A black and white photograph of Billy Graham kneeling on a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a striped tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is holding a small white object, possibly a book or a card, in his hands. The star on the ground has the name "BILLY GRAHAM" inscribed on it. In the background, several people are standing, some looking towards the camera. The overall scene is outdoors, likely on a sidewalk.

**Billy  
Graham**

**Let's  
Remember  
Him**

**for the Gospel He Preached**

# A Stroll Down Memory Lane



As I walked down Hollywood Boulevard, I couldn't help counting the bronze stars embedded in the sidewalk, each with the name of a famous star of the entertainment world. There was Barbra Streisand, Jack Nicholson, Glen Campbell, Bobby Vinton, Zsa Zsa Gabor... I felt as if I knew them as I walked by their name and their star, remembering them for their great performances in movies and songs and plays. As I passed Rex Harrison's star the songs of *My Fair Lady* flooded my mind, and then I saw William Shatner's star and I was flying through space in the starship *Enterprise*. And then I found myself dancing with Judy Holliday, and then... Billy Graham?! I never dreamed I would see Billy Graham's star! Was he star, too?

It startled me. What would a preacher of the gospel have to do with these Hollywood stars? Yet there he was: his name, among the great celebrities whom the world loved and adored.

But then I remembered how the Bible said in John 3:16 that "God loved the world so much," so why shouldn't Billy Graham be honored by the world he loved so much, and by the world's

famous people who loved him? Billy Graham – the most famous man of God the world has ever known, honored by presidents, kings, popes, and the celebrities of this world – preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to all of them; and I heard that he said that was what he wanted to be remembered for: the gospel he preached.



I remembered, when I was a boy, seeing him on “This is Your Life” on the *Art Linkletter Show*, and I remember the admiration I felt toward him and his family, along with George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows. Everyone in the world loved this man of God so much, honoring him with *great admiration*. Just think how many famous athletes, movie stars, pop singers, and even country singers like Johnny Cash, have been saved by his gospel. It brought back to my mind the words of Christ in Luke 6:26, “Blessed are you when all men speak well of you, for so did men speak of the prophets of old.” Surely he was blessed and regarded as a prophet, for the whole world loved this man so much — presidents, kings, popes, all the religions of the world — for he was a good and righteous preacher of the Good News. Why else would the world love him so much? After all, didn’t Jesus say in John 15:18, “If the world loves you, know that it loved Me first”?

Why, the Gallup Poll listed Billy Graham among the *Ten Most Admired Men in the World* for 36 years straight, more than any other individual in the world, placing him at the head of the list of those most admired by Americans for the past four decades! It was no wonder that they called him the *Reverend Billy Graham*! And in 1967, Belmont Abbey College, a Roman Catholic school,



granted him an honorary *doctorate*, so he could be called *Dr. Graham*. That seemed appropriate, since I remembered how Jesus had told his disciples in Matthew 23:6-12 how ministers should be honored with titles like “*Rabbi*” or “*Father*.”

But Dr. Graham was really a humble man, for even though he was honored by all, he was always taking the opportunity to honor others. I remember how he always honored my favorite football players. He knew that friendship with the world is friendship with God, and whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself a friend of God, as it says in James 4:4. He loved the world, and the things of the world, as it says in 1 John 2:15, proving that the love of God was in him. He honored sing-

ers and movie stars and politicians, who also must have been blessed, since the whole world spoke well of them. I knew, too, from Luke 16:15 that the things that are highly esteemed among men are also very pleasing to God.

So it was fine that Dr.

Graham had his star among the actors of Hollywood, even though he wasn't an actor himself. Why, in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, the apostle Paul told how servants of God like Billy Graham never had to masquerade righteousness, for they were only seeking the glory of the one who sent them, as Jesus said in John 7:18.

How he loved the world! "Like father, like son," as the old saying goes. It brought to my mind when Jesus spoke to the religious leaders of his day in John 8:39-44, and how he appreciated the way they did the deeds of their father also, and how he took identity with them. They were of the seed of Abraham and wanted to do the deeds he did. He said such wonderful things about them, and how they only wanted to do the desires of their father.

But the most wonderful thing that I remember Billy Graham for is how he preached the very *same* gospel as did the first evangelists and apostles in Acts 2:38-45 and 4:32-37, and with the very same results. It describes there how 3,000 people responded to the gospel by giving up their old lives and all their possessions, and how they lived together and shared all things in common. I clearly remembered how at every Billy Graham Crusade thousands of people responded to the gospel in exactly the same way, giving up all their possessions and sharing all they had with each other. Why, this is the foundation and pattern that





was established in Acts 2 & 4, which the Christian Church is built upon.

It's so amazing that after 2,000 years, we see all of Billy Graham's converts living the very same way the first disciples did. Just as Acts 2:44 says, all who *believe* as in John 3:16, then and now, live together in community.

Jesus said you can recognize a good tree by its fruit, and even today we see the very same fruit as in Acts 4:32-37 everywhere Billy Graham's gospel is preached. This proves that the gates of hell have not prevailed against the church, as it says in Matthew 16:18, for it is still thriving upon the same foundation, following the same Judean pattern, just as Paul praised the Thessalonians for in 1 Thessalonians 2:14.

Billy Graham is also well known for the unity he brings about, just as Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-23. This shows that he must truly be like the apostles in John 17:20-21, for his word causes all of his converts to live in perfect unity, so that they all agree and there are no divisions among them, but they are perfectly united in mind and judgment, just as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:10. So of course there are no denominations, and everyone loves one another just as Jesus commanded in John 13:34-35 so that the whole world recognizes them as His true disciples. Surely the fruit of his gospel shows that it must be the only true gospel, and not *another* gospel, as Paul warned the Corinthians about in 2 Corinthians 11:2-4.

I know that Billy Graham is obeying the Great Commission

in Matthew 28:19-20 because of how I was saved back in 1954 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He taught me, just as he did all of his converts, to obey the very same commands that Jesus commanded his first disciples. Rev. Graham's message was centered on Luke 14:26-33, where he quoted the very words of Jesus showing what everyone had to do to follow Him and be His disciple to have eternal life, just as the first disciples in Mark 10:28-30. I surely didn't want to hang onto my possessions and walk away sad as the Rich Young Ruler did in Mark 10:17-22.

The counselor showed me Mark 10:28-30, where I came to assurance that I would receive two things: 1) *persecution* (and boy, don't Billy Graham's converts get it!), and 2) *eternal life*. He also explained to me Mark 14:3-9, where the woman broke the alabaster jar and poured everything out on the Savior, so it became clear to me that I would have to pour out everything I had on His Body,



which is the church. I knew I had met the true Savior, just as he described Him as the “greater king” in Luke 14:31-33, and I heard what I had to do in order to meet the terms of peace with this Greater King.

He was also careful to tell me how Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:3-4 that a good soldier of Christ does not get involved in the things of the world. But then I learned that God gives us all things richly to enjoy, and as long as I didn't *love* them, then it would be OK, as 1 John 2:15 says. I was assured that I knew Jesus, and that I was not a liar, because I knew His commandments, as it says in 1 John 2:4. My preacher once told me to say over and over again, “I know that I know that I know that I'm saved,” and so I believe it, and no one can convince me otherwise, which was the purpose of John's first epistle, as is so clear in 1 John 5:13, in the King James Version.

I learned to live the way the first disciples lived in Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32-37, so this is how I live my life in my home with my family, by going to church on Sunday. Now I work for IBM, being a good witness on the job, and I give a tenth of my income (or whatever is left after I pay all the bills) to the church, and I try to be good, and read my Bible every day, and I know this must be the witness of the kingdom Jesus was talking about in Matthew 24:14. I'm sure that is what will bring Jesus back to earth again, and bring about His kingdom — this very same gospel that both Billy Graham and the first apostles preached is that witness. I know my job at IBM is that witness to the world, just as 2 Timothy 2:4 says a good soldier of Christ should be.

I'm so thankful, as Jesus said in John 17:16, that I'm of the world but not in it, just like all the Christian football players and movie stars as they carry on their occupations for a witness to the world, to show who His disciples are... *not*.



(Start on Page 15)

that they need something that they don't have, and I think they turn to the only light they have, and I think they are saved, and that they are going to be in heaven with us."<sup>1</sup>

"I still have some personal problems in this matter of infant baptism, but all of my children with the exception of the youngest were baptized as infants. I do believe that something happens at the baptism of an infant, particularly if the parents are Christians and teach their children Christian truths from childhood. We cannot fully understand the mysteries of God, but I believe that a miracle can happen in these children so that they are regenerated, that is, made Christian, through infant baptism. If you want to call that baptismal regeneration, that's all right with me."<sup>2</sup>

"World travel and getting to know clergy of all denominations has helped mold me into an ecumenical being. We're separated by theology and, in some instances, culture and race, but all of that means nothing to me any more."<sup>3</sup>

So who is this man so loved and honored by the world for his great achievements and grand crusades, where millions were saved to become just like their teacher?

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the religious leaders were offended when they heard this saying?" Jesus answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Have nothing to do with them; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit. (Matthew 15:12-14)

If you would like to know more about the true gospel and the places where it can actually be lived out, please call, write, or better yet, visit one of our communities listed on our web site: [www.zwevetribes.org](http://www.zwevetribes.org).

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<sup>1</sup> David R. Barnhart, "Islam: The Cross or the Crescent?" *The Vine and Branches* (Summer 1998, Volume 13, Issue 3), p. 7  
<sup>2</sup> *The Lutheran Standard* (October 10, 1961), p. 13-15  
<sup>3</sup> "All of That Means Nothing to Me Any More," *Foundation* (October-December 1988), p. 22

than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 — Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 — Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

1 John 2:4 — Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 5:13 — These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Matthew 24:14 — And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

John 17:16 — They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Finally, here are a few notable quotations from Mr. Graham himself, which betray the shifting sand on which his gospel rests:

"Well, Christianity and being a true believer you know, I think there's the body of Christ. This comes from all the Christian groups around the world. Outside the Christian groups, I think everybody who knows Christ, whether they are conscious of it or not, they're members of the Body of Christ ... whether they come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world, or the Christian world, they are members of the Body of Christ, because they've been called by God. They may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their hearts

1 Corinthians 1:10 — I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

2 Corinthians 11:2-4 — I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I am afraid that to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Matthew 28:19-20 — Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Luke 14:26 — If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:31-33 — Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not give up all his possessions cannot be my disciple.

Mark 10:28-30 — Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold more in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."

Mark 14:3-9 — And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more

*your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

*The following verses were not misquoted, but were referenced as if Mr. Graham had embraced and upheld them, when in fact he did not:*

*Acts 2:40-45 — And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

*Acts 4:32-37 — Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:14 — For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews.*

*John 17:20-23 — I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

John 15:18 — If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

Matthew 23:6-12 — and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the market places and being called rabbi by others. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. James 4:4 — You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15 — Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Luke 16:15 — And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 — For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

John 7:18 — The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

John 8:39-44 — They answered him, "Abraham is our father;" Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father — even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do

## To the Reader

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*Satire — n., a literary work that employs wit, irony, or sarcasm to expose folly.*

We hope that you have realized by now that the article, “A Stroll Down Memory Lane” is a satire. It is not meant to be taken literally, however, it is meant to be taken seriously, because it is a very serious matter that someone would lead millions astray, convincing them that they have eternal life when they do not.

Although we have taken liberty in our ironic use of the scriptures to make a point, we have not exaggerated or misrepresented the facts about Mr. Graham’s methods and achievements.

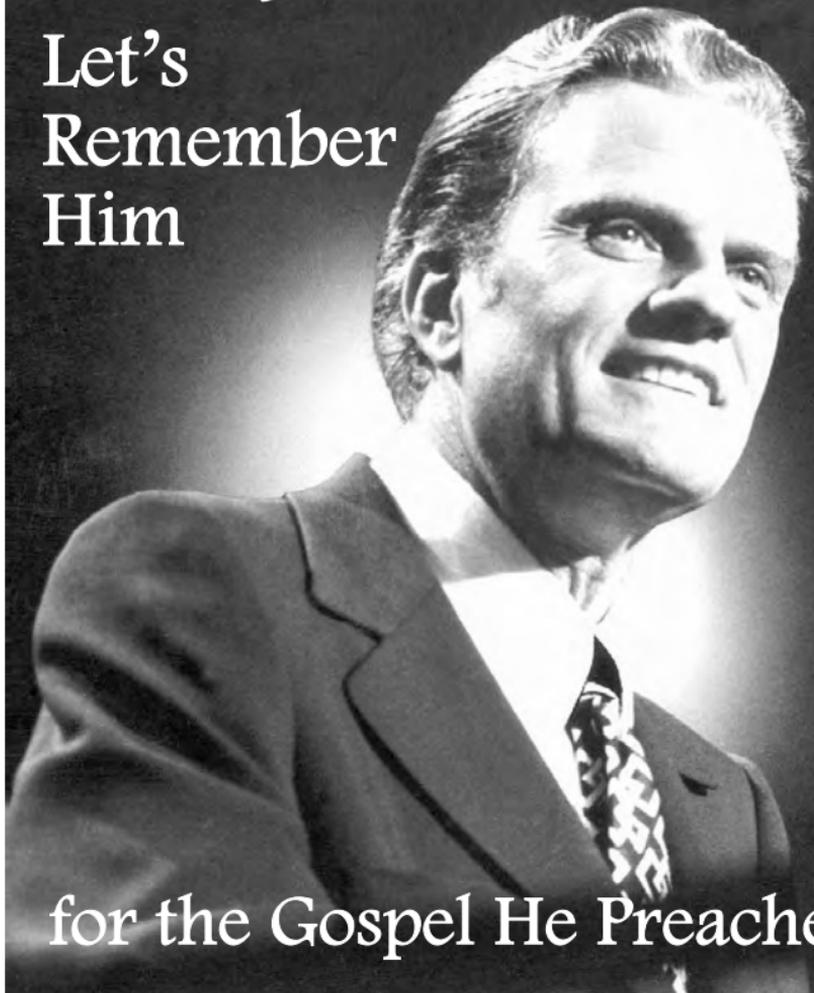
Just so that you do not misunderstand us, here is the correct reading of each of the verses that we intentionally misquoted to make the point that Billy Graham’s life and gospel are in contradiction to the scriptures:

John 3:16 — *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Luke 6:26 — *Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.*

# Billy Graham

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for the Gospel He Preached