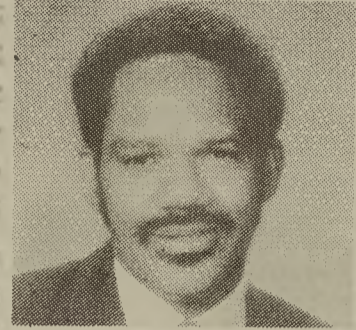


A Christian Response To The Jehovah's Witnesses' Challenge



**JOHN ADAMS
INSIGHTS**

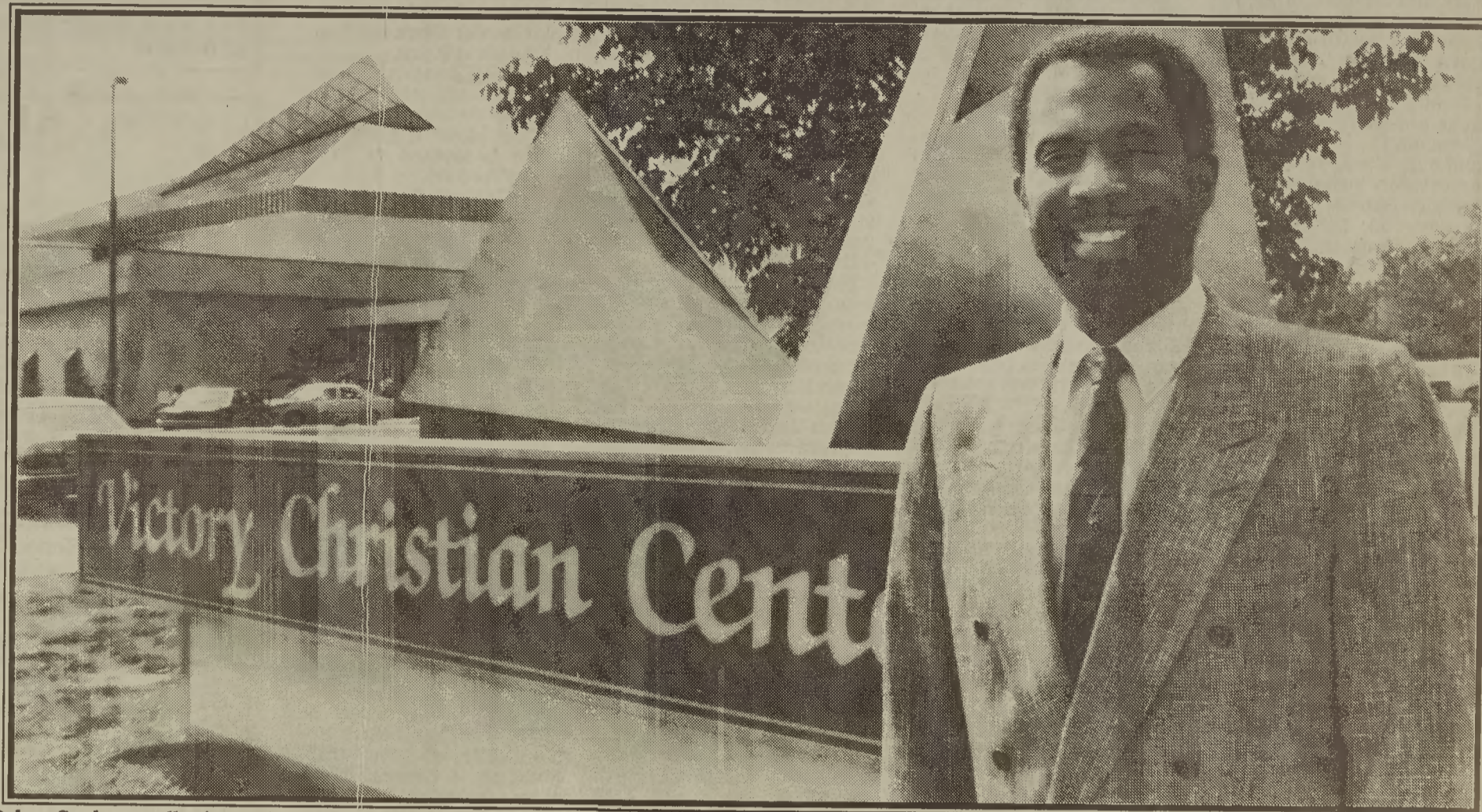
Jehovah's Witnesses can make a "doctrinal pretzel" out of the average non-trained Christian in about 30 seconds. You can send a man or woman to four years of college, three years of seminary and a 90-day wonder from the Watchtower of a well trained Jehovah's Witnesses that will twist them up so fast, so authoritatively that it takes literally days to get such an individual untwisted. This is the reason many average Christians when spotting a Jehovah's Witness coming up the street, will run and pull the window shade down and pretend they are not at home. For this reason, the Jehovah's Witnesses have been successful in convincing many average Christians that they believe the same thing as the average Christian believes.

A Christian's response to a Jehovah's Witness always should be what do you think of Christ.

The Christian who fails to know his or her Bible is at the mercy of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Thinking that the Jehovah's Witness is as "Christian" as the average Christian is or claims to be, presents real dialogue with the Jehovah's Witnesses on the essential truths of the Christian faith. I John 4:5 makes a distinction between the Spirit of truth versus the Spirit of error. The Jehovah's Witnesses are of the world and the Church is of God. Both cannot be right. Either the Church is right on who Jesus is or the Witnesses are right in their cultic description of Jesus of Nazareth. The Jehovah's Witnesses fail to be the church. It rightly fits the definition of a cult, seeing that cult is a group of people gathered about someone's misinterpretation of the Bible. A Christian's response to a Jehovah's Witness always should be what do you think of Christ? Christology, the person, nature and work of Christ is all that counts. Jesus of Nazareth is either God in human form or He is no God at all. He cannot be a god, as the Jehovah's Witnesses say, he is Michael the archangel.

Far too many scriptures reject this misrepresentation of our Lord. Jude tells us Michael and Satan had a dispute over the body of Moses, but Michael dare not bring a railing accusation against Satan but instead said the Lord rebuke you. Obviously, Michael the archangel does not measure up to the Jesus of the Bible. When Jesus had confrontation with Satan he commanded him to get thee behind me. Jesus rebuked Satan, demons, wind and storms. The mere fact that Jesus could forgive sin shows that He was God, and to say the least, Jesus used the divine name "I am" which means the eternal to demonstrate that He spoke to Moses in the burning bush, as well as pre-existed before Abraham came to existence.

Growth Is Part Of Gool's Vision



Robyn Gool says adhering to God's timing is important in his vision and ministry. He is standing in front of Victory Christian Center on Old Pineville Road.

By Cassandra Wynn
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Robyn Gool has become a formidable force in the Charlotte religious community.

In addition to pastoring one of the largest predominantly black congregations in Charlotte (with approximately 2,300 people attending each Sunday), Gool has a television ministry that is broadcast locally on the NBC affiliate, the FOX affiliate and on two cable television channels.

His church, Victory Christian Center, owns Radio sta-

tion WOGR 1540 AM. The call letters stand for Word Of God Radio or Where Our God Reigns. The station carries broadcasts from Gool, other local ministers such as Phillip Davis, pastor at Nations Ford Baptist Church, and evangelists such as Billy Graham and Dr. Kenneth Hagin.

In 1989, the Victory Christian Center School opened and has grown from an enrollment of 167 to approximately 400 students this year, making it the largest predominantly black private school in the city. Just this year, a day care center adja-

cent to the church was purchased in order to expand.

"The acquisition allowed us more space for the preschool and elementary school," Gool said.

Gool also has established a school for adults - the More Than Conquerors School of The Bible and School of The Ministry.

Few predominantly black organizations in Charlotte hire more employees. In all, Victory Christian Center employs 79 people.

Gool gives no comment when he is asked about rumors that talks are going on between him and John

McDonald, owner of McDonald's Cafeteria about purchasing the cafeteria on Beatties Ford Road.

VCC members look at Gool as their leader in delivering the Word of God and they are loyal in participation in church activities and in paying tithes. When the church moved to its present location on 7224 Old Pineville Rd. in 1988, the \$3.2 million facility was paid for, according to Gool.

It is in the Word of God that Gool and his congregation get their power. He said his aim is to help "people understand what the Word of God

can do for them. ...The Truth shall make you free," he said. "I look at that in a literal way. It can make you free from all negative hindrances." The power of God's Word can take people "from poverty to abundance, from fear to courage, from sickness to health."

Filtering through denominational discipline and interpretation is inhibiting, he said.

There is a practical side to Gool's ministry. On the list of activities for Victory Christian Center are workshops on handling finances and budgeting, parenting and education.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON "God's Commitment To Abram"

Introduction

The dynamics of raw power and unbridled greed, which fueled the conflict recorded there, are unfortunately typical of the forces that drive the human struggle to the "top of the ladder." Abraham, by contrast, had chosen a different way. He would live his life and seek his fulfillment not by force but by faith, not by self-interest by submission to the will of the sovereign God.

The Lord, who had spoken to Abraham on at least three prior occasions, came in a vision to offer words of encouragement. The manner in which God addressed Abraham clearly demonstrate that the blessings He offered His servant were a direct response to the spiritually-minded way in which Abraham behaved during the battle of the kings.

It is as if God was intentionally confirming Melchizedek's blessing, which had attributed Abraham's victory to the power of God. In a similar fashion, God's assurance of great reward is clearly to be connected with Abraham's refusal to profit by the spoils of war.

All of this was designed to show Abraham that any sacrifice had made out of loyalty to God would be more than recompensed by the even greater blessing of God. This promise likewise sustains God's children today as they sacrifice personal ambition and the desire for material gain to follow the way of the cross. The prospect of a sudden demise is, in itself, enough to trouble any person, but Abraham's anxiety

was deepened by an even greater threat. It was the possibility of dying without a son to inherit his property and carry on his spiritual pilgrimage. The custom of the day dictated that, should a man die without a son, the oldest houseborn male servant would become heir to the family's estate. Abraham assumed this would be his, and that Eltezer of Damascus, who was such a servant in Abraham's house, would inherit all that was his.

God had promised Abraham that He would bring forth a great nation from him. Given the life circumstance of Abraham and Sarah, however, this must have seemed impossible. Their ages (at least seventy-five and sixty-five years old respectively) and Sarah's infertility seemed to doom them to a childless future. But human extremity can often be divine opportunity. In fact, a careful reading of Genesis suggests that God was providentially orchestrating the events of the patriarchs' lives for the purpose of teaching them to be less dependent upon themselves and more dependent upon Him. In each generation of Abraham's family, the covenant promise was moved forward by a son born to a woman who was temporarily barren (Isaac of Sarah, Jacob of Rebekah, and Joseph of Rachel). It is as if God was intentionally interrupting the normal procreation of the patriarchal family in an effort to demonstrate that their destiny lay not in what they could produce but in what God promised.

God's call of Abraham had set three prospects before: (1) a land that God would show him; (2) a great nation that would emerge from him; and (3) a blessing that would be extended to all peoples through him and his descendants. Abraham began his pilgrimage unsure of its ultimate destination. Having now migrated to Canaan he received assurance that this was the land that God had in mind. Abraham's ancestors lived in Mesopotamia, a territory somewhere between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. There is some debate among scholars as to the actual location of Ur of the Chaldees. But the most generally accepted identification of Ur of the Chaldees is with the great city of Ur located on the lower Euphrates River in southern Iraq. Though the exact location of Abraham's homeland remains somewhat of a mystery, the theology of his ancestors does not. It was similar to that of virtually all the peoples of the ancient Near Eastern world: "they served other gods." Out of a land of idol worshippers, God called Abraham to migrate to Canaan.

In this revelation God allowed Abraham to peer several hundred years into the future. The land of Canaan would be occupied by this descendants only after they had experienced a long period of servitude in a land that is not theirs. The land of which he spoke was undoubtedly Egypt.

The Price Of Rebellion, Part I

Man by nature hates God and rebels against God in every fiber of his being. In Romans 1:30 the Apostle Paul used the expression "haters of God." Have you ever seen that you hate God, my man? If not, then the god you know is only a figment of your blind and depraved mind. Now that is so whether you know it or not.

Let me say in the beginning that God's Word was written for one person, and one person only, the child of God. The reason you won't have it is because it was not written for you.

Our subject at this time is "THE PRICE OF REBELLION." Men and women take it as a light thing to rebel against God. Every time a group rebels against the Lord and the leadership of God's servant, the servant of the Lord falls on his face before the Lord crying for the Lord to spare the rebels if it is God's will. I've fallen on my face before the Lord crying that the Lord will have mercy on rebels here who have rebelled against God my rejecting the truth as it is in Christ.

In Numbers 16 we have the story of Korah, and Dathan, and Abiram. These men led a rebellion against the leadership of God's servant, Moses. "AND THEY ROSE UP before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: AND THEY GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER

AGAINST MOSES AND AARON, and said unto them, YE TAKE TOO MUCH UPON YOU, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them; where fore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?" (Numbers 16:2-3). This was the rebellious state ment Korah, Dathan and Abiram made to Moses. They challenged Moses's leadership, and Aaron, and told God's two servants that all the congregation was holy. What was Moses's response in the face of this rebellion against the Lord and the Lord could destroy them for their rebellion. God had called Moses from the courts of Pharaoh to lead His people out of Egyptian slavery. Moses was God's ordained authority over Israel. And Moses knew that any rebellion against God, Himself. Yes, God had set Moses over the children of Israel as God's representative. But this group of rebels did not see Moses as God's representative. Blind hearts never do. If you did, you would not rebel against that man God has ordained over you. I'm facing the same rebellion here that Moses faced. This message grew out of the rebellion here that Moses faced. This message grew out of the rebellion that broke out here. Moses didn't argue with that group of rebels.

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