

The Other Side

An Invitation to Join the Counter-Revolution

(Under the direct command and guidance of its ONLY leader and Teacher)

Broadcast Transcript

The Other Side

Attention Everyone! Join the counter-revolution. The aim of the Counter-Revolution is to provide a vehicle by which those who want to follow Jesus Christ – (by whatever other name) and about whom one New Testament writer stated **“is the same yesterday, today and forever,”** can leave behind those things he said *not* to do and embrace those things he said *to* do... and Christianity as we ordinarily think of the term refuses to pay any attention.

Read the *Other Side*... an interview with Brad Cullen a man who points out that there is only one Leader and Teacher revealed by Jesus... “The Christ” (is how it is generally translated into English) and all the rest of us are to be equals just as brothers and sisters are equal. Brad also points out that the religion called Christianity is openly rebellious to this and other commands from the Commander in Chief.

In the interview, Brad states in convincing terms that the Commander in Chief has given us clear instructions about how individuals can become what Jesus was as a man and how these same individuals can perform the very same miracles that Jesus performed as a man. These instructions are ignored and even openly contradicted by some Christian teachers and leaders. Why? What is behind this obvious rejection of what the Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ, said?

An excerpt from the interview...

“What I’m saying, Aubrey, is that Jesus said God’s own unique Spirit is available to lead each of us into all truth. To say that the Spirit of the living God is locked up in the printed words of the Bible is like telling the author of several books that you believe everything he had written. That author says to you, “but I wrote each of those books for a particular time and a particular audience... you might want to hear what I have to say now, for you.”

“Hey listen,” you respond, “I believe everything in the compilation of those books. I believe it and that settles it!” Of course, that position in essence is denying that the Author has anything new to say today. That kind of “faith” limits this kind of “believer” to searching the Scriptures to find answers for issues today... when the Author is available to personally guide her or him to enlightenment for NOW.”

The Other Side

The voice of a counter-revolutionary to the rebellion called Christianity. An interview of Brad Cullen.

The purpose for writing this, as is the purpose of the fictional *Leapfrog* ... is to be a personal introduction to the Creator of the Universe -- and to expose those traditions of Christianity which impede, rather than enhance, a direct relationship of any individual with the Spirit that created everything.

The TV Program TRUTH, is moderated by a self styled interdenominational Christian host, Aubrey Wilson. Aubrey's words are signified by an "A" and Brad Cullen by a "B."

Broadcast Transcript

A: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Those of you who watch this show, TRUTH, regularly -- know that we have always interviewed well known Christian authors, Christian entertainers and TV personalities that are all well identified with the broad mainstream of Christian ministry. Today I am breaking with our three-year tradition and having a man on the show that avows he is opposed to organized Christianity and has even been quoted as saying that he is no longer a Christian. I have heard him speak and have read some of his writings. I'll not say more about him right now... other than to say that you are in for a surprising and thought provoking hour. Please welcome with me, Brad Cullen.

A: Hi Brad, glad to have you on TRUTH.

B: Thanks for having me Aubrey.

A: We're just going to jump right in and get started, Brad. I want our audience to hear as much as possible what you have to say during the next hour. You've been quoted as saying that you are no longer a Christian... before we go further, is that an accurate quote?

B: Unless you take that quote in the context of the actual wording of the question to which I was responding... I wouldn't care to comment.

A: All right, that's fair enough, let me ask the question without preamble, are you a Christian?

B: My answer to that question is dependent entirely upon your definition of the term. Unfortunately the term *Christian* means too many different things to too many different people to answer with a simple “yes” or “no” without qualifying why – either way.

A: Do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God?

B: Aubrey, to me, the way in which you pose your questions is almost like a prosecutor playing by the rules of a court of law. In other words, instead of trying to find out what I believe to be the truth, whatever that may be worth, you seem to be attempting to get me into a verbal trap to make your own point. I am not saying that is what you are actually trying to do, but at the moment I definitely feel that way.

A: All right, my motive is really not to spar with you, Brad, but to have our audience hear what you actually believe. Let me try it this way, and ask you a question in two parts. First, what did you find objectionable about my question about the Bible? Second, what are your own personal feelings about the Bible?

B: I don't really think that your question was put in an objectionable way, Aubrey. It is just a question that has been asked of me by certain people with a lot of hostility attached to it... and I became defensive. I also do not want to be combative, and I do apologize for my defensiveness. I believe the Bible is a large collection of books and letters penned by a large number of different authors to a wide variety of audiences throughout the centuries. There is a certain religious group that makes an interesting statement in their publications that goes something like, “We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, insofar as it is correctly translated and interpreted from the original languages.” I would mostly agree with the content of that statement, but without necessarily endorsing anything else about that particular group. As to your question, Is the Bible the inspired word of God? Many Christians say that the Bible is the *only* true revelation of God's word. I don't know if that's what you meant by your question, but if so, such a position is preposterous in my view. May I tell you why?

A: Of course...

B: First of all, Evangelicals make all kinds of attempts to defend their position of the inerrancy of the Scriptures that gets them into all sorts of denial of the obvious and causes them, in my opinion which admittedly may be wrong, to

make efforts to make things that are clearly inconsistent, consistent. I think that every Christian who states that he or she believes the Bible... should make a little study of the history of the canon... it won't hurt their faith... it will strengthen it. But they will see an awful lot of human intellectual wrangling, which, hopefully, will shift their faith from the Book back to the Author.

Now then, Aubrey, you are about to get an answer to your question that is based entirely on two passages used by Christians as proof of their position about the Bible. The first passage is, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword..." That quote is not, in my opinion, referring to the Bible, but to the Spirit of God. The English "Word" in this particular passage is translated from the Greek (here in English characters) "*Logos*." It literally means, in context, the complete or full expression of God. That quote is from the 12th verse of the 4th chapter of Hebrews in the New Testament. But the next verse... continuing on... now... Remember, in the 12th verse we had, "The word of God is..." the 13th verse is simply proceeding from that point... it starts with the word, "AND there is no creature hidden from HIS sight..." then goes on to say that "all things are bared and open to the eyes of HIM to whom we must give account. In other words "the "Word of God," here, is referring to a person, "HIS sight" and "not hidden from HIM," respectively. The passage is clearly not referring to a collection of written words. Elsewhere in the New Testament we find, "All Scripture is inspired" ...it is easily proven that the writer of this particular passage was referring to the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament. My point is this... people who espouse the traditional view of Christianity that makes reference to itself as Evangelical or Fundamentalist use these two passages as a proof text to defend their position that the Bible is the only true inspired word of God. My position about the Bible is that it points to Jesus Christ. By the way, reading the entire book of Hebrews in the original language makes it abundantly clear, in my opinion, that the author, in the passage about "the Word of God," is making reference to the Spirit of creation who became the man, Jesus Christ.

A: I heard you once give a very interesting correlation of that passage with the first few verses of the Gospel of John. Would you share that right now?

B: The writer there refers to this same "Logos"...this Word of God, this full and complete expression of God, again, as a He, a person, that created the universe... and who became the man Jesus. Let's stop and consider this for just a moment... Jesus, the man, did not create the universe. The creative part, a Spirit member, of the multifaceted Elohiym... the Hebrew word meaning simply the plurality of God... in the first chapter of Genesis, to which John was obviously

making reference... created the universe. This same Creative Spirit later became the man historically referred to as Jesus the Christ. Are you with me here, Aubrey?

A: Let me put it into my own words and you tell me if I am saying the same thing, Brad. You are making a distinction between Jesus Christ, as the human being, and the Spirit that created everything who later became that man, Jesus Christ. If I've quoted you correctly, Brad, I want to come back to some things about this... but right now I'd prefer to stay on topic of what you believe about the Bible.

B: Aubrey, you quoted me completely accurately. Back to Hebrews for a second... that same writer makes the statement, "Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday today and forever."

A: What are you implying here, Brad?

B: Hopefully, Aubrey, I'm not implying anything, but exposing something that these passages are clearly revealing. In my view, what opens an individual to dynamic and active, miracle working faith, is understanding three things that the Gospel of John reveals... The Word of God, a He, created the universe. That's one. Second, is that this same part of God, this Creative Spirit, became a man to be an example of what and who we can also become. Third, is that receiving this truth into the depths of one's spirit and receiving this creative Spirit by invitation begins a process of becoming a child of God... a joint heir with Jesus Christ. Key to this process is being able to answer the following question, Aubrey. Where is this Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever?

A: Doesn't the Bible say that he is at the right hand of the Father, Brad?

B: But what does that mean? The words in the original language translated as, "At right hand of God," in the passage you are referencing simply mean the accessible part. Jesus Christ is the accessible part of God. It's the same word used when Jesus, after he arose from the dead and appeared to his disciples, after they had gone back to fishing; He asked them if they had caught anything. They told him no. In the original language he told them to put the net on the other side where they could access the fish... and they'd get fish. They did... and filled their net. Same, same with Jesus... he's the accessible part of God. But where is that? May I borrow your Bible there?

A: Of Course.

B: I'm in Colossians – in the first chapter, Aubrey, would you mind reading verses 15 and 16?

A: Sure, ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

B: Okay, Aubrey, the first word is He... and in the first part of verse 16 are the words, “For by Him” – who is the He and Him referring to here?

A: Jesus Christ.

B: Any doubts?

A: None whatsoever.

B: Okay so if you read the first chapter carefully even in a reliable English version, Paul says clearly the same thing John said, that is, Jesus Christ created everything. But here is the key... if you have received Jesus Christ by invitation... and here's the real answer to the question, where is Jesus Christ now? Paul refers to it as the secret of the ages... Christ in *you*. That's in verse 26. Let me say it again... The three things that make a difference in the level of our faith are, first, the recognition that Jesus in his pre-existence created everything. Second, He became a human being to be an example of what we can be and do as human beings. Third, that he died and arose from the dead and returned to the unseen realm... and Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe, the same yesterday, today and forever is accessible to you and me. Where is Jesus Christ? In me, Aubrey, and in you.

A: Brad... other than a few distinctive words you use to describe the process... aren't you saying the same things that mainstream Christianity is saying?

B: Well, Aubrey, you asked me what I thought about the Bible... and our conversation took a turn related to the fact that the Word of God – or “The Word” referred to in that particular passage is not referring to the Bible, as many Evangelicals hold, but to a person. But I want to answer you directly about what I am saying here that is distinctly different. If you don't mind I am going to state

again what I say is the second step to active... perhaps better said dynamic – miracle working faith– is to understand that, in addition to the other things revealed about Jesus’ appearance on this plane as a human being... is that he came to be an example of what we could also be as human beings. Mainstream Christianity, to use your term, totally ignores that part of the Gospel... some reject it outright. Most are simply ignorant of the fact that that’s what the Bible reveals. Jesus said those individuals who believe in him would perform the same miracles that he performed. Mainstream Christianity not only ignores the implications of that... it keeps its adherents in bondage to the notion that by having an intellectual belief system that puts Jesus in a class by himself... related to what a human being can become. That is the opposite of Jesus’ own message.

A: I want to keep you on this point for a moment, Brad. I agree ... in fact, I had never heard this in the way you present it until I heard you speak at a retreat about a year ago. I want to tie in what I remember you saying then... with what I am hearing you say now. I remember you taking us through all kinds of Scriptures that showed Jesus not only saying we could do what he did, but that he gave instructions about how to get to that point. It seems to me that you are saying these things right now in the context of what you believe the Bible reveals.

B: Exactly... what is the point of saying that the Bible is the only true word of God... when you ignore much of what it says? One of my favorite passages is in this same Gospel according to John... quoting Jesus as saying, “You study the scriptures thinking that in them you will find eternal life, but all the time they make reference to me, but you refuse to come to me so that you can receive that life.”

Because of the confusion caused by the choice of words of the King James translators... that verse is often used to make it seem that Jesus was saying that a close study of the Scriptures would lead to eternal life. When, in the original language, he is saying the exact opposite. In a nutshell, what I think about the Bible is what Jesus said... it points to him... and in *him*, the real Word of God, is where you find life. The problem with the Bible is not the Bible, which has enormous spiritual value, but with those who insist that it is the only “Word of God,” and thus, in effect, they worship it *as* God, which in my view, it is not.

A: I hate to interrupt you... but one of the things I remember you saying at that same retreat is your explanation of eternal life. Please just take a second on that issue.

B: It’s simple, Aubrey, the term in the original language translated as eternal life... literally refers to living life on the spiritual plane NOW... this moment. The

word eternal in this particular passage is translated from a word that means no beginning and no ending, again, NOW... this unique and perfect moment. Jesus was telling the religious leaders of that day... if you want to live this quality of life in the Spirit NOW – you’d better get past sticking your nose in the Scriptures and come to me. That’s what I am saying. Evangelicals point to the Bible as the only way to Jesus. I remember a businessman to whom I was introduced... who made the comment that the only times he’d ever been screwed in business was by ‘born again’ Christians. Twenty minutes later he was literally yelling, “Jesus Christ, if you are real... come into my life, I need help!” He came tumbling into the kingdom of God... and rapidly learned how to live in the miraculous realm of the real meaning of eternal life in the now.

A: Let’s go back to my question, “are you a Christian?” and your resistance to answering it. How do you define the term?

B: I don’t. Reams have been written about what the term “Christian” means... and it simply doesn’t matter what I say about the word. I refuse to use the word except in reference to those who use it to describe themselves.

A: Well, you’ve already revealed some of your differences with mainstream Christianity. Again, I’m reverting to what you have said and written in the past. One of the most startling things you said had to do with your views on the doctrine of the Trinity. If you don’t mind I’d like to have you go in that direction for a moment.

B: Sure, the concept of a triune (Father, Son, Spirit) God, in my view, is an intellectual contrivance of man made in an attempt to explain the inexplicable – hanging onto it sorely limits an individual and spiritually blinds him or her to a far broader and more accurate view of God. The word ‘God’ in the first chapter of Genesis is translated from the Hebrew Elohiym, which literally means the plurality of God, or the many facets of the Godhead might be another way of putting it. The Christian tradition of attempting to limit that to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is specious and lays the foundation for attempting to make other portions of the Bible be consistent with that view when, in fact, they are not.

A: It seems as though this is one of the themes that causes you to get jabs from those in the mainstream thought of Christianity. Your view of who Jesus is and was is not at all different from the main. You are bringing into question the traditional doctrine of the Trinity, but I’m still not clear as to the why of your negativity toward the terms Christian and Christianity.

B: Basically, my negativity centers around two things Jesus said. First, what Jesus said about the abilities of those who would believe in him to do the same things he did. Second, is a command that he gave his disciples and by extension to all those in the future who would believe. Let me kind of review the first and then expound on the second for a moment, that is, this command I mentioned -- and you tell me if that ends your lack of clarity as to why I am negative. Fair enough?

A: Sure... that will work.

B: Okay. Again, Jesus said that individuals who believe in him would perform the very same miracles that he performed and even greater miracles... both in quantity and in the sense of having even a greater purpose than those that he performed. Sorry, but I don't see anything approaching that among those who call themselves Christians, in fact among Christians there seems to be nothing but negative lip service given to Jesus' own promise that those of us who believe *adequately* will perform the same miracles that he performed and even greater miracles. The second thing I want to point out is the command he gave... he said, "Do not let anyone refer to you by any term that would imply spiritual superiority or authority... and don't refer to anyone else that way either. You have one Father and he is in the unseen realm and you have one Teacher and Leader, the Christ." He finished off the command by saying that those particular followers and we by extension are to minister to one another in the same equality as siblings, that is, just as brothers and sisters are equal, completely different as individuals, but equal in stature. Organized Christianity in its hierarchy of leaders, by whatever titles, is totally disobedient to that command. Further, those recognized as leaders, in defiance to what Jesus said and that do insist upon referring to themselves by a word that means shepherd... and want everyone else to call them by the same title... defend it on the basis of what Paul said in a number of places. I believe what Paul wrote is the truth... I believe these leaders who are in rebellion to what Jesus said, misinterpret and, unconsciously or not, manipulate Paul's words in a complicated doctrine to defend their position.

You know, Aubrey, Jesus said, what is the point of referring to his sovereignty or authority if we don't also do what he said? He then used a very graphic illustration of destruction for those who *hear* what he says, but don't *do* what he says. Jesus also said that he was the only true Shepherd... all others are thieves and usurpers; that these leaders would refer to themselves by the English title that means shepherd and insist that others call them by it, is an interesting self-indictment in my way of thinking.

A: Would you consider entering into a debate about this particular topic in this forum?

B: No.

A: May I ask why not?

B: Aubrey, those who have ears to hear the truth will hear it. Jesus said to “come out of her.” I believe he was making reference to the spirit of theological seduction behind religious groups, among which is what I lump together as “organized Christianity.” I may be wrong... but a debate won’t change my mind and it won’t change theirs and thus a debate is just a waste of time and energy. Anyone can easily find commentary by Bible scholars that will substantiate what I have just said. They can also find commentaries that disagree. People who disagree with me will drag out those commentaries that tend to prove I am wrong and try to hit me over the head with them. Hey! Maybe I *am* wrong. It is interesting to me that I’ve never found one person on the other side of the fence that is relaxed enough to even suggest the possibility *they* might be wrong... they argue to defend their position, so what would be the point of debate? I am convinced at this particular moment that what I have said is the truth. But I have changed my mind before – and I may well change my mind again. God is truth in all His/Her/It’s forms. My thoughts about God are not going to change God one whit. I simply trust God to bring all God’s children, at some point, to God’s own truth for that moment.

A: I’ve noticed in the past that you seem to want to shock people by referring to God as “she” or “it.” I’ve heard your explanation before would you be willing to share it again?

B: It’s simple, Aubrey. Jesus said that God is a Spirit to be worshiped in Spirit and in Truth. He also said that in the spirit realm there is no male or female. So those that get hung up on the gender of God, in my view, believe something that is not consistent with what Jesus said.

A: Are you open to giving answers to honest seekers of truth?

B: Sure, but I can point them in a far better direction than listening to any man, including, or perhaps even especially me.

A: In what direction would that be?

B: To the only real Teacher and Leader to whom Jesus made reference. Jesus said Holy Spirit would come and that He would lead us into all truth. Many Christians believe that promise is fulfilled within the pages of the Bible.

A: Are you saying it is not?

B: What I'm saying is, Jesus said God's own unique Spirit is available to lead each of us into all truth. To say that the Spirit of the living God is locked up in the printed words of the Bible is like telling the author of several books that you believe everything he had written. He says to you, "but I wrote each of those books for a particular time and a particular group of people... you might want to hear what I have to say now, for you."

"Hey listen," you respond, "I believe everything in the compilation of those books. I believe it and that settles it!" Of course, that position in essence is denying that the Author has anything new to say today. That kind of "faith" limits this kind of "believer" to searching the Scriptures to find answers for issues today... when the Author is available to personally guide her or him to enlightenment.

A: Didn't you write a story about a sea captain kind of in that vein?

B: Yes I did. But first consider what the writer of the book of Hebrews says... it is really mind-boggling if you are willing to make an in-the-present-time application. Here's the direct quote and you can find it in I believe three places in the third and fourth chapters of Hebrews... "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.'" This verse is why I dare to call Christianity a rebellion. This writer of one of the books in the Bible is urging the readers to listen to what Holy Spirit is saying... *today*.

A: This is why I mentioned your story about the Sea Captain... the story pretty much makes that point. Would you share a short synopsis right now?

B: Sure, it was about a sea captain whose wife was left behind for long periods of time. Every time his vessel put into a foreign port he would mail her the love letters he had written during the voyage up to that point. She saved these letters. She read them repeatedly while he was gone. She even shared them with some of her friends who also thought they were marvelous epistles describing the true meaning of love.

It finally came time for the captain to retire. He and his wife had looked forward for years to this permanent time of being together. After the first couple of days of mutual joy at his return... he noticed something curious. She would leave him for what she referred to as her “quiet time” to go read his old love letters. What’s more, she started going out to the neighbors who had enjoyed the captain’s letters all these years for morning “coffee-klatch” discussion groups. These morning groups became quite popular to the point that several of the ladies decided to rent a building and broaden the opportunity, so that many could experience what they had come to consider as the only source of true expressions of love. The popularity grew to the point they were able to buy their own building... they put a logo up on the building that one of the ladies designed... it was a depiction of a commercial seagoing vessel not unlike the one to which the captain had been assigned. They rationalized that this would be a reminder of where the letters were written.

They finally started meeting regularly on Sunday mornings. They had a time of singing songs written about love and the captain who had written such wonderful expressions of love.

In order to minimize the danger of some kind of wrong element creeping into their meetings, one of the ladies wrote a creed to which they agreed that all subsequent members of their group would have to submit and that it would be the basic and standard rules of their organization. The first rule was that there were no other expressions of true love but what “The Captain” had written.

One morning, the captain confronted his wife gently with the fact that she was spending less and less time with him. “Oh, I love you so much, dear,” she assured him... but I just feel your letters are so important and more and more people are learning about your concepts of true love. He replied that he had things he wanted to tell her today, now.

I’m sorry dear... but I’m scheduled to speak at the women’s business luncheon club... and we hope to get many new members. I’ll try to make more time tomorrow.

So, on the story went. She found less and less time to be with him... until he left her a final love note on the kitchen table:

My dearest, my written expressions of love were meant to further our own personal relationship. That others have found meaning in them, I guess, should make me happy. But as I said, I have things I believe you should hear today in the context of today. I find myself realizing that you want to live according to my letters of the past and not hear me today. He signed it, With Love Always, Your husband. She never saw him again.

A: Thanks, that is a very poignant story. Is there anything you want to add on that topic?

B: Only that today, the Creator of the universe is saying, “I am standing at the door and knocking... if you will hear my voice and open the door I will come in and we can have a meaningful relationship together over an intimate meal.” Christians respond with, “Oh sorry, Lord, I have to go to pastor’s Bible study and then later the associate pastor is giving a talk on the importance of church attendance; after that we have celebration time where we have refreshments and sing about you” (etc.). Many Christians interpret that what he meant by hearing his voice today, means reading the Bible. In my view, Bible reading can be a rewarding experience. It is a poor substitute, however, for hearing directly from God’s Spirit for whatever he wants to say today to each of us in our own particular situations.

A: Are you saying that someone cannot “hear” what God has to say from reading the Bible?

B: Aubrey, I have said what I have said. Jesus Christ is alive and in you and in me. God’s own Spirit is alive... and present in those who are willing to receive Him in this eternal moment of NOW. To refer to the Bible as the “Living Word” and turning away from the presence and power of God’s own Spirit to read the Bible, in my view, is a ridiculous insult to the Author.

A: How about going together with God to read the Bible?

B: Excellent idea! Ask Him if that’s what he wants to do, but be ready for Him to take you elsewhere as well. The warnings Christians level against that latter suggestion is that it can lead you into all kinds of error. In my view, where you get into error is when you ignore what He said to make up your own little pet doctrines, ignoring both God and the Bible.

A: Can you give us an example?

B: Sure... and please note that this is right out of the Bible... Jesus gave a formula, if you will, for getting God’s Spirit: Knocking, continually, persistently and impudently demanding for more of God’s spirit, until you see the results of more of God’s own Spirit in your life; in context, for a time of problems when you have no other answers. He ends the discourse by saying, “You being far less than perfect fathers know how to give good gifts to your own children;” now, pay close

attention to the symbols he uses: “Which of you would give your own child a serpent when he asked for a fish?” Fish, the ancient symbol for Christ vs. Serpent, the ancient symbol for Satan. Then he uses, “or a stone when he asked you for a slice of bread?” Bread is a symbol for life vs. a stone, a symbol of lifelessness. Finally, “or a scorpion when he asked for an egg?” An egg is a symbol for the cell of life vs. scorpion, a symbol for the sting of death. Then finally he says, “How much more of His own Spirit, then, will your Father give to them who continually, persistently and impudently demand it of Him?” In other words, Jesus is saying that we don’t have to fear getting the works of Satan when we come to our Father demanding His own Spirit. Some Christian teachers counter that this is dabbling in spiritism and can bring someone to grievous error.

In my view, they are saying the Author of the book they say is “God’s Word” cannot be trusted to tell the truth today. Maybe the Author has become senile? Good grief, they believe certain religious groups are in error when they make the claim that they base their beliefs on the Bible! In fact, you can look at all the squabbling among different denominations over various differences in interpretation of the Bible as evidence. My excuse for being outside the fold of organized Christianity is that I believe that I have a message, a small slice to be sure, of the whole truth. They won’t listen to the message *inside* the church... so I am crying the statement out in the wilderness by being obedient to the call to “come out of her.” But remember, I could be wrong.

A: Don’t you see any value to a church that is part of organized Christianity?

B: Of course, and in my desperation to find God (while seemingly running in the other direction) I finally succumbed to the seduction of church. Did I learn there? Yes. But I saw great suppression of truth there as well. The probable first seeds of doubt about being there were when a little old lady got the boot from church over what I still consider to be a minor point of doctrine. I later found a church that had printed in its bulletin that the membership was composed of those who had received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and were willing to leave minor points of doctrine to the individual conscience. That phrase sung in my heart. The bulletin also had a brief statement as to what was the primary purpose of that church with the final caveat... “If any person finds that he can no longer agree with the purpose of the church, he or she commits to leaving without causing any disruption.” That worked for me then... would work for me now... I just felt the need to come out. I did so without even so much as an announcement.

A: what do you do in place of church?

B: I look for fellowship wherever I go. I find it in amazing places with amazing and exciting people.

A: Do you recommend any particular books that are enlightening or that support your views?

B: Generally, no, but sometimes to an individual specifically, of course. Generally I say, find the Lord while He may be found. He's here, He's alive, and He never fails to respond to the person who has a sincere desire to find Him.

A: In a way, aren't you saying that your views really don't matter? For example, you said earlier that what you thought about God wouldn't change God.

B: I think what I am saying is that at some point I might sense that God is saying to me in the myriad ways in which he speaks to different people... that it's time to do something else with how I think. For now, though, it matters very much for me to say what I am saying. Incidentally, even though I said that I believe I am called to say what I say... I don't begin to understand completely the why. Maybe it is only for me. Maybe nobody else needs to hear it but me.

A: Brad, I am willing in front of a Christian television audience to state that while some of what you say is troublesome –simply because it flies in the face of some of the things I've been taught– what you have to say is also for me. I believe that what you say is also for many out there who will view this videotape. You've been called the ultimate rebel. How do you respond to that label?

B: I think of myself as a counter-revolutionary. The Protestant church came into being as a result of some who revolted against the teaching and rule of the Roman Catholic Church. My primary angst is with the Protestant church. Roman Catholicism is easily seen for what it is. Protestantism is a far more deceptive and devious front for a spirit masquerading as ultimate truth. Aubrey, if the historical Church of Rome is the "Whore" to which John referred in The Revelation, then the protestant daughters of the whore are seven times more seductive and misleading than their mother. My final bit of defensiveness about being called a rebel is this: To the best of my knowledge I try to abide by the recorded words of Jesus... and I try to listen to him now, today. When my failures become obvious to me, I just follow the implied instructions of a story Jesus told... and beat on my chest and cry out for mercy... with the knowledge that I am forgiven and walking in God's righteousness; therefore, most definitely a rebel, but a rebel against what or whom?

A: I understand that you refuse to accept speaking engagements at churches. If you have a corrective message for the church, don't you think you should deliver it?

B: I believe I am delivering it at this very moment. I do not turn down invitations to speak at local churches or groups out of hand. It is simply that when I lay down the conditions for accepting an engagement to speak, the invitation is generally withdrawn. Can you imagine any leader of a church extending an invitation to speak after watching this interview?

A: Yes, I actually can think of some who would welcome you... depending on your conditions of course. I'd like to hear what your conditions would be for accepting an invitation to speak... and how much money do you require, if I might ask?

B: As I told you when you invited me here, I charge nothing; I give freely what I have freely been given. I refuse to accept any kind of offering either. That is not intended as a criticism of those who do. My conditions are very simple. The senior leader of any church extending such an invitation must tell me personally that I have his or her permission to say or do anything Holy Spirit gives me to say or do while I am speaking... and there is no time limit. I will tell people up front that whenever they get uncomfortable with what comes out of my mouth they have my permission to get up and leave... and I will not take offence. If you think that such conditions will be readily accepted, you are incredibly naïve.

A: That may well be, what topics do you cover?

B: Whatever I'm given to say at that moment.

A: Let me repeat what I heard you say are your conditions for accepting an invitation to speak at a church. First, the senior leader must give his permission for you to say whatever Holy Spirit gives you to say. Next, there is to be no time limit. I guess that's it, right?

B: Yes

A: So, if I was able to get some church leader to extend an invitation for you to speak and he agreed to those conditions, you would accept. Is that correct?

B: Not necessarily. I'd have to pray about it first. If the conditions were met and I got the green light from our Dad... yes, I'd accept. I will warn you in advance that it hasn't happened for some time.

A: If it hasn't happened for some time... could that be a signal that you haven't gotten the message straight... and God himself is throwing up blocks.

B: Aubrey, with God, everything is possible.

A: You wrote a piece some time ago about the substitute law of Christianity. Do you remember it?

B: Yes, of course. I was simply pointing out that various groups within Christianity were loaded down with all kinds of rules of conduct for living that had nothing to do with what Jesus said, or the Ten Commandments and many people were in bondage because of it.

A: You know, Brad, with most of my questions you refer to the Bible with almost every answer. In fact, you have even said that it doesn't matter what you think... and in one case you quoted, I believe the Gospel of John, and also something that Paul wrote. Why do you make such sweeping statements against the Bible? Aren't you really in basic agreement with the stand that the Bible is the inspired word of God?

B: Well, I'd have to ask you where I made such sweeping statements that were anti-Bible? My sweeping statements are against those who say they believe the Bible and avoid like the plague a great deal written in the Bible that doesn't square with their own theology. And they talk about my "private interpretation" of the Scriptures when I quote something from the original languages with which there are no few scholars who agree. Fundamentalists, by and large are the ones with their own private interpretation. What is the point of saying you believe the Bible, or of making doctrinal statements about it being the Word of God... when you ignore huge portions of what it says?

A: Would you provide us with some specific examples?

B: I already have, Aubrey. What Jesus said about those of us who believe will perform more and greater miracles than he was able to perform. I have some ideas about his self-imposed limitations... but I won't get off on that here. His command not to allow anyone to call you by any title that implies spiritual

superiority or authority over any other person... that we are all to minister to one another in brother and sister equality. I could go into huge portions of the Old Testament to which Evangelicals seem to want to take the scissors. One rather simple example comes to mind. In the Ten Commandments you have, “You shall not make a carved image – any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth...” Now, I’m not being legalistic here, believe it or not. But it seems to me that crosses and symbols of fish carved and attached to one’s lapel, or the rear of the trunk lid of their car, might just be a violation of that commandment; I didn’t say that, it is in the Bible. In the twentieth chapter of Exodus, Moses said, “And God spoke all these words, saying: ‘I Am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage...” etc. I am not cutting it out... do you see what I mean, here?

A: That’s interesting, I hate to admit my ignorance, but I have never even heard that Commandment before.

B: Again, Aubrey, Christians by and large say they are under the New Covenant and here’s part of the substitute law. They say the entire Bible is God’s Word... yet they insist on ignoring quite a bit of what the Bible clearly teaches. Primarily though, the Bible reveals that we can have a personal relationship with the Creator of the Universe... and with the Father and His own Spirit... and for the most part, Christians think they are cultivating that by studying the Scriptures... or worse yet by sitting in some pew and listening to some powerless guy with a PhD after his name. That’s what I am railing about. Not the Bible.

A: It seems to me that you are avoiding a simple question. Is the Bible the inspired word of God?

B: Forgive me I didn’t think I was avoiding the question... I think I remember quoting something to the effect that insofar as it is correctly translated and interpreted, so, yes, of course.

A: Is there a way to close the gap between yourself and other Christians... so that there can be a medium of fellowship?

B: I certainly hope so. I am totally open to that. A thought just came to me that I accept whole-heartedly as being inspired by God’s own Spirit, you test it for yourself. I have five grown children, three men and two women. Each one is an individual and I relate to each one differently -- as they do to me. I accept each one

fully as my child. What they think and how they feel about each other, or for that matter about me, does not change my position with them or my love for them. It's just the way it is.

A: There is something troubling to me about what you say. You are admittedly against organized Christianity on the basis that its actions are disobedient to the Bible. Isn't that your position? Or have I taken it too far?

B: No, I'd say that's far too simplistic... in other words it doesn't come close to taking my position far enough. We have a Book that reveals where Jesus Christ is now and forever. The secret of the universe and all ages, Paul wrote in a couple of places, is that Christ is in you. John wrote that anyone that receives the truth that the Spirit that created the universe became a man... has, by that small beginning, been given the right and authority to become a child of God... and to grow into the maturity of Christ-likeness. More of the substitute law is what most of Christianity thinks of as being Christ-like.

A: As I started to say, what is troubling about some of what you say is that you attack Christianity, but offer no substantive way out -- no alternate system, so to speak.

B: Oh, but I think I do... more than a system... a personal relationship with the Creator of the universe. I remember a Jewish salesman that came up to me once and told me a rather strange thing. He said, "If I were going to be a Christian I would want to be just like you." I asked him why on earth would he want to be like me? I was actually aghast. He said because I drank beer and cussed and spoke in tongues. Where he had gotten such information was beyond me. While I was standing there in shock... he went on to say he'd like to talk to me about it some time. When I said something like, no time like the present, let's go get a cup of coffee... he shrank back and muttered not now... and that ended it.

Several months later I saw him again, actually at the same wholesale business for which I was doing some consulting and that he was a distributor of some of the products this business handled. He just said hi. I grabbed his arm... and told him that we were going to take a ride together. Surprisingly he didn't resist. Several hours and enormous amounts of conversation later he was sitting in my car yelling at the top of his lungs the words... Jesus, Jesus, take me, take me! That was among the weirdest conversions, if you will, I have ever seen. I saw Howard about ten years later... still walking with Jesus, but in the power and presence of God's own Holy Spirit. This guy, about forty years old at the time he told Jesus to "take him" was steeped in Judaism, from a staunchly Jewish religious family. He understood the whole messianic claim of Jesus instantly at the very

moment he invited him to come in and take over his life. Christians talk about Jesus as being above and beyond what we mere human beings can be and do. Much of Jesus' message, hidden by Christianity, is that we are to be as he was and do what he did while he was on this planet. Embracing that truth... really embracing that truth and following his own formula for becoming "no longer I, but Christ" is not easy. In fact, in my view, it is impossible humanly. But it starts simply with saying and meaning that I no longer want to run my own life. I want YOU to run my life and then be willing to sit back for a wild ride.

A: But can't the traditional church be a part of that process?

B: Well, I'm certainly not going to dictate where and how God's Spirit leads somebody into living in the now of eternal life. If God can use the jawbone of an ass... he can certainly use the traditional church.

A: Is there any chance that you could be persuaded to start some sort of an institute for teaching some of these things you've been expounding? I've learned some things today that I've just never heard before, yet I know they are the truth.

B: I will go wherever God leads me, Aubrey. For now, it's wandering around, crying out in the wilderness. In my ego stuff I could get all excited about writing a whole system of what Jesus taught, as I see it, and start some sort of learning establishment. At the moment, I'm hearing "no" to that enticing thought.

A: Am I missing something, or have you implied that at some point you might even be found back in a church setting?

B: Now, with God, Aubrey, all things are possible, right?

A: Well that's all the time we have for today. Will you come again and share on this program?

B: Any time, Aubrey, I'd love to do that.

A: in fact, you have an intriguing bit of teaching on the first chapter of Acts regarding what you consider to be the real meaning of the term "witnessing..." you claim that the traditional understanding is based on a mistranslation, isn't that your position?

B: Yes, that's what I believe... and there is some exciting information there, especially for people who want to live in the power and presence of God's Spirit.

A: All right, I'll have my producer get some dates together and contact you. We'll be looking forward to that.

(End of program)