

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

by Tom Wacaster

A popular rock song of the last century (sounds like a long time ago, does it not) expressed the tragedy of love lost. Among the myriads of broken hearts, the author expresses his sad lot in life that he has finally come to be numbered among those who have been shunned and scorned by one whom he loved so dearly. As the song progresses the chorus picks up the refrain, "And another one bites the dust..." The devil has done his best to place such an epitaph upon the spiritual tombstone of many a wayward soul. Loved by God, it was not the Almighty Who rejected them, but they the Lord. Called and coerced into the world, they have left their first love, entered the wide gate, and are traveling the broad way. By the thousands, yea the millions and billions, "another one bites the dust." One by one, souls are taken captive to the will of Satan, the majority of whom are never recovered by simple obedience to the Gospel. It makes the heart ache. Just as the grave is never full, and the covetous eye never satisfied, Satan continues his relentless slaughter, seeking even to recapture those who have obeyed the Gospel. The cares and riches of the world, the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the vainglory of life are the tools he uses to entice precious saints to turn their back on their first love and walk in their former way of darkness. And as the Devil succeeds in his vicious onslaught of his victims, "another one bites the dust." These same words could be used to express the increasing number of congregations that are falling to liberalism. Just about the time you think there remains one strong congregation amidst the many that have long since abandoned the truth, "another one bites the dust."

In the four plus years that I have been involved in mission work I have experienced "spiritual culture shock" on almost every trip from which I return. When I am abroad I am isolated from much of what is going on in the brotherhood, and were it not for input from brethren, periodicals and emails, I would be completely in the dark with regard to the rapid demise of so many once faithful congregations. Oh yes, it breaks the heart, as we hear of good congregations and faithful brethren who have fallen prey to the tactics of the Devil. What has happened to those who, even less than ten years ago, were bastions of strength for the brotherhood? What drives a congregation to host a "Called Out" seminar inviting the who's who of liberal change agents? What drives a congregation to organize and sponsor a "Christian Pop Music Group"? What drives a congregation to invite members of the church to attend their workshop, seminar, or even gospel meeting and then *charge* an enrollment fee to attend? What drives a congregation to invite known false teachers into the midst of the sheep while the shepherds sit back and ignore the slaughter? The list goes on as congregation after congregation capitulates and joins the ranks of those who would lead the Lord's church into apostasy. Our hearts ache! Tears run down

the cheek like rivers of water. Every attempt to warn, plead, beg, and teach go unheeded. How truly sad!

And as one more congregation turns its back on faithful adherence to the pattern set forth in the New Testament, or another precious soul falls to the temptation of Satan, the chorus refrain echoes in the background, "another one bites the dust."