



# A Holy Nation 3

“What Many Are Missing 3”

Compiled by God and Recorded by  
“**The Lion King**”

Daniel 7:4

[www.phoenixseven.org/archive5/](http://www.phoenixseven.org/archive5/)

Read **through** this message **in it's entirety**.

It is now 3:17 am, the fourth watch, the 11th day of December in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2006. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

To the Glory of God and My Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah, The Holy One, and the advancement of the Kingdom.

Amen.

Read This Message In It's Entirety. Along with all the files and pages of Phoenix Seven, to the saving of both your physical lives and your souls.

“What Many Are Missing 3”.

**For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. - 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8**

**God hath called us unto holiness.**

For He that despises holiness despises not man, but God.

**As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. - 1 Peter 1:14-16**

**And again he said, *Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.* And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. - The Gospel According to Luke 13-20-22**

***“Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened”***

**For all tables are full of vomit *and* filthiness, so that there is no place *clean*.**

**Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.***

**For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.**

**To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest;**

**and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear. - Isaiah 28:8-**

**12**

Now let us begin:

**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.** - Matthew 5:48

From Barnes:

**Mat 5:48 -**

**Be ye therefore perfect ...** - The Saviour concludes this part of the discourse by commanding his disciples to be "perfect." This word commonly means "finished, complete, pure, holy." Originally, it is applied to a piece of mechanism, as a machine that is complete in its parts. Applied to people, it refers to completeness of parts, or perfection, where no part is defective or wanting.

(end of commentary excerpt)

How often I had heard through my walk through the denominations, many speak and make the statement "The Only Perfect One Died On The Cross". Spoken mainly in the Baptist ranks, it was used at the time as an excuse for walking in sin. "Using Jesus Christ as a "crutch" if you will, as an excuse be less than perfect than the Holy God the Father, and His Son who have called you.

And yet at the very same time, this an attitude of an entire church.

Now do not take my words out of context, as God now so instructs you not to do. He is not having me speak of you being God; God Forbid! Anyone should have such a thought! But many among you already have and have stated it so with their very own lips. Call it if you will "Kenyon's" power of positive (I would say Negative) profession. The "Say it And Claim It" of the damned. That is their "Word of Faith". Flee! Flee this damnable heresy!

Be very careful what you profess! And of the Words that you speak!

**For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.** - The Gospel According to Matthew 12:47

Now just briefly so there is no misunderstanding and as God so prompts; yes I am aware that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. As to I am aware of a fallen mankind's need for a Savior. Jesus Christ. The perfect sacrifice for sin, The Holy One, The Holy Lamb of God! That through faith in Him and His blood, He purges us of all sin. I am aware of this, as God so tells me to tell you this.

What God is having me address to you on this doctrine of Holiness; is this:

## **“Rolling in The Mud Once You Where Made Clean and Purged of OLD SINS.**

Once again a garment likened unto a filthy rag, soiled, spoiled, defiled.

**Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

**And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. - 2 Peter 1:4-9**

**Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: - 2 Peter 1:4-10**

And now to a scripture God has had me use several times in combating the false teachers of the false prosperity, seed faith, and other heresies, that lead many into error and damnation:

**For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.**

**For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**

**For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. - 2 Peter 2:18-22**

What God is having me address to you on this doctrine of Holiness; is this:

**“Rolling in The Mud Once You Where Made Clean and Purged of OLD SINS.**

Of ...oh Glory To God! He Don't Miss A Lick! Praise and glory To God!

**Of those licking there own VOMIT!**

**For all tables are full of vomit *and* filthiness, so that there is no place *clean*.**

Once again “I Am A Dreamer of Dreams”, that God YHVH gives me; and to the “Dream” He gave me almost a year ago or more, that I spoke just briefly to you about Him handing me a broom and making the statement “**Here I Have Cleaned Out The Hogs**”, “**Your Going To Need This**”, and then handing me the broom. The Broom symbolic of those swept by “Storms”. Tribulation...FIRE; and this is all too just a reflection of Zechariah 10. “And The Visitation”. Or if you will, the presence of the Lord, as stated by Peter in Acts chapter 3. As to the Dream, I have not told you all, it in completeness, and won’t as that time is not yet. Let me however say, as God so allows, those that “remained”, and where not swept away in the dream, where those that where working on their engines of the race; their “hearts”. “It’s A Matter of Heart”.

**“But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire”.**

Of ...oh Glory To God! He Don’t Miss A Lick! Praise and glory To God!

**Of those licking there own VOMIT!**

**For all tables are full of vomit *and* filthiness, so that there is no place clean .**

**That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. - Ephesians 5:27**

From Clarke:

*A glorious Church]* Every way splendid and honourable, because pure and holy.

*Not having spot]* No *blemish* on the *face*; no spots upon the *garment*; the *heart* and *life* both holy.

*Wrinkle]* No mark of *superannuation* or *decay*. The word is

commonly applied to *wrinkles on the face*, indicative of *sickness or decrepitude*.

*Holy and without blemish.*] In every sense holy, pure, and perfect. Now it was for this purpose that *Christ gave himself for the Church*; and for this purpose he continues the different ordinances which he has appointed; and, particularly, the preaching of the *word*-the doctrine of reconciliation through faith in his blood. And it is in *this life* that all this purification is to take place; for none shall be *presented* at the day of judgment to him who has not here been *sanctified, cleansed, washed, made glorious*, having neither *spot, wrinkle, blemish, nor any such thing*.

**How vain is the pretension of multitudes to be members of the true Church while full of spots, wrinkles, blemishes, and MANY such things; fondly supposing that their holiness is in their surety, because not in themselves!**

Reader, lay thy hand on thy conscience and say, Dost thou believe that this is St. Paul's meaning?

(end of commentary excerpt)

A very interesting piece of commentary from Clarke. What Clarke is actually saying, is the same thing God has been telling me all along, "You Can't Use Christ as A Crutch". As an excuse to fall short of the Mark, for a Garment defiled, and still be a bride holy and without blemish.

This is too all relative of a Church that takes the attitude in opposition of the very Holy Word of God itself; in opposition to God Himself: Turning the Truth of God into a Lie, "Once Saved Always Saved". "Security of the Believer" the believer being an apostate and fallen church, as God so prompts me once again: "**Be Careful What You Believe**".

This is all relative; in relationship to the same thing.

Now as to all of this God wishes you not to be ignorant:

**“But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire”.**

Of ...oh Glory To God! He Don't Miss A Lick! Praise and glory To God!

**Of those licking there own VOMIT!**

**For all tables are full of vomit *and* filthiness, so that there is no place clean .**

Now as to all of this God wishes you not to be ignorant:

**This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.**

**But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** - The Gospel According to Matthew 15:8-9

Now as to all of this God wishes you not to be ignorant, and He tells me to tell you to put it in plain English so you may understand, and by His own prompt:

**“Your Wallowing in the Mud, Sucking on a Pukecycle”**

A Puke cycle.

What God is having me address to you on this doctrine of Holiness; is this:

**“Rolling in The Mud Once You Where Made Clean and Purged of OLD SINS.**

And again he said, **Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in**

**three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.** And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. - The Gospel According to Luke 13-20-22

**For all tables are full of vomit *and* filthiness, so that there is no place clean .**

Now as to all of this God wishes you not to be ignorant:

**“All of this is not a “Holy Nation”.**

**For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. - 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8**

**God hath called us unto holiness.**

For He that despises holiness despises not man, but God.

**As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. - 1 Peter 1:14-16**

Defiling and Ignoring His True Sabbath: Is NOT HOLY.

Your 280 different versions of “Faith”, “the Faith” is NOT HOLY.

Your Traditions and False Doctrines of Men ARE NOT HOLY.

Stealing His Tithe’s and Offerings, Is NOT HOLY.

A False Worldly Prosperity and “Seed Faith” and False Word of Faith; IS NOT HOLY.

Embracing “The Idol” of the God of your own understanding, which is not truly Him. And too ALL other Idolatry IS NOT HOLY.

Pentecostals that abuse their gift; contrary to the Word, that love that feeling of which they call “Slain”: ARE NOT HOLY.

“GAY Episcopalians, and Immorality in the Church: IS NOT HOLY. (You cannot do something that God finds abominable and hates, and then expect to have His nature of holiness, people you are under strong delusion”).

**For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.** - 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

**God hath called us unto holiness.**

For He that despises holiness despises not man, but God.

**As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.** - 1 Peter 1:14-16

Turning the truth of His Word into a lie, making Him out to be a liar; IS NOT HOLY.

(Actually I think the last one is actually somewhat of a death wish for those that do this. Actually, let me rephrase that, it is a death wish, slain, for those that do the things of the entire list)

Now as to all of this God wishes you not to be ignorant:

**“All of this is not a “Holy Nation”.”**

**For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean .**

**This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.**

**But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** - The Gospel According to Matthew 15:8-9

Now as to all of this God wishes you not to be ignorant, and He tells me to tell you to put it in plain English so you may understand, and by His own prompt:

## **“Your Wallowing in the Mud, Sucking on a Pukecycle”**

A Puke cycle.

(Now know, that yes I find the above concept and words quite disgusting and quite gross, a Popsycle of Puke; even the thought. And a cold one at that. But they are His precepts and Words, and as I faithfully prophesy, so do I faithfully preach).

**And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.** -

The Gospel According to Matthew 24:12

**Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

**Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**

- Revelation 2:4-5

**For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.**

**Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.***

For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest;

and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear. - Isaiah 28:8-12

“For all tables are full of vomit *and* filthiness, so that there is no place *clean*”.

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. - The Gospel According to Matthew 13:41-43

Then<5119> shall the righteous<1342> shine forth<1584> as<5613> the sun<2246> in<1722> the kingdom<932> of their<846> Father<3962>. Who<3588> hath<2192> ears<3775> to hear<191>, let him hear<191>.

**1342** dikaios dik'-ah-yos from 1349; equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, **holy** (absolutely or relatively):--just, meet, right(-eous)

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for

they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do *this* , saith the LORD of hosts. - Malachi 4:1-3

May God Bless the Reading of His Holy Perfect Word.

Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works,

which they shall behold, glorify God

in the day of visitation. - 1 Peter 2:7-12

Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds [LIGHTNINGS], and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because *there was* no shepherd.

Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats:

**for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah,** and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle. Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together.

And they shall be as mighty *men* , which tread down *their enemies* in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD *is* with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I *am* the LORD their God, and will hear them. - Zechariah 10:1-6

As God has had me tell you before...

Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works,

**which they shall behold, glorify God**

**in the day of visitation.**

**THIS HASN'T BEEN FULLFILLED.**

**YET.**

**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;**

**And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of**

**restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. - Acts 3:19-21**

May God Bless the Reading of His Holy Perfect Word.

Amen.

“What Many Are Missing 3”.

**And again he said, *Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.***

**And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. - The Gospel According to Luke 13-20-22**

**Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

**Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.**

***Let your conversation be without covetousness;***

***and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

**So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**

**Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.**

**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**

**Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines.**

**For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.**

**We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.**

**For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.**

**By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**

**Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.**

**Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech *you* the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.**

**Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Hebrews 13:1-21

***There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)***

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: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

**Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:**

**Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

**But ye have not so learned Christ;**

**If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:**

**That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;**

**And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man,**

**which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.** - Ephesians 4:4-24

It is now 6:15 pm, the 11th day of December in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2006. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

To the Glory of God and My Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah, The Holy One, and the advancement of the Kingdom.

Amen.

I reread this afternoon as I often do, as to what God had me write this morning. Can you perhaps grasp the spiritual truth that God is trying to reveal to you?

Know that revival does not come, nor was spoken of in God's Word, over two thousand years ago, (Hosea 6) unless it is so drastically needed. The replanting, the rebuilding of the Church.

**Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, *if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter *and* former rain unto the earth.* – Hosea 6:1-3**

This afternoon I received in my email box, an article from Christianity Today, and I am enclosing it as an added bonus to this message as God has so allowed.

In the Spirit of the Season...

“A Christmas Carol”, “The Ghost of Christmas Present”:

The title "A Christmas Carol" is written in a large, ornate, red Gothic-style font. A small holly leaf with a red berry is positioned above the letter 'i' in "Christmas". Below the main title, the subtitle "The Ghost of Christmas Present" is written in a smaller, blue Gothic-style font.

For those of you unfamiliar with “The Christmas Carol” is a short recap:

The **Ghost of Christmas Present** is a character in what is one of the best-known works of the English novelist, [Charles Dickens](#), [A Christmas Carol](#).

The Ghost of Christmas Present was the second of the three spirits (after the visitation by [Jacob Marley](#)) that haunted the miser [Ebenezer Scrooge](#), in order to prompt him to repent. It transported him around

the city, showing him scenes of festivity and also deprivation that were happening as they watched. Among those they visited were Scrooge's nephew, and the family of his clerk, [Bob Cratchit](#). The spirit also shares a vision of Tiny Tim's crutch, carefully preserved by the fireplace. Scrooge asks if Tim will die, and, quick to use Scrooge's past unkind comments against him, suggests "they had better do it now, and decrease the surplus population" ---reflecting Scrooge's earlier comment to two charitable solicitors.

The spirit also reveals to Scrooge two emaciated children, clinging to his robes,

and names the boy as Ignorance and the girl as Want.

The spirit warns Scrooge, "Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased.",

The following article is a reprint from Christianity today. The underlining in the article is mine, for the purpose of highlighting:

## Ghost Growth

*Baptist report: Some 'failed' church plants never existed.*

Ken Walker | posted 12/11/2006 09:06AM

The Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) is trying to recoup up to \$1.3 million lost in failed and fraudulent church plants, some of which existed only on paper. A late October report revealed that most convention churches started in the Rio Grande Valley from 1999 to 2005 have failed. Among 258 congregations started by three pastors in seven years, only 5 still gather.

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BGCT executive director Charles Wade said he expected a legal opinion in mid-December on whether to turn over information to government authorities. The convention was also to learn if it has any recourse to recover some of the funds.

Convention leaders have been developing stricter guidelines for church-planting oversight, which they plan to present in February to the BGCT mission committee.

"We began revising our strategy last spring," Wade said. Complaints sparked an investigation in May. "The guidelines we had were okay. They were just ignored."

The BGCT hired an investigative team that found evidence of inaccuracies, falsified reports, and lax convention oversight of the church-starting program. Pastors Otto

Arango, Aaron de la Torre, and Armando Vera reported 72 percent of the valley's 357 church starts over a seven-year period.

De la Torre gave the most damaging admission of wrongdoing. The pastor of Community Baptist Church in Hidalgo described a scheme where he turned over BGCT checks to Arango, who allegedly deposited them into his bank account and gave de la Torre 50 percent of the money.

De la Torre told investigators he wanted "to be honest before God" and offered to pay restitution. The report said the pastor admitted that all 89 churches he sponsored or co-sponsored were only cell groups.

Arango did not respond to CT's request for a comment.

"Arango said that he had made a lot of money promoting his vision of planting churches," the report said. "In addition, he said the 'complainers' were envious of [his church] facility, in part because it was debt free."

Greed—not just for money—can entangle church leaders or blind them to wrongdoing, said Barry Minkow, founder of the Fraud Discovery Institute.

"We're greedy for numbers so we can tell people we're effective, which makes us vulnerable on the ministry side," Minkow said.

Wade vowed not to withdraw funds from church-planting efforts. He hopes the new guidelines will restore faith in the nation's largest state affiliate of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"There's widespread dismay," Wade said of reaction to the scandal. "Whenever monies that are given by people who want to see God's work done are diverted ... there's a great sadness."

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The spirit also reveals to Scrooge two emaciated children, clinging to his robes,

and names the boy as Ignorance and the girl as Want.

The spirit warns Scrooge, "Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom.

Scrooge.... Scrooge...

"Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom unless the writing be erased."

It is now 4:43 am, the fourth watch, the 12th day of December in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2006. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

To the Glory of God and My Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah, The Holy One, and the advancement of the Kingdom.

Amen.

After reading the article from Christianity Today on the ghost churches, I reflected upon it quite a bit, and here again the overwhelming greediness and worldly prosperity, that has attacked the Church. Both pastors and lay as well.

Such always is the case and norm when that which is not supposed to be of this world, brings the world into it. Once again just one more symptom of apostasy.

