

His Road Is Strait and Narrow
The Testimony of Daniel Pursley Concerning His Dealings With
The Deans and His Exodus From The Modern Mega-church
With Preface by Daniel and Kristin Pursley

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-Daniel Pursley

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Preface

My name is Daniel Pursley. I am 37 years old, and I spent a decade deeply immersed in the modern mega-church movement. I was a staff member that was part of a team responsible for the production of almost every service that happened at Sagemont Church in Houston, TX. A little over a year ago, in the summer of 2011, God called me and my family out from among them to the Church of Wells to live a renewed life of faith, love, and holiness unto the Lord. We came out through much conviction of sin and breaking of soul by way of the written Word of God. My wife, Kristin, was born again shortly after our exit, and we were both saved from false Christianity.

The following account is not altogether exhaustive and is not so much a volley of arrows meant to smite many foes, but rather five smooth stones meant for the head of one Goliath and his brethren who have been railing against and blaspheming the name of our great God and His holy work in our life. As it is written, “*smite the scorner that the simple might beware* (Pro. 19:25a).” To the vexation of my soul, the champions of the Philistine scorners have been my wife’s parents, the Deans - particularly her mom, Karen Dean. In this testimony, I will be exposing how she has maligned the holy calling of the Lord Jesus upon our life and has been railing on our blessed Church in Wells, calling it a cult, and speaking all manner of evil against us falsely, “*desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm*” (1 Tim. 1:7). I will also be addressing some of her partners in crime, such as Sagemont Church and the Rick A. Ross Forum to name a few. Karen Dean, whom I have known over the last 10 years, has hardly been religious, yet has all of a sudden become as zealous as Saul of Tarsus, breathing out threatenings against this Way. Nevertheless, I have not gone forth hastily to strive in taking up the pen against them, while these malicious misrepresentations have been going on now for many months, in many places, unceasingly. Truly, if it were up to me in my carnal disposition, this testimony may have never been written. But, it is neither reasonable nor righteous to let the danger of such a lying tongue as this go on unreprieved, especially when it is damaging the souls of my dear holy-hearted brothers and sisters, sowing discord around the country, which thing God hates.

“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

(James 3:5–8)

“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”

(Proverbs 18:8)

My name is Kristin, and Daniel Pursley is my husband. Many of you may know **KjDean49** from the Rick Ross forum; that is my mother, Karen Dean. In this forum, she portrays herself as a godly prayer warrior who is always putting on “the full armor of God” and boldly standing for “TRUTH” with unquestionable honesty. The Bible commands, *“beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world,”* therefore *“prove all things; hold fast that which is good”* (1 John. 4:1; 1 Ths. 5:21). The Karen Dean I have known and grown up with all my life is someone very different than who she is pretending to be on the forum. I ask those of you who have listened to her words, and the spirit by which she speaks, to consider the following things which I have known by personal experience of the real Karen Dean for almost three decades; remember the Psalmist’s warning, *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful”* (Psa 1:1).

Firstly, as long as I can remember, my mother has always been a gossip. That said, this is not new behavior, nor is it an exaggeration; it has occurred since I was a child, though never so momentous as now. I am not the only one who has been witness to this behavior. The foundation of her social life was generally built upon “hearsay” and oftentimes things she had no business talking about. This is no small matter in the eyes of God. The Bible likens busybodies in other people’s matters to be so grave of a sin that it is placed side by side with murderers and evildoers.

“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters.” (1 Peter 4:15)

The television was the centerpiece of our household growing up; it was always on even at night. She loved watching worldly T.V. shows such as Law and Order, American Idol, and Dancing with the Stars, to name a few. **These shows sadly appeal to the flesh of men and do nothing to minister to the spirit. I know this because I loved watching these shows too, before I was saved; but the grace of God has made all things new, yet my mom refuses to recognize this.** Moreover, in our house these carnal activities drowned out all time for anything else, especially the things of God. Instead of redeeming the time as the Bible commands, the television was ever wasting it. There was never the quietness of a godly atmosphere; so, it is safe to say that there wasn’t any true worship of God in our house. If my mother really had the heart of David who said, *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes”* (Psa. 101:3), and loved God the way that she represents on the internet, why would she love habitually watching television and its flesh-exalting ways where man gets all the glory and God is forgotten?

My mom insists that she loves God and has for many years, but her passion rather revolved around entertainment and trips to Disney World. John says, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15)*. I have never heard her or my dad Ronnie share with any passion the Word of this God she says she loves and how it was impacting their souls, but many hours were spent talking about and planning the next big trip to Disney, staying in a bigger and better hotel each time. Sadly, in my experience, my mother was anything but a prayer warrior, nor was she ever so devoted to the Word of God as she claims to be on the forum. **She boasts about having been saved since 1984, but in all that time I don’t even remember ever seeing her witness to a soul, much less shed tears over the lost or even pray one earnest prayer.**

In the more recent past, my mother often argued with Daniel and I when we would try to show her through the Word how her own son, my brother, showed no fruit of being saved, but rather, of being in rebellion. He was a fornicator and drunkard who spent many years at clubs like Big Texas, and he was in and out of relationships with girls he met at these clubs and roadhouses. A few times my mother, instead of pleading with him to repent of unbiblical relationships, would be encouraging him to marry these women so that she could have grandbabies. I can remember my brother coming to our home once, and speaking with a friend of ours, Dylan, and confessing with his own mouth that he wasn’t saved; yet my mom still believed he was - all because of a sinner’s prayer he prayed when he was younger (and this while my brother was in open and unrepentant sin!).

Lastly, I can testify to how manipulative, stubborn, and contentious my mom was as I was growing up. One thing that really stood out to me is when people from a ministry started by Bill Gothard would come to Sagemont Church to put on a seminar. The ladies from this ministry would only wear skirts and didn’t agree with wearing the color red, yet my mother and many other secretaries would purposely wear red tops with pants as their way of rebelling against and mocking this group’s Biblical convictions because she thought they were legalistic. She had a very different view of modesty that was not founded on the written Word of God, but upon worldly ambition. When I was growing into a young woman, for example, my mother had hopes and dreams that I would be a model. She convinced my father to let her buy more immodest clothing for me to attract boys, even though I hated it. On one occasion, she dropped me off at an overnight church function in an outfit so immodest and humiliating that as soon as she left, I ran and changed clothes.

Is this the Holy Spirit making her live this way?

“If, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.” (Galatians 2:17)

Would not the Holy Spirit make her live a holy life if she had Him?

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation...”

(1 Peter 1:15)

In trying to show the reader the true character of my mom, I want you all to know that I am grieved to have to do such a thing, because I know that I am no better than my family or anybody else, apart from the grace of God. I do not like openly calling out my family; nor do I like the great sorrows that have been brought upon me through this tragedy, which has been primarily inflamed by the vicious slandering tongue of the mother that I still love, Karen Dean. **However, since my mother has refused multiple invitations from our pastors, and us, to reasonably go through the Word of God, and has spread blatant and murderous lies openly and shamelessly for months against myself, my husband, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and the God that I love, and since she has falsely made it seem to the world that she is a faithful witness and woman of integrity and holy character that can be trusted when she is not, I have had no other choice but to testify to the world of the truth concerning my mother and carnal family. The worst part about it is that she has done all these evil things, and much more, with no sign of repentance while she calls herself a Christian and has not even sincerely apologized.** May the Lord use this testimony to convict my mom, break this prideful facade, save her soul from sin, save others that have been deceived by her persistent lying against this work of God and against the gospel of holiness, and may Jesus Christ be glorified.

Kristin and I felt it necessary to show forth the hatred of the Deans in light of what Biblical love is, which I will attempt to express in the passages below. They say we are in darkness, under the evil one, yet they are unwilling to entreat us with the Word of God. This is not Biblical love. Yea, and where is the spirit of meekness commanded by the Apostle Paul when he says,

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1)

And if we be hereticks, and they really love us, where is our first and second admonition? This is not Biblical love either.

“A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” (Titus 3:10–11)

Or if we are taken captive by the devil at his will and they truly care, where is the patient, meek, and gentle instruction that the following Scripture commands?

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” (2 Timothy 2:24–26)

Nay, we have received none of these tokens of love or Christian concern, but as the Psalmist says, “*they search out iniquities. They accomplish a diligent search*”, straining at a gnat to find any fuel for the fire of their gossip, slander and railings that they do behind our backs, because they are not willing to come face to face with the Word of God (which we have offered to go through many times), nor are they willing to live a life of holiness that the Lord has commanded all people to live in His Word.

Truly, time would fail me if I sought to tell you all the fullness of my dealings with the Deans. I have spent hundreds of hours laboring day and night praying, writing, and carefully editing, seeking “out acceptable words” for the account you are about to read. The truths contained herein set me free from sin and saved my soul from death. I beseech you therefore to hear this matter out.

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:31–36)

Psalm 64

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

1 Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer:

Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked;

From the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

3 Who whet their tongue like a sword,

And bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:

4 That they may shoot in secret at the perfect:

Suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not.

5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter:

They commune of laying snares privily;

They say, Who shall see them?

6 They search out iniquities;

They accomplish a diligent search:

Both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.

7 But God shall shoot at them with an arrow;

Suddenly shall they be wounded.

8 So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves:

All that see them shall flee away.

9 And all men shall fear,

And shall declare the work of God;

For they shall wisely consider of his doing.

10 The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him;

And all the upright in heart shall glory.

I. Purpose To The Reader

Dear Reader, “*there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision* [those who merely profess Christianity]: *Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses,*” (Tit. 1:10–11) of whom the Deans have become chief. They have been partakers with adulterers, given their mouths to evil, their tongues to framing deceit, and slander. **To the brokenness of my heart, this is the mortar of their choosing - building up their bloody city of internet forums which is built upon a refuge of lies stained red with the blood of God’s true saints.** These things thou hast done, and I kept silence, but now necessity is laid upon me because the name of the Lord and His gospel is being blasphemed among the heathen; and I have heard the Word of the Lord saying, “*Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations*” (Eze. 22:2).

II. The Bloody City

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: But a companion of fools shall be destroyed. He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.”
(Proverbs 13:20; 10:18)

We live in a day and age where information is literally a mouse click away - one person has the power and an easy platform to reach hundreds, thousands, even millions of people with their words, for better or for worse.

“Today liars congregate cross country and sea. All kinds of boundaries which formerly made impossible the unity of their mockery, now through internet they unite with unimaginable speed and guile. They need no skill to cover up their reputations as to make their witnesses believable, they just leave their surrounding communities by entering into the arena of the internet. Here they can give a false witness with an easily fabricated false righteousness, and they don’t even need to overcome the fear of their hypocrisy being found out because the internet is where everyone who doesn’t know hardly anyone speaks about everything. On the internet there is no need for the asinine smile that is upon the face of this generation. There is no pressure of face to face encounters. Each person is represented by text and so they all do take strength in numbers, that a simple passerby who believes every word might side with them, and, if this passerby met this community of slanderers in person he would have never believed their lies because of the clear absence of the presence of God in their life. In this way the internet has become ‘*the seat of the scornful*’ (Psa. 1:1).” - Sean Morris

We (the church of Wells) have been called “ugly, aggressive, confrontational, hateful, arrogant, legalistic, reckless, belligerent, prejudiced, infanticidal, isolationistic, hoop jumping, satanic, scripture twisting, family destroying, brainwashing, evil predators; used by the devil as a cultic trap and stronghold of deception and lies; who speak CRAP and GARBAGE.” All of this by a woman who claims to be filled with the Holy Ghost, clad with His “FULL ARMOR.” This woman’s name is Karen Dean. She has never met more than a few members of my congregation, and it was in passing. As has been mentioned, she has refused, on at least two occasions, personal invitations from the elders to sit down and talk, not even wanting to look them in the face. She has spoken all of these things behind our back from the refuge of the Bloody City of internet forums while simultaneously texting Kristin and me her love and desire to see us!

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” (John 3:19-21)

III. The Heart of the Bloody City

“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: So where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; So is a contentious man to kindle strife.”
(Proverbs 26:20–21)

Now let me tell you about the heart of the city. My mother-in-law Karen Dean pumps the lifeblood of lies and deceit through the forum, keeping it alive with the fuel of malice and wrath. You might wonder, how did this division with Karen Dean first begin? When did the malice and wrath commence?

The walls of this city have their foundation upon the love of this world. Its cornerstone was discovered in late September 2011, when over breakfast I shared with the Deans how the Lord was convicting me to repent of the worldly entertainment and fables (namely Disney) in our home and in our children’s lives. Contrary to the popular opinion, it is of grave importance what is before our eyes. The Holy Bible says, “*I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me*” (Psa. 101:3). It was in the midst of me sharing my convictions that Karen became visibly upset and rudely cut me off, never letting me finish. “*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain*” (Jas. 1:26; see also 3:2). For, “*Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him*” (Prov. 29:20). “*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the*

righteousness of God (Jas. 1:19-20). **She got so angry that she called off the approaching family vacation right there on the spot, and began to say such outrageous things as: “are we ever going to see the kids again?” Ronnie (Kristin’s Dad) sat down at the table in front of me, furious. He was visibly shaking as he told me “you’ve gone too far.”** As this testimony goes on and I recite what I have been compelled by the Lord to do, I hope that you will begin to see the truth of the scriptures, which say: *“An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul”* (Pro. 29:22; 22:24-25). These were just the initial manifestations of the corrupt fruits evidencing their hearts and affections being set on the things of this world. *“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit”* (Mat. 7:18).

IV. Highlights From Sagemont

Before I had ever heard of Sagemont Church, I was born again and made new by God’s grace in my early twenties. *“Being a young man void of understanding (as to what the Bride of Christ even looked like), there soon met (me) a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. She said, Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. With her much fair speech she caused (me) to yield, and with the flattering of her lips she forced (me), and (I) went after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter or as a fool to the correction of the stocks”* (Pro. 7:7, 10-22), and thus I became a member at Sagemont church and continued on staff for 10 years. In my ignorance, I remained there for much of that time before I began to see how unbiblical this mega-church truly was in the sight of God; in truth, it had only been leavening me for a decade, not drawing me onward to God (Mark 8:15).

There are only a few things God salvaged in the time my faith was being shipwrecked at Sagemont Church, namely, He gave me my wife, Kristin, and led me to Cory and Dylan; these men were the only true believers, I can firmly say, I knew at the time. We all became well-knit in the Spirit and began to pursue God with all that in us was! I bless the Lord for those times and thank Him for the grace we found as long as we sought Him. As is said of Uzziah, as long as he sought the Lord, he prospered.

Nonetheless, the fearful curse and warning of God stood firm, *“a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump”* (Gal. 5:9). If you would allow me some time in the subsequent section and amidst the rest of this testimony to share, by the grace of God, how these great adulteries, heresies and backslidings of Sagemont Church began to spot and defile my garments.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Timothy 4:2–4)

V. Leprous Spots

If you please, allow me to explain what is typical in a church like this. Most members there would work hard at their vocations, raise their children to adulthood, and then upgrade to bigger and better homes in more expensive neighborhoods. Most would not treat the grace of God as a reason to deny ungodly lusts and worldliness, but just the opposite, thinking it the way of Christ to gain more instead of die to self more (1 John 2:15; 1 Tim. 6; Tit. 2:11-14). It was just the way of life at a modern day mega-church, but not the way of the cross. There are a few exceptions, but most everyone there had their conversation (communication and lifestyle) on earth, not in heaven. *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”* (Php. 1:27). The manner and end of their conversations were all too often their favorite sports teams, worldly movies, T.V., and music they were entertaining themselves with, as well as the pleasure-focused vacations they were counting down the days to (Php. 3:18-19). In contrast, the end of the Apostle Paul’s conversation was to be offered up as a lamb to the slaughter to fill up that which is behind in the sufferings of Christ. For some time, I would try and swing discussions to the Lord, but eventually gave into the despair of feeling too contentious.

I knew, however, that the Bible teaches that “the good life” or “the American dream” could never be the calling of a Christian. The Spirit of Christ commands through the Apostle Paul, *“be ye followers of me”*...and His life was a baptism of death (1 Cor. 4:8-17; 15:29-34). Yea, and all who would live godly in Christ Jesus, and so, join the ranks of those of whom the world was not worthy, must through much tribulation, enter into the kingdom. *“Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth”* (Heb. 11:35–38). *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”* (1 Pet. 2:21).

“Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you....Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.”

(James 5:1–6; see also Luke 6:24)

Covetousness (a damnable sin), which is idolatry (Col. 3:5), is not detected in most modern churches; most congregants’ worldliness is masked with tithing, giving of time in volunteerism, and involvement in a certain Bible study class. As long as you are doing those works of being involved in at least one of those ministries, you are good to spend the rest of your time entertaining yourself with your favorite vain hobbies, etc. Many go places, indulge in, and entertain themselves with the things that God calls sin, and hates, yet no one challenges it. God is no respecter of persons, and he will punish the envious and covetous as He will the murderer and adulterer (Rom. 2:11; Col. 3:25; 1 Pet. 1:17; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:5; Gal. 5:19-21; Jas. 5:1-6).

VI. A Broken Cord and Loving Lukewarm

After three years and three children later, I was almost all but removed from my former yokefellows Cory and Dylan. The effect of the loss of their blessed fellowship and iron, which sharpened me, was becoming very noticeable. I looked and longed for such men to replace them there at church, but could find none with like burdens and such devotion to God. In desperation, I enrolled in Bible College, thinking this could surely draw me closer to God, and maybe I could rekindle my love for the Lord and find other fellowship. I studied there and eventually graduated (August 2011), yet my love and fervor for the Lord was not increasing but decreasing. Despite my attempts to pursue God at this Bible College, I was wallowing in the mire of being what the Lord Jesus calls “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:16). I needed a Psalm 51 repentance! My lifestyle was becoming less prayerful and more playful. I began to focus more on my family and my career advancement than on what the Spirit of God would have. I had been offered a director’s job at a bigger church, was trading stocks, and focused my efforts on building a secure and comfortable life for my family and me. Things were really starting to look up for us from a carnal perspective; however, I found myself being sorely tempted and losing the battle against loving my life, the world, and the things of this world. According to the Scripture this is no light matter but one of eternal significance: *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace”* (Rom. 8:5-6). Albeit, not a soul around me at Sagemont saw anything wrong with my present miserably impoverished state of carnality (or at least never said anything to warn me). In their ignorance, they were unable to lead me on to perfection as is required by a biblical church and its elders. Ephesians 4:11-13 says, *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and*

teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ". I found myself blamable, backslidden, lukewarm, and blinded, which seemed no different than anyone else there (Jer. 5:6; 2 Pet. 3:14; Php. 2:15; Jas. 5:19-20; Rev. 3:16).

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Revelation 3:15-17)

VII. Eternal Highmindedness

"And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, the branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."
(Romans 11:17-22)

The great flattery seducing my soul in this dark time was the doctrine of eternal security. God first warns against this heresy in Deuteronomy 29:19: *"And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst."* This doctrine is the wine whereby the false prophets, pastors, and masters of divinity of our day make drunk the people of God with enticing words of man's wisdom and *"say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you"* (Jer. 23:17). *"The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: Yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? None evil can come upon us"* (Mic. 3:11).

I too was becoming drunk off this doctrine as Satan's ministers of light (2 Cor. 11:14-15) gave me the promises of God to drink without mixture so that I became unable to stomach His warnings, even as Satan did with Christ: *"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. [Even so it is today, as Satan's serpents use the*

doctrine of eternal security to cause the children of God to cast themselves upon the promises of God the Father without ever trembling at His warnings.] *But Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God*" (Mat. 4:5-7). The Lord began to awaken my soul by the words of the Apostle Paul warning me not to "*tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents*" (1 Cor. 10:9).

I was realizing, by the grace of God, that this very chapter in 1 Corinthians 10 pointed me back to the Exodus generation in which God would reveal His dealings with His people concerning salvation based upon His promises and conditions. Moreover, I found that this generation was the primary example of coming short of the promises of God in the New Testament. I saw how the writer of the book of Hebrews used them to admonish the "holy brethren" to fearfully take heed to themselves.

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him...as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." (Hebrews 3:1-19;4:1)

The reality that I was becoming one of those Israelites who was hardened through the deceitfulness of sin was beginning to break through the drunken stupor that had come upon me from all the years of false teaching at Sagemont. How can a child of God provoke the Lord to anger so that He would not allow them to enter into his rest? The fearful possibility of coming short of the promises compelled me to study this day of provocation and see exactly what the Lord was warning New Testament Christians of.

This day is found in Numbers 14. "*If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye*

the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not. But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel. And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they... Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it... Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and YE SHALL KNOW MY BREACH OF PROMISE. I the Lord have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die. And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the Lord” (Num. 14:8–37).

The most fearful thing to me is why God says this happened to them...

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown (See Jer. 18:23) in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. WHEREFORE LET HIM THAT THINKETH HE STANDETH TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL.” (1 Corinthians 10:1–12)...([“Strait And Narrow”](#))

I pray that the souls of these men did not perish in vain...

VIII. Divine Intervention and the Searching Out of a Matter

At this point, in the summer of 2011, I had a degree in Christian Leadership and some measure of Christian experience - enough that I could speak and stand for many truths and doctrines, and even back them up with my experiences - yet the state of my soul was not soaring higher. It was rather being thrust down and choked out by my own lusts and seemingly noble pursuits (Mark 4:19). What was I to do? I needed help from on high to derail me from the track that I was on.

It was about this time that my beloved friend and brother in Christ, Cory (who had been going through spiritual struggles as well) came back into my life. One day Cory had come by, greatly burdened from the Lord. He, his wife Ashley, my wife, and I sat down in the living room and Cory began to express what the Spirit had laid upon his heart. This specific burden that he had was from 2 Tim. 2:3-4: *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."* Cory had expressed his burden that I was no longer an enlisted soldier, in active duty, but rather in the reserves, no longer fighting or warring as I ought. As he preached this with tears, I too began to weep remembering how the Lord had spoken the exact same thing to me just the night before. Though I did not know it at the time, I would soon come to find out this was all happening because I was not a part of a Biblical church. The Lord says that our hearts are so deceitful, and sin so infectious, that if we are not exhorted daily we will be hardened and deceived by it to depart from the living God (Heb. 3:12-13). Sin had deceived my heart, and I had left off fighting against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17)...and had become a friend of this world. I had committed spiritual adultery against God and provoked the holy jealousy of His loving heart. I had become His enemy (Jas. 4:4-10).

In that same summer of 2011, Cory began to talk to me about a new church in the Arlington, TX area. He was telling me some of the doctrine the church believed, how they worshiped, and how they were holding forth the word of life for the Lord Jesus in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Php. 2:15-16). He described many wonderful things about this church, like their love for God and one another, as well as the fire and fervency of the hearts of even the least in the congregation. He told me of their love for praying, evangelizing, preaching, and exhorting one another with the Word of God, and their willingness to give of their own possessions that there may be equality. I liked what I was hearing but was not necessarily motivated to join. I was thinking it was too far away, and I thought that maybe my church could get revived and be like that someday. I said to myself, "Well, I can't leave my job and career path

and go to a church that is so small. They could never offer me a paying job doing what I specialize in as an audio engineer. It seems like too big of a leap of faith for something I'm not really feeling called to." **Then Cory began to tell me more of how they esteemed all His precepts concerning all things to be right and hated every false way (Psa. 119:128), especially in the areas of church purity (Psa.1:5b), modesty in dress (1 Pet. 3:3-6), openness and liberality with their money (2 Cor. 8:2), and their stance on eternal security.** To be honest with you, it was a great stumbling block for me to hear some of these things; I thought they were just being legalistic. Then after hearing about their views on church purity and eternal security, I began to think they were some sort of works-based system (Gal.5:11). Thus I began to harden my heart. I almost wrote the whole group off as some sort of cult; however, I respected Cory because I knew him very well - he had always been a close brother with a devotion to Christ that testified to me that I should at least search the matter out for myself (Pro. 18:13), so by God's grace I did. I decided to go and visit the church that summer for several days, including one of their weekly Solemn Assemblies.

Before ever coming to the church, I spent nearly 8 hours Skyping with one of the pastors of the church on doctrine, followed by a couple of weeks visiting them in person. I thereby became convinced that they were not a cult. Their life, doctrine, and worship were so close to the scriptures and so counter to the American culture and modern Christianity that it appeared, at first glance, as a cult. **But the more I examined, the more like a New Testament church it actually was. I was shocked and overjoyed at the same time at what this church really was. It was a Biblical Church - they were a group bound together by the Spirit of God. They didn't make excuses for sin; they wanted one thing - to be a pure and spotless Bride seeking to make herself ready for her Groom - the Lord Jesus (Eph. 5:26-27)! I knew in my heart that if ever there was going to be a real revival, it would come through a people like this!** They were all from different parts of the country with differing backgrounds but had one thing in common: they were all born again of a truth and were setting their hearts to seek His face and carry their own cross down the narrow way, no matter what the world said. After the Sunday Solemn Assembly I noticed that all the believers wanted to do was talk about the Lord. Truly, their conversation was in heaven! Their conversation was not just that way at assembly but in all things. I could see it in all of their eyes, they sought not an earthly city but an heavenly one (Heb. 11:13-16)! For the next couple of months, I would continually ponder all these things in light of my current state and soon would have to make one of the biggest decisions of my life.

"In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, The children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten." (Jeremiah 50:4-5)

IX. Denny's, Disney and the Deans

As I stated earlier in the section “The Heart of The Bloody City”, the strife between the Deans and I began over a breakfast in September of 2011. Allow me for continuity's sake a chance to shed just a little more light on this milestone. During the meal everyone was peaceable and seemed to be enjoying one another. After we ate, I had it on my heart to share with them what the Lord had been showing us concerning holiness and the need for us (Kristin and I) to get rid of all Disney movies, music, toys, clothing, etc., in an act of repentance from worldliness; which is an abomination to the Lord. *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”* (Jas. 4:4). I was a little nervous at first because of the sensitivity of the topic, yet I tried to show them from the Bible how God is against the things that Disney promotes, and how consuming such entertainment was only doing harm to our souls and was in fact countering the true gospel message we were trying to preach and live out before our children. I understood that this would affect us all, especially on a familial level, but never to this extent. It became overwhelmingly apparent to Kristin and I due to the hurtful, out-of-control reaction they displayed, that Disney was an idol in their life. I can find no other explanation for such behavior. I was not telling them that they could no longer purchase any presents for my children, but merely sharing the convictions of my conscience before the Lord and asking them to respect my beliefs by no longer buying gifts that had to do with Disney. Yet they had reacted very defensively, as if I were trying to steal something from their life, when in all honesty I was not even talking about them but sharing what I believed the Lord was speaking to me and my household (Jos. 24:15). It was awful! They could not be calmed down. In the eight years that Kristin and I had been married, I had never had such an incident with them. Honestly, the only motive I had was to take a stand for the Lord and against my sin, compromise, and apathy over the previous few years. The best way I can explain their reaction was that they had an outburst of anger. They had become utterly unreasonable. They wrested my words and all their thoughts were against me for evil (Psa. 56:5). They told me that I was condemning them and pointing the finger at them. I was not, but the Holy Spirit evidently was.

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8)

“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.” (John 16:8–11)

X. My Letter to The Deans

A few days after the momentous breakfast at Denny's, in my grief over their reaction, I felt led of the Lord to meet with them about their outburst of anger and how they went about handling the situation. Once again the meeting did not go well; they were unreasonable and left angry, and I unfortunately was unable to share the scriptures I had on my heart. Thus, by a letter (which I felt was owned by God's Spirit and full of Scripture rightly divided), in an attempt to "*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord*" (Heb. 12:14), I reproved them over several sins they had manifested, all the while seeking to entreat them as a mother and father would deserve. I later sent this personal letter to them with much prayer, hoping God would work a mighty work through it. After not hearing from them for a while, it became apparent to us through the Deans' overall behavior that this letter had been a savour of death to them and not, as I had hoped, a savour of life (2 Cor. 2:16). It was not the letter of life that I thought it could be. I struggled in my heart with God as to why He would have me write this letter and it not end in peace and reasonableness (Psa. 120:7; Mat. 10:34-36). Why had this happened? As I thought on the Deans' behavior, I asked the Lord, "Where is the fruit of the Spirit? How come they are not easy to be entreated? Where is the '*meekness of wisdom that is first pure, peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy*' (Gal.5:22; Jas. 3:13-17)? Why can't we just reason through the Scripture together (Isa. 1:18)?" **In the midst of asking many questions, I was led to ask one simple question: "Can these people honestly be saved?"** From that time forward, as I continued to engage the Deans, they seemed to only become more and more hostile, hardened, and offended at me and at the Word of God which I was set to build my life upon; but it is written, "charity...is not easily provoked" and, "great peace have they which love thy law: And nothing shall offend them" (1 Cor. 13:5; Psa. 119:165).

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

(2 Corinthians 2:14-17)

XI. The Power of the Tongue and the Hypocrisy of Sagemont

Since this unspeakable calamity began, by far the greatest grief has been the countless souls subverted and turned away from the truth because of the relentless intensity with which Karen Dean has increased her sin by way of lies, misrepresentations, slander, and calumnies, thrust upon this work of God; effectively marring the character, name, and reputation of not only my

family, but the Church of Wells, before a multitude. From the beginning, one of Satan's rules of deception has been, when you lie, lie big and often, and sooner or later the people will believe it. So has it been seen with my mother-in-law's behavior to the unutterable grief of my broken heart! *"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!"* (Jer. 9:1). I have been silent for over a year of this defamation (1 Pet. 2:23); I have not made one public statement of defense against her shameful behavior and outright lies. However, Solomon says there is *"A time to rend, and a time to sew; A time to keep silence, and a time to speak..."* (Ecc. 3:7). Therefore, *"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth"* (Isa. 62:1).

The lies of my wife's mother and her accomplices on the already-referred-to "Rick Ross Forum" have been so vulgar and vile that I do not have liberty of conscience to quote many of them in this testimony (though I had attempted to and was forbidden by the Lord). It is hard for me even to read them without being overwhelmed by vexation and grief of soul, due to their overtly heinous and murderous character. Such speech as has been consistent throughout over eighty posts, by Karen Dean, on this forum is truly a shame to Jesus Christ and all honest men. I will address some of my greatly deceived and to be pitied mother-in-law's dreadful words below and in the proceeding sections. While the following are just samples of the maliciousness of her gross misrepresentations, they do encompass and display the general spirit and nature of all her posts against us. I will forbear to mention the majority of her libels lest the reader be defiled.

She impudently lied on this public forum concerning the pastors at Sagemont and myself, stating,

"Hi Dottie and j.r.! Welcome to the group! Dottie, when some of our pastors tried to speak to my son-in-law, he refused. They usually cannot stand up against the truth. JR, my estimation would be 150-200. Hard to really tell. In January, we were told about 120. At my granddaughter's memorial service, there were maybe 65-70 of them there. This group is more about condemnation, having the elders approve your salvation (only they can determine if you are saved or not), losing your salvation...generally, things that do not line up with Scripture. They love taking things out of context to prove a point. Driving factor? I would say control. That's why they stress separation. If you disagree, then you are wrong."

This slanderous gossip blog was initially enflamed by Justin Southworth's mother (you can read Justin's testimony concerning his mother's (**justin07**) true character away from the computer screen here - [Justin's Testimony](#)).

It is a shame to hear, but Karen is one of the most outspoken on this blog against us. While she claims that she is standing firmly in the "TRUTH," this post, among the majority of her others,

is filled with boldfaced lies. She says that we (my church and I) cannot usually stand up against the truth?! I do not know what she is talking about. We are, by the grace of God, here with our Bibles in hand ready to give an account of the reason for the hope that is in us, in meekness and fear, to all that ask. Like I said, boldfaced lies. Is she an expert on the Church of Wells? She has hardly met anyone here and in many comments makes it seem to the reader like she knows everything about us. If she really wanted to know she could just ask, if she would be reasonable. She says this group is about condemnation and having the elders approve of one's salvation as they are the only ones that can. Well, we believe that Scripture teaches a man must see himself lost before he can be saved, condemned through the wages of sin which is death before he finds the mercy of God in Christ Jesus by grace through faith, but as far as condemnation in an unbiblical sense, I don't know what she is trying to say. Please read Romans 3:19-20; that is what we believe. The elders alone can approve of salvation? That is an outright lie! The Scripture alone and God's Holy Spirit alone can approve of one's salvation and we have never taught otherwise or believed anything different. O how sad to see the deadly power of the tongue in full effect against innocent lovers of Jesus Christ and his truth! Finally, she says our motivating factor is control - O my soul, where is she getting these things from?! Is control the reason that we have forsaken everything to bow the knee to Jesus Christ and let Him and His Word control our lives? Does that even make sense? Finally, she says we stress separation because we desire control. Is that why "*we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day*" (1 Cor. 3:13)? I'm not sure what separation she's speaking of - when we go out daily preaching to people, passing out literature to all that we can, open-air preaching to multitudes, inviting drug dealers to our weddings, preaching to the rich and poor at the risk of our very lives, and seeking for all men to be saved through a website that reaches throughout the world along with e-mails, phone calls, mission trips (even on our honeymoons), evangelistic campaigns, and many other means to reach the multitudes with the gospel of grace. Like I said, ridiculous and malicious lies to ruin our reputation and murder our name. May God have mercy.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." (Matthew 5:10-11)

As for the comment she made concerning my former pastors: I was never approached or contacted by any of my former pastors (she brazenly lied again). The truth is that I had an open office with a phone, work email, personal email, personal cell phone, and not a single staff member, or pastor, tried to call or talk with me about what was going on. No, not a single voicemail or email was left for me to answer. I was quietly exited without a stir. It was the strangest thing I had ever experienced as a Christian. I had served there for over ten years on staff, and there was not a single goodbye from anyone other than a few words from those I worked closely with. However, about three months later, I received a letter from my pastor on

church stationery stating how he had been “informed” by other members that I didn’t believe or interpret the Scripture as Sagemont Church did [Note the grievous hypocrisy: When I simply disagreed with Sagemont, they judged me wrong and revoked my minister’s license, without even hearing what I specifically disagreed with or why, nor will they hear me, though I have pled and do plead with them even now. Yet, Karen rails against our church in the post above saying, “If you disagree with them then you are wrong.” -Karen Dean (member of Sagemont church)]. He also said that he had heard from others that I was saying he and the other pastors preached and taught heresy. Honestly, I had not actually spoken outwardly against the church, though I did most certainly believe there to be heresies; for one, concerning the doctrine of eternal security. I had discussed the doctrine with a couple of members as the conversation seemed fitting but did not have it in me to denounce our pastor’s teachings. Though Dr. Morgan does teach damnable heresy (which I am willing to address with him, having even sent him a letter of entreaty which is still without response...), I at no time spoke evil of this man’s character or slandered him in any way. In fact, the Deans tried several times while I was still in Houston to get me to say something against pastor Morgan, but I would not. The letter that he sent me is the only thing I had heard from my pastor (who was the guardian and under shepherd over my soul that must give an account according to Scripture).

“The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.” (John 10:13–14)

“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord.” (Jeremiah 23:1–2)

In all the years I spent at Sagemont Church, I cannot recall a single time that pastor Morgan inquired regarding the state of my soul (Php. 2:20-21) - which may have been understandable in a church of this size, if I was simply a Sunday attendee now and again...but I had been serving the church on staff for ten years! I received this letter three months after I turned in my letter of resignation. And now, a year later, I will speak this to you dear reader; you must know that the Lord is grieved at the way the pastors involved handled my situation. My former pastor heard strong accusations about me, and I was never pursued for a proper hearing. I only received a regretful letter. To be a hearer of such strong accusations about someone you know and then not search the matter out, that is, taking time to talk and hear from the accused, especially someone of your own congregation, before judging, is unbiblical, unchristian, and unloving; to be a hearer of such strong accusations of a soul that is under your charge both spiritually and vocationally for ten years is far worse (Pro. 18:13,17; Mat. 18:15-17; Tit. 3:10 - even an heretick gets a first and second admonition; 1 Cor. 13:4-7 - love hopes and believes the best, not the worst, in these situations). Even our all-too-often unjust judicial system recognizes

the common decency to consider a defendant innocent until proven guilty. But fools answer a matter before they hear it, and a wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue (Pro. 18:13,17:4). So has been the shameful behavior of Sagemont and Karen Dean, whom I hear they have since promoted to a new staff position in the children's ministry?! Truly, I write these things not for my own cause or care for my name, but that the simple (ignorant) might not fall into the pit of this strange woman's mouth, and that the scorers might be saved.

“Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: And reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.” (Proverbs 19:25)

“The punishment of scorers will be a means of good to others. When men are so hardened in wickedness that they will not themselves be wrought upon by the severe methods that are used to reclaim and reform them, yet such methods must be used for the sake of others, that *they may hear and fear*, Deu. 19:20. If the *scorner* will not be recovered from his sin, the disease being inveterate, yet *the simple will beware* of venturing upon the sin which exposes men thus. If it cure not the infected, it may prevent the spreading of the infection. 2. The reproof of wise men will be a means of good to themselves. They need not be smitten; a word to the wise is enough. Do but *reprove one that has understanding and he will* so far understand himself and his own interest that he will *understand knowledge* by it, and not miss it again through ignorance and inadvertency when once he has been told of it; so kindly does he take reproof and so wisely improve it.” –Matthew Henry

XII. The Accepting of Gifts

In the midst of so many grieving things stated by Karen Dean on the worldwide web, I must expose the falsity of another representative statement that she made on this aforementioned forum. She said, **“My daughter, Kristin, and Dan drive a silver Chrysler Town and Country mini-van. I know that because we bought it for them...they gave back everything we have given them but that...selective, huh?”** This, among many other posts, betrays her motive to make us look like unloving, greedy, hypocritical, covetous users of material possessions, money, etc. Yet again, it is appalling to me how my mother-in-law so certainly declares such brazen-faced lies, seemingly without a conscience.

“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the Lord.” (Jeremiah 8:12)

As was already stated, the only things we gave back were those things pertaining to Disney. While still in Houston, after much deliberation and painful conversation, Ronnie Dean (Kristin's father) and I met together regarding this situation. He apologized for accusing us wrongly (about the van) and refused to take it back, so we kept the van; yet though Ronnie had apologized for this false allegation, to my dismay, Karen Dean made the above comment on the

“Rick Ross Forum” against me in reference to the same situation?! That said, in light of such inconsistent double standards, essentially what our conviction is, is that, we’re not accepting things from them while they are at odds with us - slandering us, making railing (unfounded) accusations against us such as calling us a cult, unwilling to be reasonable and talk through Scripture and repent of their sin toward us and God, etc. **I would conclude this section by letting the reader know that if my wife or I have done wrong, we want to know about it so that we can repent, because we are Christians; nevertheless, the things that the Deans have said are not Christian reproofs with a desire for reformation, repentance, and the glory of God, but unreasonable accusations and backbiting in the darkness of a secular forum, otherwise known as “railing” in the New Testament.**

“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”

(1 Corinthians 5:11–13)

“Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.” (Deuteronomy 16:19)

XIII. Righteous Judgment and the Rick A. Ross Cult Education Forum

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” (John 7:24)

“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.” (1 Corinthians 2:15)

“The simple believeth every word: But the prudent man looketh well to his going.” (Proverbs 14:15)

“It is folly to be credulous, to heed every flying report, to give ear to every man’s story, though ever so improbable, to take things upon trust from common fame, to depend upon every man’s profession of friendship and give credit to every one that will promise payment; those are *simple* who thus *believe every word*, forgetting that all men, in some sense, are liars in comparison with God, all whose words we are to believe with an implicit faith, for he cannot lie. **2. It is wisdom to be cautious: The prudent man will try before he trusts, will weigh both the credibility of the witness and the probability of the testimony, and then give judgment as the thing appears or suspend his judgment till it appears. Prove all things, and believe not every spirit.**”

—Matthew Henry

The Deans have said that they “do not believe that Christians have the right to judge other Christians,” despite the blessed calling of our Lord for righteous judgment. Since they have rejected the wisdom from above, they have been given over to a misjudgment by way of joining a “cult education forum” started by an expressly unconverted man, Rick Alan Ross. “*They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them*” (Pro. 28:4). While this forum professes to provide unbiased, professional “accurate research...to the public for assistance and educational purposes,” the unrighteous foundations of this so-called “educational forum” came to light as this avowed enemy of the “born-again movement” or Christian “fundamentalism” as he says it, quotes Carl Sagan, a well-known atheist, to head up his Mission Statement. Worse still, the embittered anti-Christian driving force of this forum becomes even more apparent in an article entitled, [Bigotry lurks in born-again Christian Doctrine](#); where founder and moderator Rick A. Ross sharply preaches against turning unbelievers to the Lord Jesus Christ through evangelism, while simultaneously promoting the doctrine of Universalism, as he comes against those who would have enough heartfelt conviction and love to attempt to “convert” someone from their unbiblical “faith” instead of “accepting them,” saying,

“Americans must confront the issue of religious bigotry. Inflammatory rhetoric and fraudulent proselytizers do not promote love and understanding. **The very concept of exclusive salvation, or a segregated neighborhood in the hereafter, should be purged from many religious doctrines.** Only then can we break down barriers of **intolerance** and eliminate the breeding grounds of bigotry. Americans must put aside discriminatory dogma and reach out to each other in **true acceptance. Not to convert each other, but to regard each fellow American's faith as valid and equal.**”

Here, Mr. Ross, whom the Deans are being “unequally yoked” together with through his forum, preaches that everyone should be tolerant and truly accepting of each other’s views, while at the same time saying those who hold to a biblical faith and view of heaven and hell should have their beliefs and doctrines utterly purged from America! If the grievous and double-dealing nature of this article was not bad enough, years later his overwhelming anti-Christian hypocrisy would go far beyond just words when the professedly tolerant, civil liberties seeking, Rick Ross would begin “involuntary case work.” In the personal “Biography” on his website he downplays this heinous “bigotry” and human degradation, which he frequented on multiple occasions, as though it simply “guaranteed an opportunity and adequate time to address family concerns.” One such appalling instance will suffice to show the true nature of this work and what Mr. Ross really means by “tolerance”. Being hired by a fretting mother for the second time, having already exercised this involuntary case work on two of her youngest boys, he and two other accomplices forcibly dragged her eighteen year old professing Christian son from their home, gagged and bound in handcuffs, to a van waiting to take him to an undisclosed location where he would be led, by a leash, to an already prepared “virtual prison” where they planned to keep him indefinitely and against his will, seeking to convert him from his Christian profession; or as they would call such brainwashing, involuntary deprogramming. Here is the

official account below according to Wikipedia via Phoenix New Times, Transaction Publishers, The Nation, and Scott v. Ross Nov.29 1995, etc:

To facilitate the deprogramming, Ross put together a two-man "security team". The three traveled to the grandmother's home, locked the two youngest children in the basement, and following several days of argument and lecturing, the boys gave up their Pentecostal beliefs. For deprogramming Jason, Ross demanded a larger fee, in view of the fact that he was powerfully built and legally an adult, increasing the risk of prosecution. Ross hired a karate black belt named Clark Rotroff to help with the operation. One evening, as Scott returned to the family residence, he was surprised by Ross's three associates, wrestled to the ground, and dragged into a waiting van. Scott struggled, but was held down and handcuffed by the three men, gagged with duct tape from ear to ear, and had his ankles tied with rope.

As he lay face down and with his cuffed hands beneath his body, one of the men, weighing 300 pounds, sat on top of his back. Scott's legs, upper body and back had sustained multiple bruises and abrasions from being dragged to the van across stairs, floors and a patio.

Scott was driven to a beach cottage, where the rope around his ankles was loosened sufficiently to enable him to make steps. Ross and his partners walked him into the house, one of the men leading him on a nylon leash, another holding his handcuffs. Ross and his partners had made the house a virtual prison; the windows were covered with thick nylon straps forming a mesh, to prevent escape. The two doors to the room where he was held were guarded. His captors also took his shoes and fitted the room with motion detectors. According to Shupe and Darnell's (2006) account of court testimony, Scott demanded that he be allowed to leave, and asked Ross whether he would try to make him change his religious beliefs. Ross was said to have replied that that was what he was paid to do. When Scott threatened Ross with criminal prosecution, Ross was said to have threatened Scott that he would handcuff him to the bed frame

Scott testified that he then endured five days of derogatory comments about himself, his beliefs, his girlfriend and his pastor, and diatribes by Ross about the ways in which Christianity and conservative Protestantism were wrong. He was intimidated, forced to watch videos on cults and told his church was just the same. He said he was watched 24 hours a day. On every visit to the bathroom, he was accompanied by at least two men. Every day, Ross argued with Scott about matters of religion, without giving him a chance to say anything in return, often tapping him or hitting him on the head to underscore his points while Scott was being restrained or closely watched. Scott was told that he would only regain his liberty once the deprogramming had been concluded successfully and he had given up his beliefs.

After four days, Scott began to pretend that he had changed his mind, feigning tears and remorse, in the hope that this would in due course give him a chance to escape. The final day of his imprisonment he spent watching films on New Age religions and channeling, even though neither are related to Pentecostalism. Scott's plan ultimately worked; Ross, pleased with the apparent success of the deprogramming session, proposed that they all went out to meet with Scott's family for a celebratory dinner. In the restaurant, Scott was allowed to go the restroom by himself; he ran out and called the police, who arrested Ross and his companions on suspicion of unlawful imprisonment. Initially, the charges were dismissed.

However, "In September 1995, a nine-member jury unanimously held the defendants liable for negligence and conspiracy to deprive Scott of his civil rights and religious liberties. In relation to the negligence charge, the jury attributed 70% of the total combined negligence to Ross, and 10% each to CAN and his two associates. In addition, the jury held the defendants, excluding CAN, liable for intentional infliction of emotional distress, finding they **"intentionally or recklessly acted in a way so outrageous in character and so extreme in degree as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency and to be regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community."**

Possibly the most unthinkable part of this whole nightmarish situation is that the Deans have accused us falsely based upon some elusive "hearsay", despite our word, and held us in great contempt for allegedly doing the very things that the Christ-hating Rick A. Ross has actually practiced! -without true remorse and still openly endorses to this day (substantially provable in public records). In other words, somehow the unfounded accusation of such like intolerant acts

causes the Deans to judge us as a devilish cult, but the actual deed which was punishable by nearly five million dollars in the court of law, is acceptable with Mr. Ross because he is a “cult expert?!” This is why the Scripture says “JUDGE NOT ACCORDING TO APPEARANCE, BUT JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT” (John 7:24). This is why I must earnestly ask my reader the question in light of such lunacy, **“Really...who is the cult?”**

“It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, To overthrow the righteous in judgment.”
(Proverbs 18:5)

“He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; Him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him: But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, And a good blessing shall come upon them.”
(Proverbs 24:24–25)

Though I forgive the Deans for their outright disrespect to my family and Church as they have ever judged us guilty without substantial evidence for any seeming mote that they can find, while at the same time respecting this man in conveniently avoiding massive evidence against him to the contrary as they joyfully embrace his secular so-called “accurate educational forum” for the sake of slandering our name exceedingly (*“He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, Even they both are abomination to the Lord”* [Pro. 17:15]), because of these things, I believe the Deans, who my wife and I love, pray for, and would gladly die for, to be perishing and on their way to hell unforgiven by Jesus Christ in the fury of his anger against such outright rebellion. As it says in the Scripture of those associating with the enemies of Jesus Christ, *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”* (2 Cor. 6:14–7:1).

“The simple believeth every word: But the prudent man looketh well to his going.”
(Proverbs 14:15)

XIV. The Deans' Visit

“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.” (3 John 11)

It is with great sorrow and heaviness of soul that I remember January of 2012, after we had moved to Grand Prairie, TX (just outside of Arlington). Kristin's parents contacted us for a visit. We invited them over in hopes that there would be some repentance and restoration to our marred relationship; but to our exceeding grief we found that they had no intentions of genuinely coming to the light concerning their sin against us (John 3:19-20). They told us of all the treasures they were laying up here on earth, and in the same breath how their “walk with God” was deepening, which is to say, how their hearts were more lifted to heaven's treasure. But how can this be? I know that Jesus said, *“Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.”* The Deans stood clearly condemned by the Word of God for their former railing upon us; they had been walking in darkness for over three months now, covering their sins, and all the while hiding hatred with lying lips. The Scripture says, *“He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; when he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart”* (Pro. 26:24-25). This was our experience as we saw flattery, deceit, lying, and bitterness escalate to rage, threats of violence and lawsuits all culminating in my in-laws declaring that they worship a different Jesus, as they turned away their ear from hearing God's Word or even talking about it.

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”
(Proverbs 28:9)

As they came into our home, they were acting friendly, as if there was never any rift between us. They hugged us, sat down, and made small talk about life back home at Sagemont and how they just bought some land and a home in San Antonio. Kristin and I were grieved and uncomfortable because we knew they were behaving as if the last few months had not happened. I gave pause several times in the conversation to allow them to take responsibility for their actions or say something, but nothing was said. The conversation became very sober when Kristin began to share a little of her testimony. She told them of how she had been a hypocrite and false convert and how the Word of God utterly condemned her; but it wasn't until she came to be in the midst of this honest and faithfully dealing church that she could see that she was never born again. Seemingly, they agreed with the need for her to know for sure if she was right with God. However, when I began to share the present danger that her soul was in and how she had really been hanging over hell all these years, their hatred began to surface. I went on to tell them how we were previously unable to help her because we were blinded by the false Christianity we had formerly been a part of in which many flatter with the tongue spreading a

net for their neighbor while the truth faileth in the streets all under the cloak of “not hurting anyone’s feelings.”

“He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.” (Proverbs 28:23)

“Flatterers may please those for a time who, upon second thoughts, will detest and despise them. If ever they come to be convinced of the evil of those sinful courses they were flattered in, and to be ashamed of the pride and vanity which were humoured and gratified by those flatteries, they will hate the fawning flatterers as having had an ill design upon them, and the fulsome flatteries as having had an ill effect upon them and become nauseous. 2. Reprovers may displease those at first who yet afterwards, when the passion is over and the bitter physic begins to work well, will love and respect them. He that deals faithfully with his friend, in telling him of his faults, though he may put him into some heat for the present, and perhaps have hard words, instead of thanks, for his pains, yet afterwards he will not only have the comfort in his own bosom of having done his duty, but he also whom he reproveth will acknowledge that it was a kindness, will entertain a high opinion of his wisdom and faithfulness, and look upon him as fit to be a friend. He that cries out against his surgeon for hurting him when he is searching his wound will yet pay him well, and thank him too, when he has cured it.”

-Matthew Henry

“Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: And let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil.”
(Psalm 141:5)

Their anger quickly escalated as I brought up the problem that was currently between us; namely, the rage, slander, and maligning that had come out of their hearts toward us, all the while speaking as if they were right with God; yet not wanting to confess their sin or even be transparent concerning the rift. I read from 1 John 1:3-7, which says, *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”*. It was obvious they were walking in darkness, not wanting to come to the light. They seemed to want to socialize about things and life back home, but this was not true biblical fellowship that pleases the Father and we feared their souls were in jeopardy. There was a war raging between us and they did not want to acknowledge it or go to the Bible for help.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)

At this point they became very angry again as I asked them why they were not seeking reconciliation by way of repentance. Karen said that they were intending to and then burst out by saying, "Here, I'm sorry! Are you satisfied?!" The most they admitted to was that they could have handled things a little differently back in Houston. Karen then quickly cut the conversation off by saying, "Can we see the kids now?!" I consented, and we all left our home to walk down the street where the children were staying for the afternoon. **Karen and Ronnie were visibly raging as we walked down the street together.** She asked if the kids received their Christmas presents they had mailed (against our wishes); we told them no, and that we wanted to give them back. She then began to question me if we were going to give everything back including the van. This was strange in light of the fact that I had already talked to Ronnie about that when we were in Houston. I tried to explain to her that we were simply not receiving any more gifts from them until they were willing to sit down with the Scripture and repent from their sin. I felt it was not right to play the fool and carry on with giving each other gifts pretending nothing was wrong in light of their railing. I told her that it was not our heart to return everything they had given us over the years, but rather seeking to obey the Lord and only return the gifts which were idolatrous according to Scripture.

"A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment."
(Proverbs 17:23)

"If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest."
(Proverbs 29:9)

When we arrived at Ryan's home where the kids were, they got to visit with the kids and take a few pictures. During this time, Ryan (my pastor) came out, desirous to meet and speak with the both of them; but only Karen was inside, and she was not only unwilling to have a requested meeting, but she was seemingly unwilling to look Ryan in the eyes or even hardly acknowledge his and his wife's presence (all without a cause). Meanwhile, I had agreed to go outside with Ronnie who had asked to talk. It did not get any better from there. **He still wanted to put the whole thing behind us even though it was at this point that he declared that we served a different Jesus.** While charity covers a multitude of sins, this was one that God would not pass over. For *"though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed"* (Gal. 1:8). In light of the gravity of this situation, he was unwilling to sit down and go over the Scripture to see who followed the true Jesus, saying, "I don't have time to sit down and look at a couple of verses for eight hours like you guys!" I told him how this puts a "great gulf fixed" (Luke 16:26) between us that I could not ignore, neither could I qualify their Jesus or their gospel as legitimate, seeing they were unable to measure him by the Word. I knew that the Scripture said, *"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto*

you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” (1 Cor. 5:9-11; see also 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 John 9-11). Therefore, I told him that this may be the last time we see each other if they are not willing to calm down, be reasonable, and examine these things in the Scripture. Never was this my heart, nor is it now; but I had never thought my in-laws could manifest such blatant rage without remorse either. Truly, *“I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war”* (Psalm. 120:7).

“A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” (Titus 3:10-11)

He could not understand me as I tried to tell him how confusing it would be for me to allow my children to believe that their grandparent’s conversation was *“becoming of the gospel”* (Php. 1:27), especially since he now declared that we follow a different Christ. Therefore, since they were unwilling to repent and had repeatedly displayed that they had no control over themselves or their temper, no respect for my wife or me, and were altogether unwilling to even hear the Scripture, they would not be allowed to be alone with the children, as they would only live and teach them a false Christianity with a Jesus which not only cannot save people from their sins, but condones them when they willfully do. Further, they would give the children cause to disrespect their God-given parents, which they often did before the children’s eyes. **It is a shame, the things they have said and done in the name of Christ towards true Christians who were seeking to raise their children up in the ways of the Lord! I had to take a stand for the true Jesus Christ who commanded righteous judgment and never gave mercy without truth, or peace without righteousness, lest my children grow up thinking that without holiness they would see the Lord (Psa. 85:10; Heb. 12:14). Lest my children grow up following the devil under the unbiblical and hypocritical heresy that we are not supposed to judge between right and wrong according to Scripture. I will be held accountable by God for my wife and children; therefore, I cannot favor false familial peace and deny the Lord that bought me with His blood.**

They became so furious and unable to hear that I never got a chance to further explain these things to them. This has been the pattern of all of our meetings with the Deans this last year. They become unreasonable and irate with anger, making it seemingly impossible to peaceably speak through Scripture. **While I was still in the yard with Ronnie, everything came to a head as Karen came out and heard what was going on, immediately threatening to “sue for grandparent rights”. I told her that it was not Biblical for her to act in such a way (1 Cor. 6:1). She seemed not to care, expressing how she was going to call a lawyer when she got home. Ronnie got a few inches from my face with such anger that he was red and trembling. I thought he was about to punch me. As Karen looked on she began to shout to him in an encouraging manner, “Don’t you back down Ronnie!” The whole thing was a**

shame and grief to behold as they just suddenly walked away to their car. I was so burdened because of their outburst of anger, their declaration of serving a different Jesus, and now the way they were so rudely departing from us, that I began to preach to them in the open air to look to the Scripture, to turn from their false Jesus and turn to the true and holy Jesus Christ. Ronnie just mocked and shouted back, “Say it louder, I can’t hear you!”

O my soul! It is hard to believe that such behavior can happen in the heathen and much more the professing Christian world. In light of these events, I ask you to carefully consider the following quote of some of the hypocritical slander that Karen Dean is posting against us and my church online...and ask yourself, **“Who does this really describe?”**

“...they were aggressive and confrontational. Loved getting in your face and telling you you were going to hell.” - Karen Dean

XV. O Boundless Salvation

One of the most immediate and pressing reasons for my resignation from Sagemont and move to the Church of Arlington was for the sake of my wife Kristin, who was presently on her way to hell and blinded by the false Christianity she had always known. You see, for some time I was concerned for her soul. Not so much for what are commonly called the sins of commission (outward, blatant sins that can be detected easily, like adultery, drunkenness, lying, etc.), but for what was really lacking in her Christian profession, heart-holiness. I was vexed many times with whether or not Jesus Christ was really the chief delight and desire of her soul; whether she really loved the Lord with all her heart. I would ask myself, “Had she ever really been crucified with Christ? Had she ever striven to enter in at the strait gate (Luke 13:23-24)? Had she really forsaken all to follow the Lord (Luke 14:33; Gal. 2:20, 5:24)? Could she say with the apostle Paul, “*God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world*” (Gal. 6:14)?”

You see, the Scripture says salvation is of the Lord, and God “*hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us*” (Acts 17:26-27). Sagemont, however, would call this works-based salvation; that is, to seek the Lord until He comes and rains righteousness upon you (Hos. 10:12; Isa. 55:1-7; Luke 13:23-30). That being the case, I fear if the pastors of Sagemont Church had been entreated by the Canaanite woman with her exceeding importunity, for the deliverance of her demonized daughter, they would have sent her home after the first plea (Mat. 15:21-28); or had they been with blind Bartimeaus who was begging God for mercy

by the wayside, they would have been among those charging him to hold his peace after his first cry, assuring him that he had been given sight while he was yet unable to see (Mark 10:46-52).

I know this from experience, having witnessed the Lord convince a certain young man from Sagemont of his lost estate as he realized that he had never been born again. He was sharing his personal testimony, his mouth suddenly stopped, his profession crumbled before all, as he brought to the light his slavery to certain damnable sins (1 Cor. 6:9-10). The Christian brethren I was with, then preached to him the gospel of Scripture that he seemed to have never heard and as *“the secrets of his heart were made manifest; he fell down on his face worshipping God, and declaring that God was in us of a truth”* (1 Cor. 14:25). He knew that no man could speak like that and thanked us repeatedly. He then left purposing in his heart to seek God to be saved, according to Scripture (armed with our phone numbers and instruction to call us for help). He went home to his parents, who quickly began to oppose what was happening to him, speaking false peace, and strengthening the hands of presumption in this wicked man by promising him life when the Scripture warned of death (Eze.13:10, 22).

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Romans 16:17-18)

I speak this as an example, yet this is not just a story to prove a point. These are real people I speak of, precious souls that are under a strong delusion masquerading itself as Christianity. False conversions run like a raging river from generation to generation, and God hates it! *“Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance”* (Psalm 106:40). Where I came from, most ministers I knew would quickly get a concerned person to repeat the sinner’s prayer and welcome them into the Kingdom of God without any consideration as to whether God had welcomed them in or not, or if there was godly sorrow and true repentance. *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter”* (2 Corinthians 7:10-11). Truly, for the most part, nothing happened but an intellectual assent to “believing in Jesus,” while continuing in sin (1 John 3:9). This is the type of “salvation” my wife received there at Sagemont Church, and like I said before, that was one of the most immediately pressing reasons for my resignation.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” (James 2:19)

“Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.” (Proverbs 9:6)

When we left Sagemont for Arlington to join this blessed Church, my wife sought the Lord for over sixty days until He came and rained His righteousness down upon her (Hos. 10:12). Not wanting to be presumptuous, she would not settle for anything less than God’s work, done God’s way – namely, a born again new heart confirmed by the Word of God! The elders and preachers and sisters from the church would faithfully preach to her the truth of God’s Word as much as the Spirit led. They would come over with a burden from the Lord and preach, share testimonies, bring food, and even watch the children as much as needed so that she could devote herself to seeking God with all her heart, distraction free. They preached with the Spirit and with power, not with the enticing words of man’s wisdom, as she was accustomed to. Literally, all she did for over sixty days was seek Him. She set out on a journey much like Christian in the book “Pilgrim’s Progress” by John Bunyan. She had the burden of sin upon her back and did not stop traveling until God lifted the burden and gave her His Spirit! O, boundless salvation indeed!

*“O boundless salvation, deep ocean of love!
O fullness of mercy Christ brought from above,
The whole world redeeming, so rich and so free,
Now flowing for all men, now flowing for all men,
Now flowing for all men - Come roll over me!”*

*O sinful soul, a wretch indeed, an enemy of God in desperate need
So foolish and darkened was I, blinded by false doctrines and pride
Unwilling to turn or have this man reign, but boundless salvation did my Lord ordain.
When dead in my sins, transgressions, and lust, unable to repent or do what I must
But then O how sweet the word of faith came, it entered my heart and I was never the same
It was well with my soul, for the Saviour made me whole
Blessed assurance and joy divine, a heart of flesh now fully resigned
To live or to die, remain or depart, my life’s in His hands, His love’s in my heart
Now through the strait gate toward Calvary I went, to follow my Lord to spend and be spent*

The ministry of leading a soul to the strait gate was so foreign to the people back in Houston that when they heard about it they were either confused, outraged, or both, just as those in the Pilgrim’s Progress residing in the city of destruction were ridiculing, slandering, and railing against Pilgrim as he fled for his life at the words of the evangelist. Even so it was with Kristin as she fled to the City of Refuge, the mighty Cross, that tremendous lies were spread by way of her mother and Gina Warren, going so far as to say that Kristin was locked in her room and not allowed to see her children because she was demon-possessed! This was yet another outlandish

and heartbreaking slander; the truth is, she saw her children every day, with freedom to move about as she desired, nor did we ever tell her she was demon-possessed. Nevertheless, Kristin pressed on “*until the day dawned and the day star arose in her heart*” (2 Pet. 1:19). Some might be offended at how long it took for her to be saved, but much of those sixty days were not spent seeking the Lord for salvation but rather, through the written Word of God, rooting out, pulling down, and plucking up the false foundation of sand that was laid by Sagemont (Jer. 1:10, 18:7). (Kristin’s Testimony Link Coming Soon)

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” (Matthew 7:24–27)

XVI. On Sinking Sand: Sagemont and the Modern Mega-church Movement

Where we came from, that is to say, our former lukewarm pasture where we grazed on the withered grass of easy-believism, “at ease,” cross-less Christianity is commonplace and practiced by most. Many of the newer foundations of leadership that uphold Sagemont Church are no longer built upon the Word of God, but rather on popular mega-church leaders who have embraced heresies springing from Americanized church polity such as easy-believism. **They have exchanged the saving truths of the gospel for a seeker-friendly message that won’t offend those who still love their sin. If atheism “hath slain its thousands” then the easy-believism gospel “hath slain its ten thousands;” all in the name of “effective” evangelism and socially acceptable methods of reaching the world.**

On many occasions, some of the church staff, including myself, was sent to conferences to sit at the feet of Willow Creek and Saddleback Community Church’s pastors, Bill Hybel and Rick Warren (author of *The Purpose Driven Life*). These men unashamedly embrace religious pluralism, worldly wisdom, and pragmatism, to “reach” the masses in quantity regardless of the quality of God’s pure methods. In fact, both of these pastors and their supposedly “biblical” ideas strongly influence the infrastructure, vision, and governance of not only Sagemont, but nearly every post-modern church. **Sadly, these professing pastors were both intimately shaped and mentored by Peter Drucker, the corporate business management guru who is a self-proclaimed unregenerate man!** This infamous businessman’s lost soul perished when it was required by God in 2005; his purpose driven ideas, however, did not. He promoted the mega-church movement of America mainly because, as a social economist, he sought for a non-economically free and equal utopian society to overcome totalitarian fascism; and in religion he

found just that - a positive means with the potential to make people feel that they were a part of a *community* where they could find *purpose* and therefore be more productive in the rest of their lives. **Yet, his ideas for the church had no concern for the multitudes of hell-bound sinners perishing without a born-again reconciliation to an offended God! He thought nothing of the massive soul-slaughtering disease of a nation without the biblical gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ - which alone can set men free! Like he openly stated in an interview, he was not even a born-again man; and therefore, in his so-called “wisdom”, the cross of our blessed Redeemer and His atoning blood simply have no place!**

Reader, why would the Lord desire such a foundation for the church as opposed to His written Word? This is not the wisdom from above which the Lord Jesus taught his disciples, whom the carnal, unsaved world considered “*unlearned and ignorant*” fisherman; and this, even after three years of learning His ways. Has He changed his methods today? - Has God really adopted the unscriptural intellectualism of a secularly renowned worldly-wise corporate guru? This is certainly not a biblical bedrock to build a church upon and this is surely not the Lord’s doing. Therefore, please consider the following scriptures:

“If the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3)

“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.” (1 Corinthians 3:18–19)

These principles practiced by Sagemont, which were embraced by the upper staff, trickled down the tier of leadership. But the Scripture says, “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful*” (Psa. 1:1). Such worldly influence and unholy foundations as these have created the type of false church system and false gospel at Sagemont, and beyond, which has affected multitudes, including the Deans. **It is probably one of the most tragic and deceptive spiritual genocides in the history of the world, a calamity of the ages, upholding much of the form of fundamental orthodoxy - all the while removing the saving power of the Cross by embracing the devilish deception of worldly wisdom (1 Cor. 1:19–21; Jas. 3:15–16). O! The countless souls that have perished in this modern-day famine of hearing the true Word of God; thousands upon thousands upon tens of thousands have entered into a dark eternity trusting in a lie, expecting to hear “well done”, only to find the shocking judgment of an Holy God, “depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels...I never knew you” (Matt 25:41; 7:23).**

“Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests

bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jeremiah 5:29–31)

Speaking “*peace, peace; when there is no peace*” (Jer. 6:14), these mega-churches have become synagogues of Satan, drunk on unregenerate baptisms (Rev. 3:9), glorying in their shame as the community awards them for being the business of the year, rich and increased with goods (Rev. 3:17-18). As I said before, it is Christianity without a cross for the individual. It is a grief of soul that attracts the masses through the lusts of the flesh, yet cannot save the people from their sin, because Christ is only there in profession but not in authority, power, and absolute possession.

“A true witness delivereth souls: But a deceitful witness speaketh lies.” (Proverbs 14:25)

The Scripture says that in the last days there will be a great falling away where men will have a “*form of godliness but deny the power thereof.*” They will be “*lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God!*” And O! how that describes our generation today, a group of people who go to church and get involved in Bible studies, prayer meetings, and church outreaches, but they love the world so much more. They will wait six hours for an Aggies football game, or be in desperate earnest for the next epic three-hour movie, rejoicing with pure delight and satisfaction just to look upon it. Yet, they have never found such pleasure and joy waiting upon God in their prayer closet; or had such earnest longings to get away and have three or four hours before God’s Word. They went down to a connection room, or made a decision at the altar of a modern day Americanized church, but they never bowed the knee to the Lordship of Christ. They agreed with the business offer, signed the dotted line in their Bibles, agreed with the terms, and became a member of the easy-believism gospel community - but worldly wisdom made the cross of Christ of no salvific effect; and left them as nothing more than a member of this one-world-order sect. My sorrow can only be expressed by the words of the Psalmist. “*Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law*” (Psa. 119:136).

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46)

XVII. Hypocritical Judgment: “You’re Saved, They Can’t Judge Your Salvation”

“It is the hypocrite who is afraid of the truth which tests his profession of faith: he dreads trying discourses and trying meditations. But the genuine man wants to know for certain that he really does love Christ. Therefore he looks within himself and questions and cross-questions himself.”

- Charles Spurgeon, Spiritual Parenting

“It’s gotten worse, the elders have approved her [Kristin’s] salvation.” The pervading hypocrisy displayed by the Deans intensified here on this Facebook post by Mrs. Dean. This, along with text messages such as “you’re saved, they can’t judge your salvation,” encapsulates one of their greatest controversies with the Word of God and consequentially with my family, the Church of Wells, and truly all Christians that are trying to build their lives around the Bible by judging right and wrong according to, “IT IS WRITTEN.” For instance, the Deans disagree with the Apostle John in that they believe one cannot know if someone is truly saved or not, therefore, no one (even church leaders, i.e. Bishops, Pastors, Elders) can fulfill the command to “*try the spirits whether they are of God*” [which is to make a clear judgment on the spirit, Gospel and Christ of a person’s profession; “*to know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error*” (1 John 4:1,6; 2 Cor. 11:4).]

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

Yet, despite the Deans’ professed battle cry, “quit judging people, you don’t know their heart,” they are clearly judging Kristin’s salvation and heart, believing her to have been saved contrary to Kristin’s personal testimony, the fruit of her life, the testimony of the Scripture, and the witness of godly men prior to her ever coming to the Church of Wells! God is furious with this type of hypocrisy, “[religious men] who hate judgment and judge those who judge by telling them not to judge. These persecutors hold the judges accountable by judging in order to disannul and destroy righteous judgment with peace to the wicked. God has seen it!” (S. Morris, *The Doctrine of Judgment.*)

They only quote Matthew 7:1, “Judge not, that ye be not judged” - in an effort to support their contradicting belief, all the while ignoring the Lord’s teaching of righteous judgment found in the overall context of Matthew 7:1-5, “*Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.*”

The Deans and many professing Christians today are snared by this hypocrisy. Judgment is absolutely necessary even to become a Christian, let alone to walk as one. A man or woman cannot be saved without judging that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no man can come to the Father except through Him, nor can they evangelize without judging the person they are speaking to. I’m sure that no one would say that Adolf Hitler was saved, though he professed to be a Christian, because they have righteously judged his fruit. The fact of the matter is that we judge people’s salvations every day; when we meet a Muslim or a Buddhist and begin to pray that God would save them, we are judging their heart by their

deeds and saying they are condemned because they are not saved! **The question is not should we judge, but how should we judge? Not, is someone condemning you, but does the Word of God condemn you? This is the heart of Matthew 7; it would not be loving for me to see my brother condemned by God's written judgments and allow him to continue on blinded by the mote in his eye.** *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (John 12:48). If I saw that a hurricane was surely on its way to hit my hometown, would it be unloving for me to warn my neighbors that they are going to be hit by it if they don't evacuate? Would anyone accuse me of judging them? No, rather they would heartily thank me for warning them of this impending destruction and for saving their lives. Yet, a more terrible tempest of God's wrath is coming, and God, who cannot lie, has declared in His Holy Word exactly where it will hit, and those who will be everlastingly slain by it... but carnal men don't believe that God will judge sin, and sinners, and therefore they are offended when saints declare the judgment written.

"To execute upon them the judgment written: This honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD." (Psalm 149:9)

Therefore, we must "cast out the mote" from our brother's eye, but we must see to it that we are executing the same severity of judgment upon ourselves first. *"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged"*, and, *"if thy right eye offend thee pluck it out"* (1 Cor. 11:31, Mat. 5:29). To such a man who is obeying this command to judge himself in plucking out his own eye, he has the right and obligation to cast out the mote from his brother's eye. *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"* (Gal. 6:1). The Bible tells us that the carnal mind will not be subject to this *"law of God, neither indeed can be; for the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man"* (Rom. 8:7; 1 Cor. 2:14-15).

The sad thing about this is that if the Deans were willing to do righteous judgment, Kristin might not have continued under a strong delusion for all those years. Instead, the Deans only want what is carnally best for Kristin, not what is best for her soul; that is, God's perfect will based upon God's infallible judgment in the true Christian worldview, SCRIPTURE. They would rather have her deny the recent work of God upon her soul, her very own salvation, and return to the vomit of her old life when she was lost and going to hell, than *"execute the judgment written"*. In their blindness they can't see, nor care to see, the work of an holy Jesus Christ in her life. To them, blood family being together is the most important thing in the world (familial idolatry). They can't see that the real Jesus Christ has come into Kristin's life Who deserves absolute obedience and allegiance by way of His Word; they believe in a "god of love at the expense of truth", therefore the love they know is merely a carnal love blinded to

both eternity and the biblical loving ways of Christ in righteous judgment (John 7:24; Jer. 22:16).

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” (Matthew 12:34–37)

I could speak more on this doctrine but believe it to be expedient for you, the reader, to click on this link for a thorough study of righteous judgment based on Scripture: ([The Doctrine of Judgment](#)). Because of the Deans' rejection of this Jesus, He has brought judgment between us by way of division just like He said. *“For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it”* (Mat. 10:35–39). O! I pray my family-in-law repents of their hypocritical judgment and ill-intentioned slander before it is too late. May the Lord have mercy!

“The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”
(Isaiah 33:14)

XVIII. Faith Shalom Pursley

On May 23, 2012 my sweet baby Faith was born into my hands. She was a beautiful baby girl, 8.6 lbs and 19.5 inches long. She looked just like our other children when they were babies, seemingly healthy with a full head of black hair. Sadly, she died three days later with what the autopsy deemed to be pulmonary valve stenosis, which is considered to be a rare disorder that occurs when the unborn baby is developing. Without us realizing what was going on inside her little body, one of her heart valves closed in on her, causing her to slip away from us in a matter of only a few minutes. I was holding her in my hands and tried to revive her, but there was nothing I could do to keep her here. We do believe that she went to be with the Lord and soon we will see her again. It was hard to believe that she was really gone, but we knew that there had been those who had *“received their dead raised to life again”* by faith not only in biblical history but also in extra-biblical church history; and that if God so desired, He could hear our prayers and raise her from the dead as well. So we called on the elders of our church to pray, as we sought the Lord with prayer and fasting as a corporate body. What transpired over the next

twelve plus hours became the center of controversy for the small town of Wells, TX and beyond.

The media quickly became involved and wrote articles and produced news reports, not only about baby Faith, but also about our church here in Wells. Shortly after the news reports were out, Karen Dean did the unthinkable: she posted them on her Facebook wall stirring up everyone to watch and read in a most hurtful manner. Based on her comments, it was reasonable to think that she was trying to shame and vilify us that she might continue her false message that we are a cult - while she justifies her long standing sin against us and the Lord.

On June 1st, at Faith's memorial service, we felt burdened that the Lord would have us be transparent about our church's sins before God and speak openly concerning the many lies told by Kristin's parents (and some, in a lesser degree, by others), particularly for the sake of certain guests and family members that had come with them. One of our pastors preached and entreated the attendees to sit down with us at the reception and reasonably talk with us, be willing to ask us anything, and go through the Scripture. We truly were an open book and hoping that the Lord would be glorified in an atmosphere of truth and peaceableness, which we followed. *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men"* (Rom. 12:17-18). However, no one from the Dean family was willing to take us up on the offer. After the service, Karen openly criminalized Kristin in front of witnesses, saying, "You killed your baby!" We were shocked at her words; her heart was manifesting such deep bitterness, again. The service was powerfully owned of God, and no, it was not a typical memorial service, but the circumstances were highly unusual. There had been grievous slander, lies, and gossip going on for over seven months and it was only intensifying. Would it be profitable for us to ignore the huge issues and part ways after the service? Would it have been best to merely say, "Why can't we just get along?" The Scripture says, *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"* (Amos 3:3) The answer is: no. This may have been the only time some of the slanderers and the Church of Wells would ever come together in the same room. Therefore, I believe we needed to humble ourselves and acknowledge our sins against the Lord, answer some of the slanderous lies, and call the liars to confess their sins against God and us as well, and repent.

Contrary to our hopes, no one in Kristin's family seemed to want to come together in the light of truth, especially Ronnie and Karen. The Spirit of God was there because truth was there, and the Lord loves that because He is the Truth, but He was not obeyed. The Scripture says, *"Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other"* (Psa. 85:10). Truly, God's ways are not our ways. Many with carnal reasoning might say we should have sought more mercy and peace without being so "condemning"; but wisdom is justified by her children, and the world hated Christ because He was a Light in a world of darkness that would not hide truth in his heart, and neither could we. If we were seeking to be most effective by the eyes of

sight, then we would not be the servants of Christ (Gal. 1:10). Thus my pastor endeavored to publicly address some of the known unrepentant slander of the Deans (primarily). Again, the situation must be looked at in context of our dealings with the Deans over the last several months (which has been described through this whole document), with a single eye only to please the Lord. I truly believe the Lord was striving with the Deans, no longer through me but through Pastor Sean as he preached. It was a total grief to see what I believe to be the Deans resisting and rejecting the Holy Spirit who was seeking to do a mighty work. If you so desire, you may listen to the memorial service by accessing this link: ([Faith Pursley Memorial Sermon](#))

Since then, Karen has become one of the chief public slanderers of our church, deeply despising us, and the Word of God that we hold to. In light of the vast amount of known malicious lies she has published, it is hard to even comprehend how much defamation is happening in secret. At one point she even called the parent of another church member, someone she had never met, and tried to sway this person to believe that their daughter would cut them off. When this parent didn't agree with her, Karen became irate and said, "But they killed their baby!" The parent (who is a medical doctor and aware of Faith's death) was appalled at Karen's accusation. **Aside from the medically unfounded murderous accusations, the doctor was thankfully able to see Karen's unreasonableness and bitterness, and quickly ended the conversation.** Also, please note that this argument by Karen that we "cut them off" is not true. She tried to use it to persuade this parent, but to no avail, praise God! But sadly, this is not always the case. If one understands the context of what Karen has been like for the last year, a reasonable person can quickly see that we have not "cut them off" in an unrighteous way like she portrays; rather they have cut themselves off by treating us as less than human for our desire to honestly obey God's Word, without any true apology or repentance to this day. **What more could be done?** (See this document concerning "cutting off family")

The reality is that the Deans are professing Christians, yet their fruit proves otherwise, according to Scripture. I have known the Deans now for about ten years and have known them to have a small form of religion but never could I testify that Christ lives in them of a truth. Never have they displayed a passion for Jesus Christ in their speech nor their lifestyle. I have never seen them burn with holy fervency to speak of the things of God. I have never seen them weep for lost souls or even speak about them. I have never seen them share the gospel, not once. I have never witnessed any desire in them to pray together as a family other than the blessing over the meal. As professing Christians, their lives have been altogether apathetic and complacent concerning the command and call of Jesus Christ. This last year, since I have taken a stand and left false Christianity, they have suddenly become zealous for the "Truth", thanking us, saying that the last year has caused them to at least read their Bibles more. What has really happened is that God has manifested the true condition of their heart by touching their idols, and instead of repenting in dust and ashes, until the Lord saves them by a sovereign work of redeeming grace, they have hidden behind more tightly woven fig leaves of their false

profession and taken out their hatred of God upon His ambassadors. They are offering up sacrifices of Bible studies and morning devotionals with renewed zeal without knowledge (in the flesh), instead of a broken and contrite spirit and a heart that trembles at His Word. What is showing within them now is darkness rather than light, death rather than life. They have been prideful people unwilling to come to the light of God's Word about their sins. They have continued to call us a cult on the Internet unfoundedly, lock arms with those that do, regardless of who they are (whether a professing Christian or not), and are unrepentant about their wrong and hurtful comments regarding our daughter's death, all to this day.

“Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: and call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldst take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; Thou slanderest thine own mother's son. These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: But I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver. Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.” (Psalm 50:14–23)

“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” (Psalm 2:12)

Kristin's dad has been texting us for the last several months, stating how much he and Karen love us, but they are still actively slandering and lying about us behind our backs (1 John 2:4,9). *“Brethren, these things ought not be.”* Yet they can't understand why we have not had liberty to have a relationship with them at this time?! Their hypocrisy has become nearly unbearable. We do love them and pray every day for their salvation. As I have said multiple times before in this document, **MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Psalm 35

A Psalm of David.

1 Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me:

Fight against them that fight against me.

2 Take hold of shield and buckler,

And stand up for mine help.

3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me:

Say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

4 Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul:

Let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.

*5 Let them be as chaff before the wind:
And let the angel of the LORD chase them.*

*6 Let their way be dark and slippery:
And let the angel of the LORD persecute them.*

*7 For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit,
Which without cause they have digged for my soul.*

*8 Let destruction come upon him at unawares;
And let his net that he hath hid catch himself:
Into that very destruction let him fall.*

*9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD:
It shall rejoice in his salvation.*

*10 All my bones shall say,
LORD, Who is like unto thee,
Which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him,
Yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?*

*11 False witnesses did rise up;
They laid to my charge things that I knew not.*

*12 They rewarded me evil for good
To the spoiling of my soul.*

*13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth:
I humbled my soul with fasting;
And my prayer returned into mine own bosom.*

*14 I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother:
I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.*

*15 But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together:
Yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not;
They did tear me, and ceased not:*

*16 With hypocritical mockers in feasts,
They gnashed upon me with their teeth.*

*17 Lord, how long wilt thou look on?
Rescue my soul from their destructions,
My darling from the lions.*

*18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation:
I will praise thee among much people.*

*19 Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me:
Neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.*

*20 For they speak not peace:
But they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.*

21 Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me,

And said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.
22 *This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence:*
O Lord, be not far from me.
23 *Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment,*
Even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.
24 *Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness;*
And let them not rejoice over me.
25 *Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it:*
Let them not say, We have swallowed him up.
26 *Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt:*
Let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.
27 *Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause:*
Yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified,
Which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.
28 *And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness*
And of thy praise all the day long.

A Poetic Conclusion to the Reader

Salvation was brought to this earth by a cross and worldly rejection. (Luke 9:22, Isa. 53:3)
Not a painless compromise of demonic genuflection (Mat. 4:9)
Christ was born to be hated, a stone of stumbling and man of strife (Isa. 8:14; 15:10)
To show forth God's kingdom and reign by the power of an endless life (Heb. 7:16)
To be the Light in a world of darkness and sin (John 9:5)
To testify that men's deeds were evil without and within (John 7:7)
To preach no easy-believism saying, (John 6:60-65)
No devilish repeat after me praying, (Mat. 6:7)
He called for a man to yield to condemnation (John 6:53, John 3:19-21)
And pass sentence upon himself with no amalgamation (Luke 23:40-2)
Death to his flesh and all he ever willed (Rom. 8:13, 1 Pet. 4:2)
Embracing a cross by which all his lusts were killed (Gal. 5:24, 6:14, Luke 9:23)
A continual dying to all this world's pleasure (1 John 2:15-7, 1 Pet. 4:2)
To be the most miserable of men by all carnal measure (1 Cor. 15:19)
Paul's ways were in Christ, hated of all men for His sake (Mat. 10:22)
Entire churches, cities, and countries wide, this narrow way could not take. (1 Cor. 4:13)
We can be "Christians," said they "and reign as kings," (1 Cor. 4:8-16)
Be wise in this world to win it, and have nice things. (1 Cor. 3:18; 4:10)
Yes Jesus suffered scorn and was cast out as evil
Hated by the most popular pastors and said to have a devil (Mat. 9:34; 12:24)

But this is a different time and things have changed (Ecc. 1:9)
Society has evolved and men's hearts have rearranged
When Jesus had a crowd He'd preach hard sayings and turn them away
We've built bigger barns, widened our gates, and broadened our way
Yes the Holy Ghost used to add to the church's numbers by wondrous works and His great power
But now we use these "tools" to help, and entertain them for an hour
And even though they love their life and don't want to leave their sin
We invite them down to our connection room where they can ask Jesus to come in
And though in truth they aren't made new, to all their sin they're still a slave
We tell them that the work is done, now all that's left is to behave
Submitting to Christ as Lord and forsaking all is legalistic
The free grace gospel and sinner's prayer brings a much better statistic
No one is being freed from their sin, but that's okay
It means something different in the Greek when Christ said it's a narrow way
If we want to see souls saved and our Savior's kingdom advance
We have to avoid offensive topics and make the gospel attractive at a glance (1 Cor. 1:17-24)
We need fast food churches to cause our members to stay
Three different types of services so everyone can "have it your way"
Instead of telling men to repent of their idolatrous pleasure and play
We try to outdo the world and tell them they can have just as much fun with us that day
Instead of building God's house on Christ, the Rock of Ages
We've built our church with rock and roll and drawn them in with well lit stages
We've built it up with speeches fair and worldly wise business meetings
We're no longer kneeling as a house of prayer, but at least we've got stadium seatings.
Though no one is being delivered over to death or bearing the marks of the Lord Jesus in truth
Through one of "America's most rock and roll families" we've got the whole world watching... isn't that living proof?
After all we can show the love of God a different way than did the Great I am
We don't have to be a suffering servant or a led to the slaughter lamb.
We must not preach the cost of forsaking all or leaving this world to follow Him (Php.3:18-19)
We'll make that an option for those zealous few, and say the rest still make it in
"Of course we're saved! We believe in the death, burial, and resurrection,
Though its power is a thing of the past we've moved on to "perfection" (2 Tim. 2:18)
Healing the sick, casting out devils and turning the world upside down (Mark 16:15-8, Acts 17:6)
Is a thing that happened then but it's certainly not for now (2 Tim. 3:1-5)
Otherwise we'd be ashamed when we read the Gospels or the book of Acts
We'd be compelled to repent and seek God; no longer able to relax (Amos 6:1)

And since we don't have God's power we'll use worldly wisdom and carnal reason for proof (1 Cor. 1:17-21; 2:1-5)
Which should do just fine; after all, isn't "all truth God's truth?" (John 17:17, Eph. 4:21)
Yes Jesus, Paul, and Peter, yea, every true prophet of old
Was an offscouring to the whole earth and a wonder to behold (1 Cor. 4:13-6)
But we are following Christ too, though we don't pray or love His word, and we haven't left our sin (Tit. 1:16)
We are saved by grace, and our pastor told us "if heaven ain't a gift, I'm not makin' it in." (Jude 4)
They have lifted up the metal cross, but have fallen head long,
And they sing to "a Jesus" in every Sunday song.
The whited Cross is high, lifted to the sky,
But they are unwilling to take it up, get on it, or die (Gal. 2:20).
It reaches to the heavens
But it is their sky-high affection of leaven,
And had their affections resided higher
They would grind this idol to the mire (Col. 3:1-3).
They ought to lift up their head to Jesus, at the right Hand on High,
But they lift up their eyes to this sky-high idol-lie.
They light it up in the night, but they aren't awake or bright.
They glory in this great sight, but they have left off the soldiers fight (2 Tim. 2:3-4).
Karen Dean has her conscience seared against a God that is to be feared.
And because of her "Church-ianity" she believes accountability is weird.
Sit down before the word of God?
I already said my morning hello and gave Him a nod.
My pastor tells me no different,
I have liberty to be indifferent.
Who are you anyway?
Sagemont tells me I'm ok...

Helpful Resources Found Within This Testimony

The following resources are hyperlinks found throughout the body of this testimony. They will only be accessible to those viewing this document in a digital format with an internet connection. I encourage you to click on these links.

[The Doctrine of Judgment](#)

This document was written by Sean Morris. It is a thorough Biblical explanation and teaching on the doctrine of judgment as taught through the Holy Bible.

[Bigotry lurks in born-again Christian Doctrine](#)

This is an article written by Rick A. Ross, the founder of The Rick A. Ross Institute on Cults. This article exposes much of the unbiblical, unchristian beliefs of Rick A. Ross and his hatred for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially his belief that Jesus Christ is not the only way to heaven.

[Faith Pursley Memorial Sermon](#)

This is an audio recording of the sermon preached by Sean Morris at the Memorial of Faith Shalom Pursley.

[“Strait And Narrow”](#)

This is an audio recording of a song written and performed by Daniel Pursley.

[Justin’s Testimony](#)

This document is an account written by Justin Southworth of the Church of Wells concerning his dealing with his mother Susan Southworth and what happened to him once he became a born-again Christian.

www.thechurchofwells.com