Foundations as our Father intended, as truth He wants you to live by. Sue and I are humbled to be able to share our Father's truths that restore the facets that enabled the earliest followers of Jesus to be "barbarians" among the religious establishment of their time. Our call is "apostolic" in that our sharing the Hebraic Foundations is to be with clarity. And our Father's call for us is "prophetic" in that it directs people back to a way of life that glorifies our Father.

Over the years as we've discussed the Hebraic foundations with those of you who are journeying with us in following Jesus, we've discovered a deprogramming from civilized religion occurring. We just didn't recognize we were becoming more "barbarian" as we lost our complacency with the religious status quo. I remember one conversation several months ago with my close friend, Tom Woodruff. Both of us had come to Christ with the KINGDOM view He intended for us and had lived as "barbarians". Yet over time we both got seduced by the civilized "church system" and its organized, well-developed programs.

"The Barbarian Way" book is like God's mid-term exam to see how far from "religion" you've come as you've moved into KINGDOM living. It's a wonderful encouragement for those of you who are now undergoing the isolation He designs so that He can deprogram you from religious thought. It's also convicting if you enjoy civilized religious programs in which you can be around others who enjoy complacency,

and are too fearful to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. If this book doesn't change you, it will at least make you feel sick about yourself as you realize that Jesus never came to establish a civilized religious system. In fact, He attacked the one of His time!

If you have courage enough to read it, you can order "The Barbarian Way" from Voice of the Martyrs by calling (918) 337-8015. We encourage you to get copies for others close to you. If you're already on the "barbarian way" with others, you'll all want to read it and be encouraged together! If you're not on the "barbarian way" yet and are willing to be convicted and repent, then you're going to want others to come along with you.

Our definition of a barbarian: A person who doesn't belong to the values and goals of this world, and has no desire to be comfortable in Christianity. Their only goal is to pour themselves out as instruments of light into a dark world, daily bringing glory to our Lord until they see Him face-to face. That's a barbarian!

Journeying with you,
Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz