

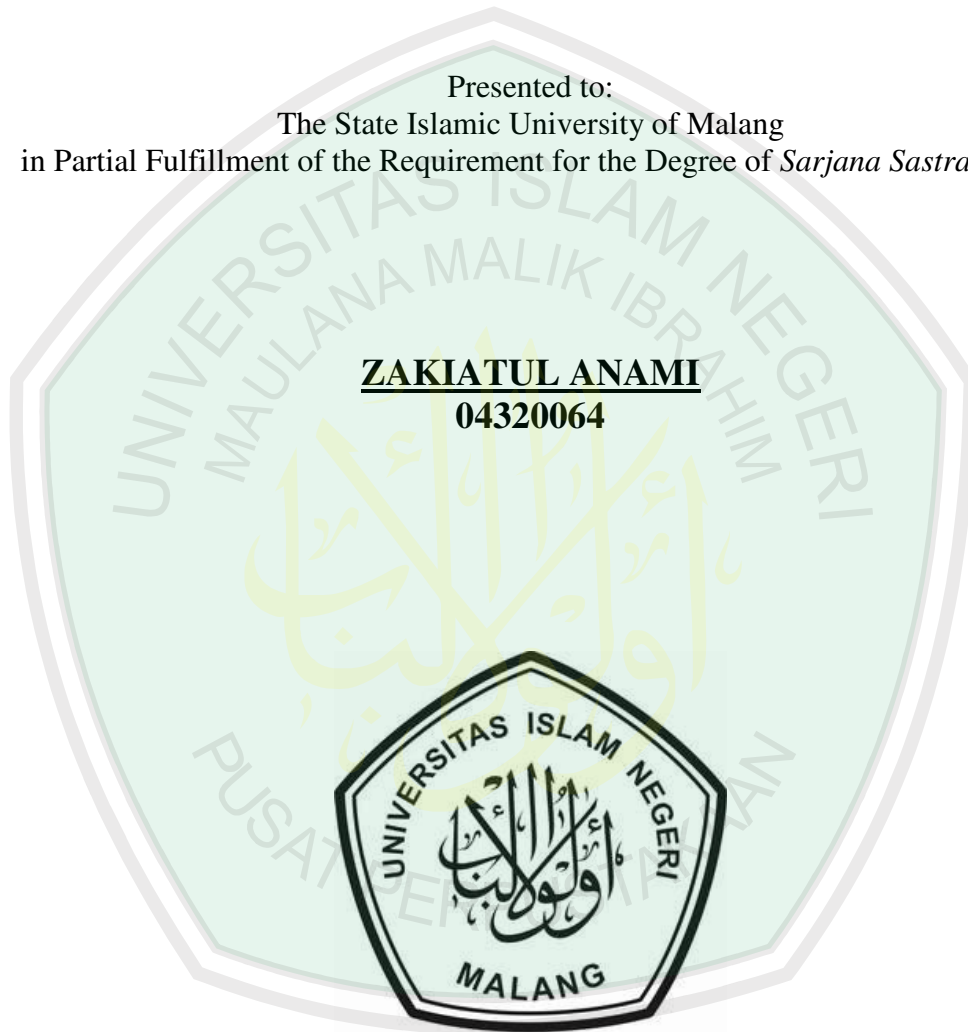
**ARGUMENTS USED BY BISHOP JOSE R. HERNANDEZ IN  
THE TEXT OF SERMONS**

**THESIS**

Presented to:  
The State Islamic University of Malang  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S)*

**ZAKIATUL ANAMI**

**04320064**



**ENGLISH LETTERS AND LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURE  
THE STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALANG  
2008**

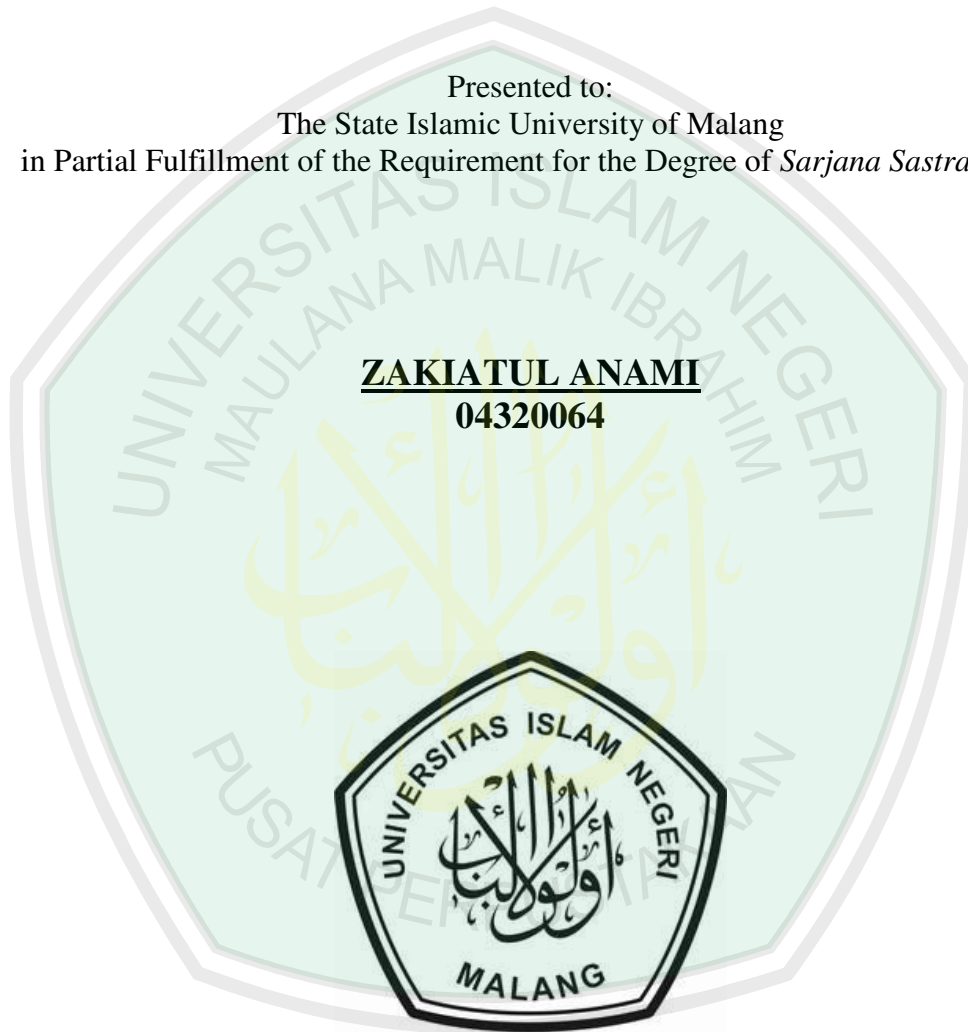
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2008**

## APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that Zakiatul Anami's thesis entitled *Arguments Used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in The Text of Sermons* has been approved by the thesis advisor for further approval by the board of examiners.

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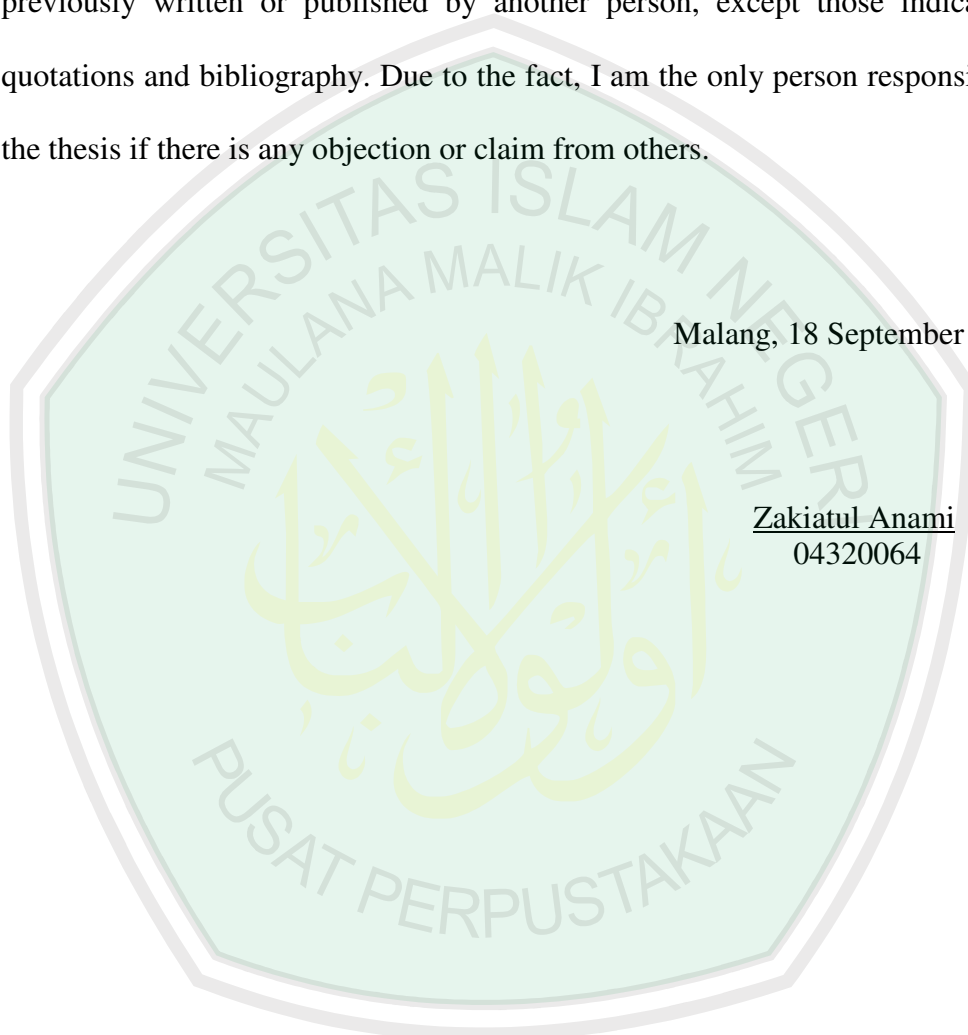
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## STATEMENT OF THESIS AUTHORSHIP

Hereby, I state that the thesis I wrote to fulfill the requirement for Sarjana Sastra (S.S) entitled “Arguments Used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in The Text of Sermons” is truly my original work. It does not incorporate any materials previously written or published by another person, except those indicated in quotations and bibliography. Due to the fact, I am the only person responsible for the thesis if there is any objection or claim from others.

Malang, 18 September 2008

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## LEGITIMATION SHEET

This is to certify that Zakiatul Anami's thesis entitled *Argument used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in the text of sermon* has been approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S)* in English Letters and Language Department, Faculty of Humanities and Culture at the State Islamic University of Malang.

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## MOTTO



## DEDICATION

*This thesis is dedicated for:*



*My family in Malang my father  
Choirul Anam,*

*My mother Rif'atul Mukarromah,*

*My brother M. Fajrul Falah,*

*and my two sisters Zuhairini Firdausil*

*Mukarromah and Mauliyatul*

*Mukarromah*

*Thanks for the love, sacrifice, and pray*

*Thanks for giving me a fascinating spirit  
and building my personality*

*Thanks for everything you give in my  
life*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*

Proudly, I would like to express my best gratitude to our greatest god Allah who has given me a drop of knowledge with a million powers. Peace and salutation be upon to greatest reformer in Islam, he is Muhammad Saw. Through his endless mediation that I am recognized as a true exist Moslem.

Because of that divine gift of grace from Allah, I am finally able to finish this thesis entitled *Arguments Used by Bishop Jose R .Hernandez in The Text of Sermons* as the requirement for the degree of S1 in English Letters and Language Department, Faculty of Humanities and Culture at the State Islamic University of Malang.

In addition, along in process of finishing this thesis I would like to dedicate my best thank to:

1. The Rector of the State Islamic University of Malang, Prof. Dr. Imam Suprayogo, giving me the chance and the opportunity to study in this Green University.
2. The Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Culture, Drs. Dimjati Ahmadin, M.Pd, providing tool and infrastructure which support the smoothness of learning and studying in this faculty.
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4. Drs. H. Djoko Susanto, M.Ed., Ph.D as my advisor who always leads and inspires me to get a better critical thoughts and ideas in finishing this thesis.



5. My pride Abi and Ibu, thanks for prays, loves, supports, understandings, cares, and affections. My beloved brother, sister and all members of my families, many thanks for your endless love and pray.
6. All of my close friends in English Letters and Language Department, mbak dewi, mbak nanik, and mbak mona, thanks for your support, advice, and suggestion.
7. My future husband who always be in my heart.
8. Azmil who had lent me a laptop to finish my thesis when my computer was error.
9. Ino and Isom who had helped me to borrow many books for my thesis.
10. And all people helping me to finish this thesis, which I cannot mention one by one. Thank you.

Last but not least, I invite the reader's suggestions and critics responding to the presence of my thesis. Hopefully, this research will give many advantages to all of people who much concern in English language.

Finally, there is no rose without thorn.

*Alhamdulillahirabbil 'Alamin*

Malang, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The writer

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## ABSTRACT

Anami, Zakiatul. 2008. *Arguments Used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in The Text of Sermons*. Unpublished Sarjana's Thesis. Faculty of Humanities and Culture. English Letters and Language Department, The State Islamic University of Malang.

Advisor: Drs. H. Djoko Susanto, M.Ed., Ph.D

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Argument is the defense of an opinion or of a position on an issue that is supported by concrete evidence and that is presented logically. Concerning with argument, this research attempts to look at the arguments used in the text of sermons as a prototypical example of a religious genre. The analysis was carried out using two theories of argument, namely Toulmin model and Aristotle's three appeals. The object of this research is sermons by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez.

This research used descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data since the data are in the form of words rather than numbers. Moreover, in this research, the key instrument is human instrument. The researcher has spent a great deal of time by understanding, discussing, and interpreting the data.

The results show that Bishop makes an argument using both theories of argument: Toulmin's model and Aristotle's three appeals in all of his sermons. The texts of sermons are characterized by various elements of argument and appeals. They are also characterized by a heavy use of quotation from Bible as a strategy for effective argument and persuasion used by the Bishop. However, this research is only an attempt to look at the arguments used in one of religious genre (sermon).

The findings of this study are expected to be able to give valuable contribution for English students, English lecturers, language users, and the next researchers. The next researchers may analyze argument using different theory and at different genre, such as sport columns, research articles, speech, advertising, and etc.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Argument, according to Olsen & Huckin (1991:72) is “simply a claim that something should be believed or done, plus proof or good reasons for believing or doing it. In the same sense, Buscemi (2002:509) states “argument is the defense of an opinion or of a position of an issue that is supported by concrete evidence and that is presented logically”. However, the purpose of using argument may be different depending on speaker’s or writer’s intention. There are five theories usually used to analyse argument: Toulmin argument, Aristotle’s three appeals, Rogerian argument, Induction and Narration. Yet, this study applies two theories, that is, Toulmin argument and Aristotle’s three appeals.

A contemporary philosopher, Stephen Toulmin, proposes a theory of argument known as Toulmin model. According to Crusius & Channel (2003:53), “this model analyzes the logic of any argument, whether written or spoken; and will also find it useful in examining the logic of arguments as you draft and revise them”. However, this model is limited to the analysis of logic. Generally, the elements of Toulmin model are data, warrant, claim, backing, qualifiers, and rebuttal (These elements will be discussed in more detailed in Chapter 2). These elements can be simplified into major elements and additional elements. The major elements include data, claim, and warrant; whereas additional elements include backing, qualifiers and rebuttal. However, Hairston (1986:335) suggests that “not all elements need to be present in every argument” as probably found in the results of this study.

Dealing with argument, Dietsch (2003:243) states that Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, proposes three kinds of appeals used in argument: logical, ethical, and emotional appeal. Logical appeals are arguments based on the structure of reality, such as example, illustration, model, analogy, and metaphor. Ethical appeals are arguments including the writer's personal experience, knowledge of the subject, and awareness of the audience's values. Finally, emotional appeals are arguments including the use of language with vivid pictures and metaphors to evoke the audience's emotion (Connor & Lauer in Cahyono 2001). Different from Toulmin who talks only about logic, Aristotle realizes that logic alone is not sufficient to persuade an audience. To convince, we must also gain credibility or trust from our listeners or readers. So, we must be perceived as honest, fair, and responsive to moral obligations. A logical argument appeals to mind, using evidence, reasons, and examples to support a claim or proposition. Ethical appeals are designed to strike a responsive chord in the minds of the readers, entreating them to do what is right, good, fair, and best. Then, emotional appeals stir the feelings of readers with figurative language, connotation, and anecdote. More detail explanation about three kinds of appeals will be discussed in Chapter II.

Several researchers have undertaken the study on arguments applying different method and theory. Connor & Lauer in Cahyono (2001), for example, found that writing persuasion is not an easy task even for students whose native language is English. In addition, Connor and Lauer use three measures to evaluate persuasive essays written by students across cultural backgrounds. The three measures were the superstructure of argument, the Toulmin model of informal reasoning and the persuasive appeals. The objects of their study were persuasive



essays written by 16-year-old students from the United States, England, and New Zealand. One hundred and fifty compositions were randomly selected from the collection of essays of the International Association for Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). Then, the essays were evaluated by three raters who had experience in teaching and evaluating writing.

Safnil (2002) found that a text of *khotbah* (sermon) consisted of at least four parts: opening remark, introduction, body and closure. Each part was composed of several moves and each move was characterized by the use of various rhetorical functions and specific lexical items. The text was also characterized by a heavy use of quotation from *Hadist* and *Alquran* as a strategy for effective argument and persuasion used by the *Khotib*.

This study examines the way of arguments used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in the text of sermons using Toulmin's and Aristotle's model. This study continues what the previous researchers (Connor and Lauer, 1988 in Cahyono 2001; and Safnil, 2002) have done in studying argument. Yet, the present study has some differences from the results of previous study. First, the objects of this study are the sermons by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez. This is different from the objects of the previous researchers in which their objects are student's persuasive essays and *khotbah* or sermon by Zarkasyi. Second, this study will focus only on the way of argument by using Toulmin's and Aristotle's model whereas the previous researchers did not focus their study on the way of argument by using those two models but applying rhetorical structure and three measures of linguistic, rhetorical and communication-oriented perspectives.

This study intends to observe, identify, and prove the way of arguments that are used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in the text of sermons. This study is important because of several reasons. First, sermon is an example of religious genre that is used to transfer religious knowledge from the speaker to the listeners. To convince the listeners, the speaker must know the way to construct an effective argument. Second, sermon is an essential activity used to advice people, to convey a commandment of God, and to make people to be better.

### **1.2. Problems of the Study**

This research is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. What are the elements of Toulmin model used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in his sermons?
2. What are three kinds of appeals used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in the text of sermons?

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

In conjunction with the research problems, this study aims:

1. to identify the elements of Toulmin model used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in the text of sermons, and
2. to know how three kinds of appeals used in Bishop Jose R. Hernandez's sermons.

### **1.4. Significances of the Study**

The findings of this study will provide useful contribution for English students who are learning how to make a convincing argument by using various ways of written language, such as article, essay, and thesis; and spoken language such as speech and sermon by using Toulmin's and Aristotle's theory depending on the audience who are faced by them,

For English lecturers, it is hoped to provide data in which making an argument should be based on the needs. They can make a good argument by using logical, emotional, and ethical appeal. When it is considered enough to only give claim, data and warrant, it is unnecessary to give other elements of argument. So, it depends on the audience who are faced; then, the results of this study is also expected to provide information for language users who want to be able to make a strong argument for convincing or persuading people; and the last, it can be used as a reference for the next researcher who will make a study in the area of argument.

### **1.5. Scope and Limitation**

This study focuses on the way of argument used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in the text of sermons involving Toulmin model and Aristotle's three classic appeals. To make the research manageable and to avoid broadening of the discussion, limitation is made. She only investigates the way of argument: Toulmin model and Aristotle's three classic appeals used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in the text of sermons.

### **1.6. Definition of the key terms**

1. Aristotle: the Greek philosopher who proposed three classic appeals model.
2. Stephen Toulmin: contemporary philosopher who proposed toulmin model.
3. Sermon: speech on religious or moral matters, especially one given in a church.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1. Rhetoric**

According to Crusius & Channel (2003:5), the popular meaning of rhetoric is empty verbiage -the art of sounding impressive while saying little or the art of verbal deception. This meaning of rhetoric confers a judgment, and not a positive one. Rhetoric was invented about 2,500 years ago in ancient Greece, and the word “rhetoric” refers to the art of public speaking. Yet, the meaning of rhetoric has changed over time. Then, in a positive sense, rhetoric means the art of mature reasoning. Related to rhetoric, Crusius & Channel (2003:5) mentioned the role of rhetoric for the Greeks:

“They had a goddess of persuasion, and they respected the power of the spoken word to move people. It dominated their law courts, their governments, and their public ceremonies and events. (...). Further, the ancient rhetoricians put a high value on good character. Not just sounding ethical but being known as an ethical person contributed to a speaker’s persuasive power”.

So, rhetoric is the art of argument as mature reasoning. The study of rhetoric develops self-conscious awareness of the principles and practices of mature reasoning and effective arguing.

#### **2.2. Argument**

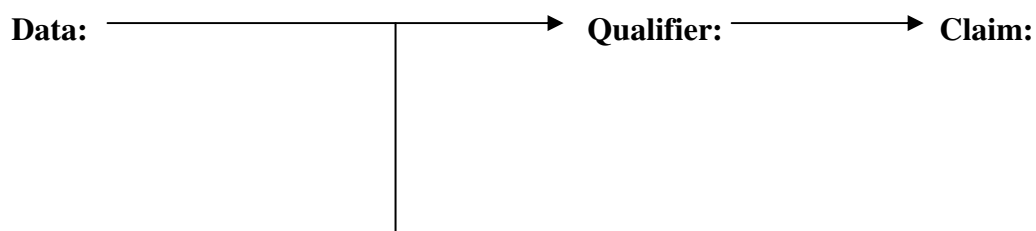
Argument is a claim that something should be believed or done, plus proof or good reasons for believing or doing it (Olsen & Huckin, 1991:72). As a form of discourse, argument seeks either to convince the reader of the validity of a proposition despite of opposing viewpoints or to persuade the reader to act on a proposition because it is the right course to follow.

Argument also requires reason and objectivity; although people are apt to be persuaded by emotional appeals, they like to consider themselves fair-minded, just, and reasonable. Therefore, the most effective appeals address the audience's most rational, generous, and humane tendencies (Flynn, 1982:142).

A formal argument is begun by introducing the subject, stating the proposition, proceeding to an exposition of the subject's origins and its importance to the individual and society, and then establishing the authority and experience on the subject. In addition, it can be strengthened by clearly setting forth the circumstances, principles, and basic facts that are relevant to the issue, and by delineating points of disagreement which must be proved or refuted (Flynn, 1982:143).

### **2.3. Toulmin argument**

The contemporary philosopher Stephen Toulmin developed the model of reasoning that is called Toulmin argument. This kind of reasoning employs patterns of argument similar to those that lawyer uses in court. Typically, writers or speakers who use it start out with a claim, just as a lawyer's case would be based on a claim; for example, the claim that someone's property had been damaged or that a contract had been broken. The lawyer would then build a case to support that claim, using whatever evidence and reasons he or she felt were needed to present a convincing argument. The components of Toulmin argument include: data, warrant, claim, backing, qualifiers and rebuttal (Hairston, 1986:333). The following is the example of Toulmin argument:



Our football team	probably,	they will
won the conference		win the con-
championship last		ference cham
year. So,		pionship

**Warrant:**

### Rebuttal:

again this

Since they only

Unless our football

year.

lost a few players

team has a lot of in-

from last year's

juries,

team...

## Backing:

Studies have shown

that college football

teams are similar from

year to year, unless

they lose a lot of pla-

years to graduation

### 2.3.1. Major elements of Toulmin's argument

The major elements of Toulmin argument are claim, data and warrant.

They must be present in an argument. A good argument at least must consist of those three elements. a great advantage for writers using Toulmin's model is that Toulmin's model does not dictate any specific pattern in which these three elements must be arranged. The claim may come at the beginning of an essay, or it could just as easily come after a discussion of both the data and the warrant.

Similarly, the warrant may precede the data or it may follow it-or the warrant may be implied rather than explicitly stated at any point in the essay.

#### **2.3.1.1. Claim**

A claim is a statement that communicates a persuader's message to an audience (Borchers, 2005:274). A claim has persuasive force because of the content (the data) that supports it as well as the form that makes it possible to move from the data to the claim. Claim can be stated or unstated. According to Cruz (in Borchers 2005), when persuaders state their claim explicitly, audience members better comprehend their message. When they understand the message, audience members believe the persuader holds a more extreme position on the subject, which, Cruz argues, leads to more attitude change. Thus, the more explicit the persuader's claim, the greater the attitude change. Whereas, the implicit claims so often offered by persuaders may lead to uncertainty about the nature of the message. Here is the example:

Claim: Raymond is probably an American citizen.

Data: Raymond was born in Puerto Rico.

Warrant: Anyone born in Puerto Rico is entitled to American citizenship.



### 2.3.1.2. Data

Data serve as the facts from which persuaders make claims. Ziegelmüller & Kay (in Borchers 2005) distinguish between the two types of data available to persuaders: premises and evidence. Audiences accept premises without external support, whereas evidence requires the support of some external source.

#### a. Premises

Premise is beliefs that audience members have about their world, such as the statement “The earth is a sphere” and “people are inherently good”.

Then, premise is divided into two types:

1. Perceptual premises are statements about the nature of the world and objects in the world, such as the statement: “The earth is sphere”.
2. Value premises concern the worth of something, such as the statement “The quality of life is more important than the length of life”. Value premises are learnt at an early age, and they are central to our belief system.

#### b. Evidence

Evidence is data gathered from sources external to the audience and offered in support of a claim. Persuaders who seek to discover evidence focus on actual events or scientific studies to support their claims. There are three types of evidence:

1. Example is a description of an actual or hypothetical case, event or situation. Persuaders use examples to put a human face on a situation, to dramatize a situation, or to reduce a complex situation to an easily

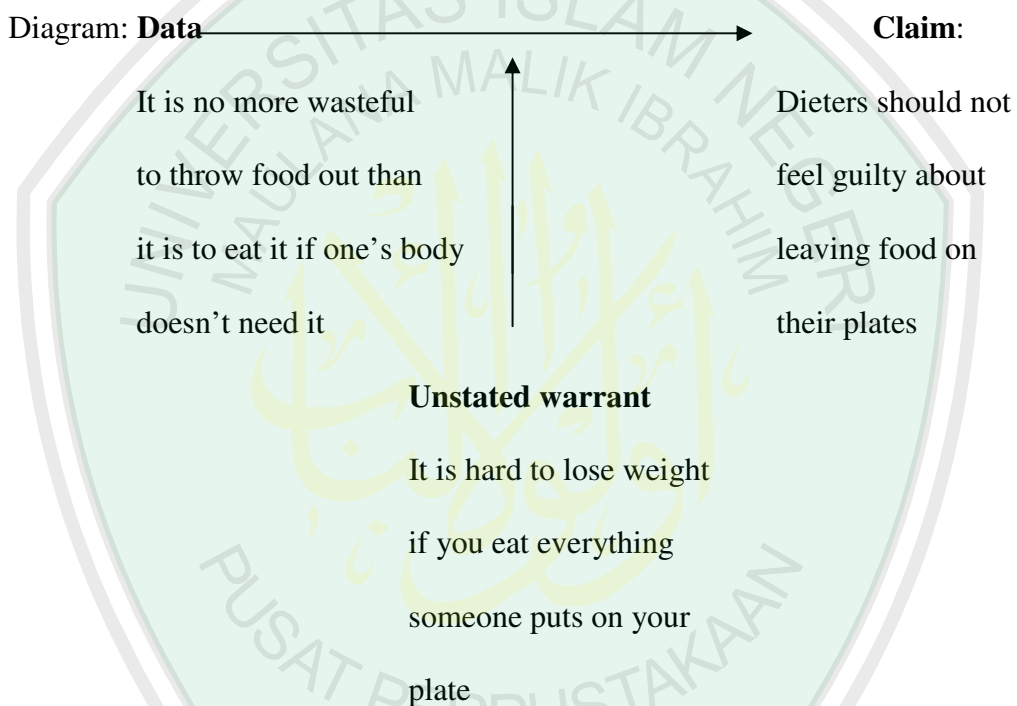
understood image. In these ways, examples allow persuaders to personalize ideas. Images-in particular photographs-often serve as persuasive examples.

2. Statistics is a field of science concerned with theories and techniques of data analysis. The word statistics is typically used to refer to the calculated value that represents some characteristics of data (Frey et al., in Borchers 2005). When statistics are used along with examples and they are consistent with each other, the persuasive effect is greater than when examples are used alone.
3. Testimony is a statement about a given topic. There are two types of testimony: factual and expert. A statement given by a witness in a court of law is factual testimony. Expert testimony interprets examples or statistics, providing meaning for them. For example, forensic pathologist Dr. Joseph Cohen's testimony in the 2000 murder trial of the four New York police officers accused of killing Amadou Diallo is a good example of expert testimony.

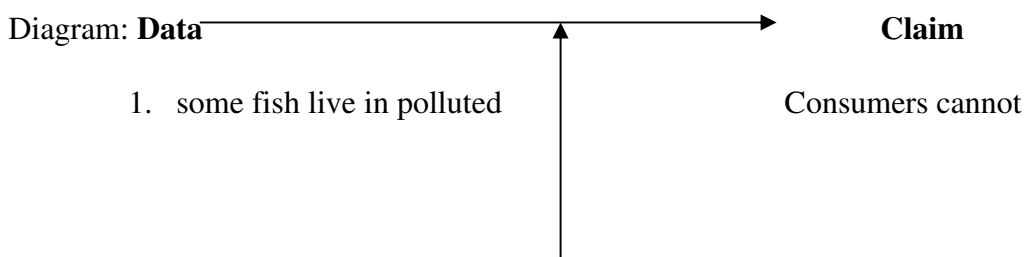
#### **2.3.1.3. Warrant**

Warrant, according to Borchers (2005:280), is the rationale for moving from data to a claim. It can also be called as the bridge that connects the data and the claim; it is also the tie that links data and claim together, that enables the reader or audience to get from effect to cause or cause to effect. Warrants may be stated or unstated. What is tricky about analyzing the Toulmin's diagrams to find the warrants is that often they are unstated or invisible. The followings are the example of stated and unstated warrant.

Argument: A nutritionist was trying to persuade a group of people who want to lose weight that they should forget their mothers' admonitions during their childhood to clean their plates at every meal. Her argument would be that they do not need to feel they are wasting food if they don't eat all of it because it is no more wasteful to throw food away than it is to eat it when one's body doesn't need it. The following is the parts of nutritionist's argument with unstated warrant.



Argument: consumers often have no way of knowing whether the fish or meat they eat contains cancer-causing substances because they don't know where the fish were caught or under what conditions cattle or sheep were raised. Some fish live in dangerously polluted waters, and many ranchers inject their cattle with stilbestrol or other hormones.



waters.  
2. some cattle are given  
hormones.

tell if the fish or meat  
they eat contains  
cancer-  
causing substances.

### **Warrant**

Consumers don't know  
where the fish they eat  
were caught or under what  
conditions cattle or sheep  
were raised.

The nature of the warrant will differ from one argument to another. It may be a matter of law (such as the Jones act of 1917 which guarantees U.S. citizenship to the citizens of Puerto Rico), an assumption that one's data have come from a reliable source (such as documents published by the Securities and Exchange Commission), or a generally accepted value (such as the sanctity of human life).

#### **2.3.2. Additional elements of Toulmin's argument**

Additional elements of Toulmin's argument are backing, qualifier, and rebuttal. These elements can be present or not depending on the needs of the writer or the speaker.

##### **2.3.2.1. Backing**

Backing is the "categorical statements of fact" that support the warrant. It is the reason the warrant is valid. The backing is often a scientific study or a law or

some other form of proof for the warrant. Often, the warrant and backing are not stated in an argument.

#### **2.3.2.2. Qualifiers**

According to Hairston (1986:333), qualifier is a qualification that limits the scope of the claim; typically, words such as probably, in most cases, or usually. In addition, Borchers (2005:285) states that qualifier is a statement that we make about the strength of the argument.

#### **2.3.2.3. Rebuttal**

A rebuttal expresses some kind of exception that would negate the argument being made. In the statement “Unless our football team has a lot of injuries this year, they probably will win the conference championship”, the rebuttal is the phrase “unless our football team has a lot of injuries this year”. Of course, there are many more exceptions: the other teams in the conference could be better, the team could be unlucky this year, a new coach may hurt the team’s chances, and so on.

#### **2.4. Aristotle's three classic appeals**

More than two thousand years ago, the Greek philosopher Aristotle proposed three kinds of appeals that make up an argument. They are logical, emotional and ethical appeal. It was because Aristotle realized that logic alone is not always enough to persuade an audience. To be convincing, the speakers or the writers must gain credibility- the trust of the listeners or the readers (Dietsch, 2003: 243-244).

According to Dietsch (2003:247), a convincing persuasion rests on a blend of facts and ethical reasons, bonded with appropriate emotion. In other words, emotion usually plays a less significant role. To be effective, all three appeals must harmonize. An emotional appeal that conflicts with either a logical appeal or an ethical appeal is inapt.

Furthermore, Dietsch (2003:247) gives guidelines for using persuasive appeals. They are:

1. Alert the audience to a problem by using suitable emotion.
2. Use restraint. Do not overstate. Exaggerated appeals can backfire.
3. Do not circumvent an issue. Focus your argument on the issue. Answer all of the opposition's points with solid evidence and reasons.
4. Do not oversimplify. Guard against either/or alternatives.
5. Avoid conflicting appeals. Contradiction undermines arguments.
6. Show and tell. Use examples and anecdotes to illustrate and heighten interest.
7. Read aloud to check for objectivity. Evidence should be presented honestly without slanting or manipulation. The writer's voice should sound fair and trustworthy.

### 2.4.1. Logical appeal

A logical argument appeals to the mind, using evidence, reasons, and examples to support a claim or proposition. Logical appeals are based on facts, sound inferences, and working theories. Reliable evidence may include established truths, primary sources, statistics, expert opinion, or personal experience (Dietsch, 2003:245).

#### a. Established truths

Some evidence is so solidly grounded that no reasonable person will seriously debate it. There are three kinds of established truths:

1. Historical fact: Lewis and William Clark explored the northwestern United States from St. Louis to Pacific Ocean.
2. Geographical fact: The Mississippi river is joined by the Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio rivers before it flows down to the Gulf of Mexico.
3. Scientific fact: When a heavy object is dropped, it falls to the ground.

#### b. Primary sources

Research that is gathered firsthand carries more credibility than that filtered through secondary researchers. If we can obtain relevant documents, letters, autobiographies, or other primary source materials, these can lend strong support to our argument.

#### c. Statistics

Reliable statistical findings from recognized and reputable authorities can strengthen our argument. To be reliable, the findings should be based on samples that are representative and random.

d. Expert opinion

The opinion of a recognized authority in a field generally conveys credibility and enhances an argument. If we decide to use expert opinion, we must check out the person's qualifications first.

e. Personal experience

The personal stories of people who have been involved in an accident, a tragedy, or natural phenomenon such as a tornado, can be powerful. A detailed description of such an event can have a strong emotional impact and buttress a logical argument.

#### **2.4.2. Ethical appeal**

Ethical appeals are designed to strike a responsive chord in the minds of the readers, entreating them to do what is right, good, fair, and best. Ethics can be broadly defined as a set of moral values- principles of conduct for an individual, group, profession, or society. Sound ethics are essential for a well-constructed argument (Dietsch, 2003:246).

To be ethical, an argument must respect the rights and needs of the audience. In other words, deception to obtain a selfish aim is unethical- and often illegal. For example, a pastor of an Ohio church persuaded several elderly couples to donate their life savings to his church. However, he spent the money for expensive cars and other luxuries. Eventually, he was convicted of fraud and sent to prison (Dietsch, 2003:246).



For a strong ethical appeal, we must present compelling reasons and evidence, write a well-reasoned argument that avoids logical fallacies, and avoid overusing emotional appeals. Two other important strategies for appealing to reader's ethics are raising and countering objections, and creating goodwill (Clouse, 2004:393).

In addition, according to Knefel (1991:272), using ethical appeals, we attempt to move readers by their sense of right or wrong. The ethical appeal often rests on the author's moral character: we're persuaded because we believe in the writer's sincerity and ethical convictions. We can also appeal to our readers' own sense of morality, calling upon them to be conscientious citizens, to think or act according to principles they know to be correct.

Here is a brief example ethical appeal from a prophetic science writer and naturalist taken from Knefel (1991:273):

It is not my contention that chemical insecticides must never be used. I do contend that we have put poisonous and biologically potent chemicals indiscriminately into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm. we have subjected enormous numbers of people to contact with these poisons, without their consent and often without their knowledge....I contend, furthermore, that we have allowed these chemicals to be used with little or no advance investigation of their effect on soil, water, wildlife, and man himself. Future generations are unlikely to condone our lack of prudent concern for the integrity of the natural world that supports all life.

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

although this appeal has an emotional element-our sense of dread about the effects of environmental contamination-it is aimed to persuade us that opposing reckless pollution is ethically just.

#### **2.4.3. Emotional appeal**

Emotional appeals stir the feelings of readers with figurative language, connotation, and anecdote. Such appeals can be powerful, for they bypass the intellect. Emotional appeals work best, however, when used in moderation. They should also be ethical (Dietsch, 2003:247).

If it is used wisely, emotion can motivate. Emotional appeals focus on reader's values and needs. For example, human beings need to feel attractive. Thus, the writer of toothpaste advertisement may claim that using the product results in fewer cavities and a brighter smile. Our intellect makes us understand the importance of fewer cavities, so that is an appeal to logic. However, our emotional need to be attractive makes us want a brighter smile. So, logical and emotional appeals can be more convincing than either appeal would be alone (Clouse, 2004:392).

Readers feel as well as think, and to be thoroughly persuaded they must be both intellectually and emotionally involved. The need for emotional appeal is greatest when we are trying to persuade readers that the present situation is bad and something must be done about it. Because any action takes effort, people are not likely to act until they feel a compelling need to do so. Then, emotional appeal creates that need (McCrimmon, 1984:338).

According to McCrimmon, the strongest emotional appeals usually dramatize a situation through examples. Agencies seeking money to provide food,

shelter, clothing, and medical care for suffering children often choose one child as typical and appeal for sympathy with a picture of that child.

In using emotional appeal in our own writing, there is almost no opportunity of presenting pictures; we must provoke the desired response through words alone. Our best means will probably be narration or description or a combination of both. If we want to show that a serious evil exists, we must dramatize that evil by showing it happening to somebody. If we want to show that the present situation is shocking, we must describe in specific detail. The following is an example of paragraph which combines both example and description:

As I sit in my jail cell in Santa Fe, capital of New Mexico, I pray that all poor people will unite to bring justice to New Mexico. My cell block has no daylight, no ventilation of any kind. After 9 P.M. we are left in a dungeon of total darkness. Visiting rules allow only fifteen minutes per week on Thursdays from 1 to 4 P.M. so that parents who work cannot visit their sons in jail. Yesterday a twenty-two-year-old boy cut his throat. Today, August 17, two young boys cut their wrists with razor blades and were taken unconscious to the hospital. My cell block is hot and suffocating. All my prison mates complain and show a daily state of anger. But these uncomfortable conditions do not bother me, for I have a divine dream to give me strength: the happiness of my people. (Reies Lopez Tijerina, "A Letter from Jail," *We Are Chicanos* in McCrimmon 1984)

According to Knefel, appeals based on emotions attempt to move readers by making them feel something strongly. The feeling may be anything in the

range of human experience and temperament: fear, greed, envy, anger, joy, hope, sympathy, or love. commercial advertisers, in their attempts to persuade us to spend money, almost always appeal to our emotions- often to a sense of longing or desire (for beauty, wealth, luxury); to passion (for thrills, excitement, the sensual life); and to sentimental feelings (love of family, love of animals, love of country).

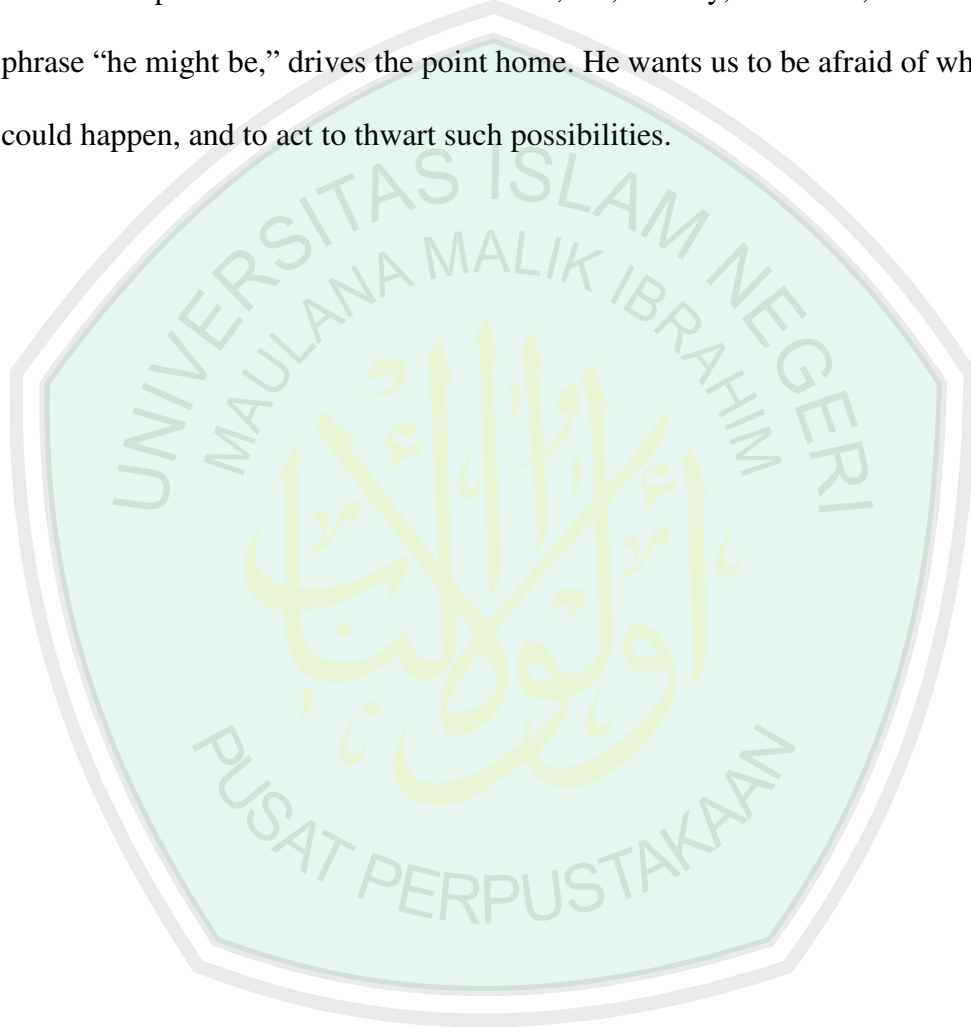
In this following passage of emotionally based persuasion, author Jonathan Schell gives a nightmarish inventory of death by nuclear war taken from Knefel (1991:272):

Let us consider, for example, some of the possible ways in which a person in a targeted country might die. He might be incinerated by the fireball or the thermal pulse. He might be lethally irradiated by the initial nuclear radiation. He might be crushed to death or hurled to his death by the blast wave or its debris. He might be lethally irradiated by the local fallout. He might be burned to death in a firestorm. He might be injured by one or another of these effects and then die of his wounds before he was able to make his way out of the devastated zone in which he found himself. He might die of starvation, because the economy had collapsed and no food was being grown or delivered, or because existing local crops had been killed by radiation, or because the local ecosystem had been ruined, or because the ecosphere of the earth as a whole was collapsing. He might die of cold, for lack of heat and clothing, or of exposure, for lack of shelter. He might be killed by people seeking food or shelter that he had obtained. He might die of an illness spread by an epidemic. He might be killed by exposure to the sun if he stayed outside

too long following serious ozone depletion. Or he might be killed by some combination of these perils....

Jonathan Schell, *The Fate of the Earth*

Not only do the horrid possibilities themselves make us fearful, but the author's relentless repetition of such words as killed, die, lethally, and so on, and of the phrase "he might be," drives the point home. He wants us to be afraid of what could happen, and to act to thwart such possibilities.



## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter presents research design, data sources, research instrument, data collection, and data analysis.

#### **3.1. Research design**

This research employs descriptive qualitative approach. A research is considered to follow descriptive approach if the data collected are in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers (Bogdan & Biklen, 1992:30). Furthermore, they state that qualitative research often contain quotations and try to describe in narrative form. It supports the statement mentioned by McMillan that the descriptions are narrative rather than numerical, although some qualitative studies will have some simple numerical summaries (1992:215).

#### **3.2. Data sources**

The data in this study are taken from the written text of Bishop Jose R. Hernandez's sermons downloaded from <http://newcovenantministry.org/pastor.htm>. The titles of the sermons are 'Defend Your Faith', 'The Power of Prayer', 'Don't Let Your Hearth be Troubled, God is with Me, and Two Paths.

#### **3.3. Research instrument**

This study utilizes human instrument to collect the data (Bogdan & Biklen, 1992:29). In this case, the researcher is the key instrument in collecting and gathering the data, as the characteristic of qualitative research. Furthermore, computer is also used in collecting the data.

#### **3.4. Data Collection**

To collect the data, the researcher uses several steps; firstly, browsing the Bishop Jose R. Hernandez's website to get various sermons; secondly, selecting the data getting from the data sources to have the nature of research question; and thirdly, reducing the data that are not suitable with the research question.

### **3.5. Data Analysis**

After getting the data from browsing Bishop Jose R. Hernandez's website, then the data are analyzed as follows: firstly is categorizing the data based on the theory of argument by Toulmin and Aristotle (See Chapter Two); secondly is reading the data again and again until the writer understands the content of the data; thirdly is discussing and interpreting the data from category based on the theory of argument; fourthly is comparing the two theories of argument that are used in the sermons; and the last is making conclusion of the analysis result.

In this study, the data are analysed descriptively based on the theory of Toulmin's model and Aristotle's three classic appeals especially on what elements of Toulmin's model are used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez and how three kinds of appeals are used by Bishop in the text of sermons.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

This chapter presents data analysis based on the formulated research question as stated in chapter I. Then, it is continued to the finding.

#### **4.1. Data Analysis**

There are four sermons being investigated: Defend your faith, The power of prayer, Don't let your heart be troubled, and God is with me. The arrangement of the data is based on the sequence of the sermons presented in the compilation.

##### **4.1.1. Data 1**

Title: Defend your faith

Date: 10 July 2007

Outline:

Paragraph 1 : Today, things are going from bad to worst in a hurry

Paragraph 2 : Apostasy is happening in God's people today

Paragraph 3 : If things continue the way they are going, the number of true believers that the lord will find upon his return will be very few.

Paragraph 4 : The first reason that contributes to the apostasy is the lack of knowledge.

Paragraph 5 : On many occasions we fall in the sin of apostasy due to the lack of knowledge of the word of God.

Paragraph 6 : You have apostatized because you know what you are hearing and seeing is not what Christ preached but you remain without doing anything.



Paragraph 7 : The second reason that contributes to the apostasy is the lack of understanding.

Paragraph 8 : None of us here will ever completely understand his thoughts.

Paragraph 9 : God love us but God will never accept us if we continue in a life of sin.

Paragraph 10: There are a large number of believers that just like those that live in the world are being separated from God's truth.

#### **4.1.1.1. The analysis of sermon using Toulmin's theory**

This text of sermon consists of ten paragraphs. It can be divided into three sections: introduction, content, and conclusion. In the introduction, Bishop introduces the topic to the audience and states a claim clearly. In this text of sermon, introduction is begun from the first paragraph to the second paragraph. Firstly, Bishop Hernandez begins with talking about holy week. Before stating a claim, he presents data mentioning that "since the latest census of his nation has proven that 90% of his nation claims to be Christian, the more popular medium of entertainment, that is to say television, always produces movies about Christian faith, and/or broadcasts old movies all related to this session". More convincingly, he also gives example of that appointed movie. It can be seen in the seventh line of the first paragraph "For example, I don't remember exactly what day it was, but I saw that there was a remake of the Ten Commandments being broadcasted. It was a movie that I think was broadcasted over the course of a couple of days; in all reality I only watched about 20 minutes or so of the movie. I only watched for approximately 20 minutes because in that short period of time I was able to discern that the movie did not glorify God, instead God appeared to have been

taken out of the equation. The last part that I saw was when the actor that was playing the part of Moses was sitting in the darkness, and was speaking to himself out loud saying something like, God I don't know when you are speaking to me, I don't know if it is my imagination or what".

Before turning to his claim, he gives quotation from holy bible that connects data to claim, it is also called as warrant. The quotation is Timothy 4:3-4 "for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables".

In the second paragraph, Bishop states his claim clearly, that is "what is happening in God's people today can be easily described with just one word, and this word is 'apostasy'". And to make it clear, he gives a definition of apostasy from Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. From that dictionary, apostasy has two meaning; first is renunciation of a religious faith and second is abandonment of a previous royalty.

Then, to have more convincing argument, Bishop mentions two reasons that cause apostasy. They are lack of knowledge and lack of understanding. It can be found in the sentences "But the question that we should be asking now is, why has apostasy taken place, and why does it continue to occur? It would be almost impossible to signal out all the reasons why people depart from the true doctrine, but I would say that there are two principal reasons. These two reasons are lack of knowledge and lack of understanding".

In this sermon, Bishop uses many quotations from holy bible to support the claim. They are:

1. timothy 4:3-4
2. Luke 18:8
3. Matthew 7:21-23
4. Hosea 4:6
5. Isaiah 5:13
6. Galatians 1:8
7. Corinthians 11:13-15
8. John 3:16
9. Isaiah 55:8-9
10. Corinthians 1:18
11. Romans 6:1-2
12. Colossians 2:8

In the last paragraph, Bishop restates his claim as in the beginning “there are a large number of believers that just like those that live in the world but being separated from God’s truth”. And before he closes his sermon, he leaves the audience with quotation from holy bible in Colossians 3:1-2 “...if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”.

#### **4.1.1.2. The analysis of sermon using Aristotle’s three appeals**

In this sermon, to make a convincing argument, Bishop Hernandez employs logical, emotional, and ethical appeals. In employing logical appeal, first, he gives an example of movie that is not biblically correct “for example, I don’t remember exactly what day it was, but I saw that there was a remake of the Ten Commandments being broadcasted. It was a movie that I think was broadcasted

over the course of a couple of days; in all reality I only watched about 20 minutes or so of the movie. I only watched for approximately 20 minutes because in that short period of time I was able to discern that the movie did not glorify God, instead God appeared to have been taken out of the equation. The last part that I saw was when the actor that was playing the part of Moses was sitting in the darkness, and was speaking to himself out loud saying something like, God I don't know when you are speaking to me, I don't know if it is my imagination or what".

Besides giving example, Bishop also gives reasons why apostasy is happening to god's people today. The reasons are because of lack of knowledge and lack of understanding. It is shown in the sentences of Bishop "but the question that we should be asking now is, why has apostasy taken place, and why does it continue to occur? It would be almost impossible to signal out all the reasons why people depart from the true doctrine, but I would say that there are two principal reasons. These two reasons are lack of knowledge and lack of understanding".

In employing logical appeal, Bishop also uses an analogy. He makes an analogy of what has occurred to many believers with the boiling frog syndrome. It is clearly shown in the sentence "it is very much like the boiling frog syndrome. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this, it is a theory that states that if you put a frog inside a pot of boiling water, the frog will quickly jump out of it. However, if you take the same frog and put it in a pot of cool water, but slowly raise the temperature until it reaches the boiling point; the frog will remain in the pot of water and will die completely cooked. Why did this happen? It happened

because it got accustomed to the changes in temperature but in the end, these changes caused its death. This is the same that has occurred to many believers; they have grown accustomed to certain things, and they have submitted themselves in such a way, that it is no longer submission to the will of God, but rather manipulation by men”.

In this sermon, many uses of quotation from holy bible are found. To convince the audience, Bishop appeals to the mind using evidence that is called as primary source. He uses quotations from bible as evidence. It is shown from many verses used:

1. Timothy 4:3-4- “for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”.
2. Luke 18:8- “...nevertheless when the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”
3. Matthew 7:21-23- “not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful woks? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”.
4. Hosea 4:6- “my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children”.

5. Isaiah 5:13- “therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst”.
6. Galatians 1:8- “but though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed”.
7. Corinthians 11:13-15- “for such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works”.
8. John 3:16- “for god so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”.
9. Isaiah 55:8-9- “for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”.
10. Corinthians 1:18- “for the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”.
11. Romans 6:1-2- “what shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein”.
12. Colossians 2:8- “beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”.

For appealing in emotion, Bishop uses language with vivid picture to make audiences feel something strongly. In this sermon, many uses of emotional appeals were found. First, emotional appeal was found in the sentence “for example, I don’t remember exactly what day it was, but I saw that there was a remake of the Ten Commandments being broadcasted. It was a movie that I think was broadcasted over the course of a couple of days; in all reality I only watched about 20 minutes or so of the movie. I only watched for approximately 20 minutes because in that short period of time I was able to discern that the movie did not glorify God, instead God appeared to have been taken out of the equation. The last part that I saw was when the actor that was playing the part of Moses was sitting in the darkness, and was speaking to himself out loud saying something like, God I don’t know when you are speaking to me, I don’t know if it is my imagination or what”. In these sentence, Bishop describes the situation in detail and he wants us to be afraid of the situation was happening.

Second, emotional appeal is also found in the sentences “therefore, we can say without a doubt that these verses that we are examining today are not directed to those that live in the world, or at still trapped in the different religions and sects that exist. These verses are completely directed at the body of Christ; these verses are directed at the church. These verses here are a warning about what would occur in the church of antiquity, and what is happening in the church today”. In these sentences, Bishop uses repetition of the phrase “these verses”. He wants the audience to be afraid of what is happening in the church today.

Then, Bishop also makes repetition of phrase “it is also not difficult to find how” in the sentences “it is also not difficult to find how there are many believers



that having a good understanding of the word submit themselves to the doctrines of men, and reject God's truth. It is not difficult to find how a large number of believes that have a good understanding of the word, remain in places where they have seen how the leader is departing or has completely departed from God's truth". He wants to evoke the emotion of audiences and makes them to be afraid of what is happening to many believers.

Besides that, in employing emotional appeal, Bishop also makes a description. He describes in detail about how devil can separate a believer from God. It is found in the sentences "the devil is very pleased when he is able to separate a believer from God. How does he accomplish this? He is able to accomplish this for two reasons; first is because he disguises the lies to make them seem as the truth....and secondly is because he does not do it all at once, but rather does it in small portions".

Then, in the next two paragraphs, he also employs emotional appeal. It is shown in the sentences "for those that live in the world what I say seems like sheer madness. For those that live in the world what I say makes absolutely no sense whatsoever; but for all faithful believers, today's message, although it may be considered a bit harsh by some, should serve to makes us reflect and analyze our life within the body of Christ".

In this sermon, ethical appeal is also used. In term of religious genre, especially sermon, Bishop can be judged knowledgeable. In this case, Bishop is considered more knowledgeable than others. It can be seen from the Bishop's knowledge about the primary source of religion, that is holy bible.

#### **4.1.2. Data 2**



Title: The power of prayer

Date: 10 July 2007

Outline:

Paragraph 1 : Prayer unleashes three blessings in the life of every believer

Paragraph 2 : Acts 12:1-16 are verses about the power of prayer

Paragraph 3 : It is necessary to conduct a brief review in history to reach a better understanding of the message of God.

Paragraph 4 : The king intended to execute peter but the believers prayed for peter.

Paragraph 5 : What happens in our daily life and in Herod's time is not different.

Paragraph 6 : The first blessing that prayer unleashes in the life of every faithful believer is peace.

Paragraph 7 : The second blessing that prayer unleashes in the life of every faithful believer is liberation.

Paragraph 8 : The third blessing that prayer unleashes in the life of every faithful believer is miracle.

Paragraph 9 : Prayer life can never be underestimated or neglected because constant prayer is the key for leading a completely blessed life.

#### **4.1.2.1. The analysis of sermon using Toulmin's theory**

This sermon consists of nine paragraphs and that are divided into three sections: introduction, content, and conclusion. In the beginning of sermon, Bishop gives data that prayer life oftentimes is underestimated or neglected by a large number of believers. Then, he states the claim clearly that "prayer is the

most powerful weapon in the universe, and that the prayer of all faithful believers will be heard by God”.

In this sermon, quotations from holy bible are used as warrant that connects claim to data. In this case, he uses acts 12: 1-16. These verses tell the history of King Herod's family. Herod was the king that ruled during the time of the birth of Jesus and tried to kill him. He was the king responsible for the most horrible crime in history. Then, Bishop also supports this story by giving quotation found in Matthew 2:16 and Matthew 14:6-9. This story is also used as data, namely example to make a claim more credible. Bishop wants to prove that his claim “prayer is the most powerful weapons in the universe” is true by giving example of what happened to Peter. In this sermon, Bishop tells about Peter who lived in Herod's time. Herod intended to kill Peter because he was Christian. Peter was jailed and bounded to the chains by Herod so that he could not escape. Yet, because Peter prayed, he got peace, liberation and miracle from God. He can sleep comfortably, the chains that bound him fell from his hands, the jail cell that incarcerated him flung wide open, the soldiers that guarded the prison cell never saw him, and the heavy fortified doors to the city automatically opened.

In this sermon, Bishop also uses many quotations from holy bible to support the claim. They are:

1. Acts 12:1-16
2. Matthew 2:16
3. Matthew 14:6-9
4. Acts 5:17-20
5. John 14:13

6. Thessalonians 5:17

7. James 5:15-16

8. Luke 18:27

9. Isaiah 65:24

In the conclusion, Bishop restates his claim to the audience. He states that “constant prayer is the key for leading a completely blessed life”. Then, he ask the audience to examine their prayer life and convince them that God is present to liberate them; that god is present to forgive them, and that god will always hear the prayer of all faithful believers.

#### **4.1.2.2. The analysis of sermon using Aristotle’s three appeals**

In this sermon, Bishop employs three kinds of appeals: logical, emotional, and ethical appeal to make a good argument. First, he employs logical appeal by giving an example of someone who got three blessings: peace, liberation, and miracle because he prays to the God, namely Peter. It can be seen in the sentence “Herod the great was the king that ruled during the time of the birth of Jesus and tried to kill him. This was the king responsible for the most horrible crime that we can find in history....”. Second, he gives an illustration of what happened to Peter. He tells the story of Peter in chronological. Third, he uses analogy for making a convincing argument. He makes an analogy of Herod as the enemy of humanity today. It is shown in the sentences “when we meditate in what was happening at that time and on what happens in our daily life, we quickly realize that things are not that different. I say that there isn’t much difference because Herod was not too different from our enemy today (....) king Herod hated the church, and our enemy hates the church; the king wanted to jail and chain the

believers, and our enemy look to do the same through vices and all of the rest of the bindings that exist in this world today; the king wanted to kill the believers, and our enemy look to do the same through the false doctrines and the propagation of the apostasy, the king at that time had the power to perform all of those atrocities, and our enemy is a real power and possesses the ability to influence all of those things to happen.”

Then, Bishop also uses many quotations from holy bible as an evidence of what he conveys. They are:

1. Acts 12:1-162- “now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)....”
2. Matthew 2:16- “then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men”.
3. Matthew 14:6-9- “but when Herod’s birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, give me here John Baptist’s head in a charger. And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath’s sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her”.

4. Acts 5:17-20- “then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison....”
5. John 14:13- “and whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the father may be glorified in the son”.
6. Thessalonians 5:17- “pray without ceasing”.
7. James 5:15-16- “and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”.
8. Luke 18:27- “and he said, the things which are impossible with men are possible with god”.
9. Isaiah 65:24- “and it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear”.

Beside logical appeal, Bishop Hernandez also employs emotional appeal. First, he uses language with vivid picture. It can be found in the sentences “we want what we want right now, we want everything Polaroid camera style, we want to see everything instantly”. Then, he also makes repetition of the phrase “this was the king” in the sentences “this was the king responsible for the most horrible crime that we can find in history. This was the king that orders that all children under the age of be put death in the Bethlehem area”. Again, he makes repetition to appeal based on emotion. It is shown in the sentences “this is the god that we serve. This is the god in whom we have placed our trust, the almighty god. This is the god that we must preach, a god willing to liberate us from any situation”.

Besides that, emotional appeal is also found in the sentences “Everything that we have been able to appreciate up till now can be described with just one word. Everything that happened in this brief moment of history with peter can be described by the word ‘miracle’.”

To evoke the feeling of the audience, Bishop appeals to the emotion by repeating the phrase “weak because” in the sentences “This is why it is uncommon to find that the prayer life of many is very weak. Weak because many pray, but they do not do so completely trusting that god will answer. It is weak because they do not place all of their hearts and faith into it, trusting in god’s power, mercy, and grace”. It is also found in the sentence “When we do this, then we will never see that he is present to liberate us from our difficulties, our fears, and our problems. When we do this we fail to realize that he is present to break the chains that bind us and to open the fortified doors that imprison us”. The last emotional appeal used by Bishop in this sermon can be found in the sentence “Never forget that god is present to liberate you; that god is present to forgive you, and that god will always hear the prayer of all faithful believers”.

In this sermon, ethical appeal is also used. In term of religious genre, especially sermon, Bishop can be judged knowledgeable. In this case, Bishop is considered more knowledgeable than others. It can be seen from the Bishop’s knowledge about the primary source of religion, that is holy bible.

#### **4.1.3. Data 3**

Title: Don’t let your heart be troubled

Date: 10 July 2007

Outline:

Paragraph 1 : Nowadays, the situation is grave just as the signs are being given  
by the word of God

Paragraph 2 : Matthew 24:3-12 are words of God about the world event

Paragraph 3 : Jesus gave a warning to our life today.

Paragraph 4 : there has existed and there still exists numerous persons who claim  
to be the only ones who know the truth.

Paragraph 5 : there are many nations that poss technology not to help the  
residents of their country but to ready for war.

Paragraph 6 : Biological welfare is one example of sign that his return is not as  
far as some may think.

Paragraph 7 : it is time to wake up to the reality and face the truth.

Paragraph 8 : we cannot allow our faith to falter because of these things that we  
are seeing happen today.

#### **4.1.3.1. The analysis of sermon using Toulmin's theory**

This sermon consists of eight paragraphs that can be divided into three sections: introduction, content, and conclusion. In the beginning of his sermon, Bishop opens it by giving the data that “nowadays we can’t watch television or listen to the radio without hearing mention of distant wars and disasters”. Then, he also mentions two data that makes his claim to be true. They are “we can’t watch television or listen to the radio without hearing that Iraq biological weapons at their disposal, weapons that can cause the death of thousands of people with just one use” and “we also hear that North Korea, who has broken all the laws between nations, is now developing nuclear bombs, weapons that can also cause



the death of thousands with just one use. These three data are mentioned by Bishop to prove that his claim mentioned later is true.

To connect his data to the claim, he gives warrant that is quotation from holy bible in Matthew 24:3-12 “and as he sat upon the mount of olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, tell us, when shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass but the end is not yet....”

In the third paragraph, bishop claims that we should repentance and wake up because Jesus gave warning to our life today. This claim is not stated clearly by Bishop. In this paragraph, the researcher finds two quotations employed by bishop for supporting his knowledge. First, in supporting his knowledge about the day when lord will return to do justice; when evil in the world will end; the date that is only known by God, bishop mentions reference from holy bible stated in Mark 13: 32 “but of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the son, but the father”. Second, in supporting his knowledge that tomorrow is not guaranteed to anyone, and that tomorrow may never come for everyone, bishop gives reference from holy bible in James 4:13-15 “go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get again; whereas ye know not what shall be on the tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth



for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

To make his claim more credible, he gives data that there has existed and there still exists numerous persons who claim to be the only one who knows the truth. And all the different cults and religions that exist in this world claim that through their doctrines and theologies anyone can reach God. Whereas, they don't follow the doctrines of Jesus, and that they will never reach god.

To prove the truth of his claim, he supports it by giving evidence. In this case, he mentions the fact that many nations possess technology not to help the residents of their country but to be ready for war. To make more credible, he gives quotation from bible to support this fact “and ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet....” He also gives data that mention “nations where thousands of inhabitants die daily because of hunger, but yet they spend hundreds of millions of dollars developing nuclear weapons” and “we also have many nations that use this science, that use the advance in medicine but not to eradicate those infirmities but to cause infirmities that kill.”

Bishop also states that all these things that are happening are an indication that his return is not as far as some may think. Then, he supports this statement by giving quotation from bible in peter 3:4 “and saying, where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”.

In this sermon, Bishop also uses many quotations from holy bible. They are:

1. Matthew 24:3-12
2. Mark 13:32
3. James 4:13-15
4. John 14:6
5. Ephesians 2:8-10
6. Acts 4:10-12
7. Peter 3:4
8. Isaiah 55:6-7
9. Revelations 3:20

In the last section of the sermon, Bishop restates his claim “what Jesus is saying today is that we should be paying attention but not allowing these things that are happening, these things that we cannot control, to deviate us from the path that god has for us”. Before Bishop closes his sermon, he leaves the words from Jesus as found in Matthew 24:13 “but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”.

#### **4.1.3.2. The analysis of sermon using Aristotle’s three appeals**

To make a convincing argument, Bishop employs logical, emotional, and ethical appeals. First, he employs logical appeal, namely facts that can be found in the sentence “nowadays we can’t watch television or listen to radio without hearing mention of distant wars and disasters.” and in the sentence “we can’t watch television or listen to the radio without hearing that Iraq biological weapons at their disposal, weapons that can cause the death of thousands of people with just one use.”

In employing logical appeal, Bishop uses many quotations from bible as evidence. They are:

1. Matthew 24:3-12- “and as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples come unto him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you....
2. Mark 13:32- “but of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the son, but the father”.
3. James 4:13-15- “go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that”.
4. John 14:6- “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me”.
5. Ephesians 2:8-10- “for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of god: not of works, which god hath before ordained that we should walk in them”.
6. Acts 4:10-12- “be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom god raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole....”
7. Peter 3:4- “and saying, where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”.

8. Isaiah 55:6-7- “seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our god, for he will abundantly pardon”.
9. Revelations 3:20- “behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me”.

Besides logical, Bishop also employs emotional appeal. It can be found in the sentences “The truth is that nowadays we can’t watch television or listen to the radio without hearing mention of distant wars and disasters. We are living in difficult times; we are living in prophetic times. All we have to do is examine the word of god and realize the signs are being given. As I said, we can’t watch television or listen to the radio without hearing that Iraq biological weapons at their disposal, weapons that can cause the death of thousands of people with just one use. We also hear that North Korea, who has broken all the laws between nations, is now developing nuclear bombs, weapons that can also cause the death of thousands with just one use”.

In employing emotional appeal, Bishop often uses repetition, such as in this sentence “Therefore, the purpose of this preaching is to call believers to repentance; the purpose of this preaching is to call believers into his service. The purpose of this preaching is to awaken those that have fallen asleep in the pews of their churches and are so comfortable that they don’t realize the lord is at the door”. In the sentence ”many think that we have time, many feel that there will be enough time tomorrow to ask for forgiveness of god, that tomorrow they can start

a new life, but if this is your way of thinking I am here to tell you that tomorrow is not guaranteed to anyone, and that tomorrow may never come for you”, Bishop repeats the word “many” and “tomorrow”. The same case is also found in the sentence “Without doubt we have all heard of wars and rumors of wars. Without doubt some of us get worried when we see man made establishments and systems disappear in a twinkling of an eye”. Then, in employing emotional appeal, Bishop also use figurative language “throughout history we have all been able to see how nation has risen against nation; we have seen how thousands of people die daily from hunger, yes you heard right, hunger; we have seen how many have lost their life’s in earthquakes; but none of us have seen how people die of a ‘plague’.”

In the sentence “This is something we have seen in our times, we have seen how man has used nuclear bombs and destroyed entire cities and all the residents therein. There are many nations that have this technology, there are many nations that have never used these types of weapons, but as we know there are many that posses this technology not to help the residents of their country but to be ready for war”, Bishop repeats the phrase “we have seen” and “there are many nations”. He wants the audience to be afraid of what is happening. Then, in the sentence “The time for god’s return is close, and that is why we cannot allow our faith to weaken, and we cannot allow our hearts to be so troubled that we sin against god. How we can accomplish this? We can achieve this through repentance, we achieve this by making him our king and our personal savior, and we achieve this by doing his will”, Bishop uses a figurative language.

In this sermon, ethical appeal is also used. In term of religious genre, especially sermon, Bishop can be judged knowledgeable. In this case, Bishop is considered more knowledgeable than others. It can be seen from the Bishop's knowledge about the primary source of religion, that is holy bible.

#### **4.1.4. Data 4**

Title: God is with me

Date: 10 July 2007

Outline:

Paragraph 1 : "Thanks giving" is a day to thank God for all of the blessings that he has poured and continues to pour over his people.

Paragraph 2 : Many continue to believe that regardless of their actions, God guides them and blesses them at all times.

Paragraph 3 : Peter 2:12-21 are verses about people who believe that regardless of their action, God guides them and blesses them at all times.

Paragraph 4 : It is necessary to conduct a brief history review to obtain a better understanding of the message of the God.

Paragraph 5 : Stop making sin and be holy.

Paragraph 6 : The truth is the only thing that separates us from the darkness.

Paragraph 7 : The truth is something that is not easy to preach

Paragraph 8 : Many think to know God's mind, but the reality of it all is that they are gravely mistaken.

Paragraph 9 : Being saved by grace does not mean that we can continue leading a life of disobedience, rebellion, and sin.

Paragraph 10: We are about to celebrate thanks giving day, a day when we will be remembering God at all times thanking him.

#### **4.1.4.1. The analysis of sermons using Toulmin's theory**

This text of sermon consists of ten paragraphs that are divided into three sections: introduction, content, and conclusion. To begin this sermon, Bishop talks about the celebration of thanks giving day because the sermon is preached when the day is very close.

In the second paragraph, bishop gives data that there is a large number of people that think that even though they are leading a life of sin, God is always at their side. Then, in the last line of the first paragraph, he claims that “many continue to believe that regardless of their action, God guides them and blesses them at all times”.

To connect his claim to the data, Bishop gives quotation from holy bible in peter 2:12-21 and it is also known as warrant “but these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime ....”

To prove the truth of his claim, he adds the data that there are many people totally convinced that because they have accepted Christ and have been baptized in the waters they can continue to sin and that God guides them and blesses them at all times. To support this data, he gives quotation from bible in Isaiah 5:13 “therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge, their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst”

Besides that, Bishop also uses quotations from holy bible to support his claim. They are:

1. peter 2:12-21
2. Peter 3:17
3. Peter 3:18
4. Isaiah 5:13
5. Peter 1:14-16
6. genesis 2:16-17
7. john 14:6
8. John 1:10-11
9. John 8:51
10. John 14:21
11. Ephesians 2:8
12. Romans 6:6
13. Ephesians 4:22
14. Romans 6:15
15. Romans 6:16
16. Romans 6:23
17. Hebrews 10:26-29
18. Matthew 24:35
19. Matthew 20:28
20. john 8:23



In the conclusion, Bishop restates his claim “he can be and wants to be always with you, but the decision is yours to make”. Before restating his claim, he asks the audience to examine, reflect, and ask their selves, is God with me?

#### **4.1.4.2. The analysis of sermons using Aristotle’s three appeals**

In making a convincing argument, Bishop employs logical, emotional, and ethical appeals. In employing logical appeal, quotations from holy bible are mostly used. They are:

1. peter 2:12-21- “but these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions....”
2. Peter 3:17- “you therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wiked”.
3. Peter 3:18- “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever”.
4. Isaiah 5:13- “therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; their honorable man are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst”.
5. Peter 1:14-16- “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘be holy, for I am holy’.”

6. genesis 2:16-17- “and the LORD god commanded the man, saying, ‘of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die’.”
7. John 14:6- “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me’.”
8. John 1:10-11- “he was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own did not receive him”.
9. John 8:51- “most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my words he shall never see death”.
10. John 14:21- “he who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him”.
11. Ephesians 2:8- “for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of the god”.
12. Romans 6:6- “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin”.
13. Ephesians 4:22- “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts”.
14. Romans 6:15- “what then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”

15. Romans 6:16- “do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”.
16. Romans 6:23- “for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of god is eternal life in Christ Jesus our lord”.
17. Hebrews 10:26-29- “for if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected mose’s law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses....”
18. Matthew 24:35- “heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away”.
19. Matthew 20:28- “just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many”.
20. John 8:23- “and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”.

Besides logical appeal, emotional appeal is also used by Bishop to convince the audience. First, he uses language with vivid picture in the sentences “it is sad to think about it, but all of us here know people that think this way. All of us here know people that think that regardless of their actions or behavior, god approves and blesses them at all times. It is sad to think about that fact that there are so many people that deceive themselves daily, thereby surrendering to the enemy all of the blessings that god has given them....it is also very sad to think that many souls do not know the truth because there are many within the body of Christ that are afraid to preach the truth”. In this case, Bishop wants the audience

to be angry to people told by Bishop. Then, in the sentences “it is very beautiful to hear about how we are all saved, it is very beautiful to hear that god is always by our side, and it is very beautiful to hear that we will inherit eternal life”, Bishop wants to evoke audience’s feeling of hope. Next, in the sentences “you can not imagine how many times I have been rejected by people simply because I preach god’s truth. I have been rejected because many refuse to accept it for what it is; conviction from the holy spirit so that we will always draw nearer to god. I have been rejected because many see it as if I am attempting to manipulate their life, or as an invasion of their privacy”, Bishop wants the audience to be angry to people who rejects the truth. In the sentences “god provided us with the only thing that can defeat sin in our life, and his name is Jesus. God loves the sinner, but despises sin. God wants us to have a close relationship with him; god wants us to turn our backs to sin and to walk with Jesus”, Bishop repeats the word “God” to evoke audience’s feeling of hope. Last, emotional appeal is also found in the last part of this sermon “in conclusion, the truth is that we serve the god who is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. The truth is that Christ died on the cross for our sins....the truth is not easy to preach, but it is even more difficult to accept; but never forget that the truth has set us free. The truth is that we cannot say that our relationship with god is good if we lead a life of sin. The truth is that if we do not serve him faithfully, then we will never receive the blessings that he has in store for us.”

In this sermon, ethical appeal is also used. In term of religious genre, especially sermon, Bishop can be judged knowledgeable. In this case, Bishop is

considered more knowledgeable than others. It can be seen from the Bishop's knowledge about the primary source of religion, that is holy bible.

#### 4.2. Findings

After obtaining the data and analyzing them, in this section the researcher discusses the whole data to answer the problem proposed in previous chapter.

Table 1. Toulmin model used in the text of sermon "Defend Your Faith"

No	Element of argument	Stated or unstated	Sentence	Explanation
1	Claim	Stated	What is happening in God's people today can be easily described with just one word, and this word is "apostasy".	
2	Data	Stated	"since the latest census of his nation has proven that 90% of his nation claims to be Christian, the more popular medium of entertainment, that is to say television, always produces movies about Christian faith, and/or broadcasts old movies all related to this session".	

3	Warrant	Stated	Timothy 4:3-4-for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.	Quotation from Holy Bible
4	Backing	Stated	1. Timothy 4:3-4 2. Luke 18:8 3. Matthew 7:21-23 4. Hosea 4:6 5. Isaiah 5:13 6. Galatians 1:8 7. Corinthians 11:13-15 8. John 3:16 9. Isaiah 55:8-9 10. Corinthians 1:18 11. Romans 6:1-2 12. Colossians 2:8 13. Colossians 3:1-2	Quotation from Holy Bible
5	Rebuttal	_____	_____	_____
6	Qualifier	_____	_____	_____

Table 2. Toulmin model used in the text of sermon “The Power of Prayer”

No	Element of argument	Stated or unstated	Sentence	Explanation
1.	Claim	stated	“Prayer is the most powerful weapon in the universe, and that the prayer of all faithful believers will be heard by God”.	Quotation from Holy Bible
2.	Data	Stated	“Prayer life oftentimes is underestimated or neglected by a large number of believers”.	
3	Warrant	Stated	Acts 12:1-16- now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) and when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four	

4	Backing		<p>quaternions of soldiers to keep him....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acts 12:1-162</li> <li>2. Matthew 2:16</li> <li>3. Matthew 14:6-9</li> <li>4. Acts 5:17-20</li> <li>5. John 14:13</li> <li>6. Thessalonians 5:17</li> <li>7. James 5:15-16</li> <li>8. Luke 18:27</li> <li>9. Isaiah 65:24</li> </ol>	Quotations from holy Bible
5	Rebuttal	_____	_____	_____
6	Qualifier	_____	_____	_____

Table 3. Toulmin model used in the text of sermon “Don’t Let Your Heart Be Troubled”

No	Element of argument	Stated or unstated	Sentence	Explanation
1	Claim	Unstated	we should repentance and wake up because Jesus gave warning to our life today	
2	Data	Stated	1. We can’t watch television or	Fact



			<p>listen to the radio without hearing mention of distant wars and disasters.</p> <p>2. We can't watch television or listen to the radio without hearing that Iraq biological weapons at their disposal, weapons that can cause the death of thousands of people with just one use.</p> <p>3. We also hear that North Korea, who has broken all the laws between nations, is now developing nuclear bombs, weapons that can also cause the death of thousands with just one use.</p>	<p>Fact</p> <p>Fact</p>
3	Warrant	stated	<p>Matthew 24:3-12- and as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And</p>	<p>Quotation from Holy Bible</p>

			<p>Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many....</p>	
4	Backing		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Matthew 24:3-12</li> <li>2. Mark 13:32</li> <li>3. James 4:13-15</li> <li>4. John 14:6</li> <li>5. Ephesians 2:8-10</li> <li>6. Acts 4:10-12</li> <li>7. Peter 3:4</li> <li>8. Isaiah 55:6-7</li> <li>9. Revelations 3:20</li> <li>10. Matthew 24:13</li> </ol>	<p>Quotation from</p> <p>Holy Bible</p>
5	Rebuttal	_____	_____	_____
6	Qualifier	_____	_____	_____

Table 4. Toulmin model used in the text of sermon “God Is With Me”

No	Element of argument	Stated or unstated	Sentence	Explanation
1	Claim	Stated	Many continue to believe that regardless of their actions, God guides them and blesses them at all times.	Quotation from Holy Bible
2	Data	Stated	there is a large number of people that think that even though they are leading a life of sin, God is always at their side	
3	Warrant	stated	Peter 2:12-21-but these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime....	
4	Backing		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Peter 2:12-21</li> <li>2. Peter 3:17</li> <li>3. Peter 3:18</li> </ol>	Quotation from Holy Bible

			4. Isaiah 5:13 5. Peter 1:14-16 6. genesis 2:16-17 7. john 14:6 8. John 1:10-11 9. John 8:51 10. John 14:21 11. Ephesians 2:8 12. Romans 6:6 13. Ephesians 4:22 14. Romans 6:15 15. Romans 6:16 16. Romans 6:23 17. Hebrews 10:26-29 18. Matthew 24:35 19. Matthew 20:28 20. john 8:23	
5	Rebuttall	_____	_____	_____
6	Qualifier	_____	_____	_____

Table 5. Appeals used in the text of sermon “Defend Your Faith”

No	Appeal	Feature	Sentence	explanation
1	Logical appeal	Example	For example, I don’t remember exactly what day it was, but I saw that there was a remake of the Ten Commandments being broadcasted. It was a movie that I think was broadcasted over the course of a couple of days; in all reality I only watched about 20 minutes or so of the movie. I only watched for approximately 20 minutes because in that short period of time I was able to discern that the movie did not glorify God, instead God appeared to have been taken out of the equation....(paragraph 1).	
		definition	But, what does apostasy mean? When we look up the definition of this word in the dictionary we discover that it is defines as:”1: renunciation of a religious faith. 2: abandonment of a previous	

			<p>royalty ;”( Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary). (Paragraph 3).</p>	
		reason	<p>But the question that we should be asking now is, why has apostasy taken place, and why does it continue to occur? It would be almost impossible to signal out all the reasons why people depart from the true doctrine, but I would say that there are two principal reasons. These two reasons are lack of knowledge and lack of understanding. (paragraph 4)</p>	
		Analogy	<p>It is very much like the boiling frog syndrome. For those of you unfamiliar with this, it is a theory that states that if you put a frog inside a pot of boiling water, the frog will quickly jump out of it. However, is you take the same frog and put it in a pot of cool water, but slowly raise</p>	

			<p>the temperature until it reaches the boiling point; the frog will remain in the pot of water and will die completely cooked. Why did this happen? It happened because it got accustomed to the changes in temperature but in the end, these changes caused its death. This is the same that has occurred to many believers....(paragraph 7).</p>	
2	Emotional appeal	Description	<p>For example, I don't remember exactly what day it was, but I saw that there was a remake of the Ten Commandments being broadcasted. It was a movie that I think was broadcasted over the course of a couple of days; in all reality I only watched about 20 minutes or so of the movie. I only watched for approximately 20 minutes because in that short period of time I was able to discern that the movie did not</p>	

			<p>glorify God, instead God appeared to have been taken out of the equation....(paragraph 1).</p>	
		<p>Vivid language</p>	<p>Therefore, we can say without a doubt that these verses that we are examining today are not directed to those that live in the world, or at still trapped in the different religions and sects that exist. These verses are completely directed at the body of Christ; these verses are directed at the church....(paragraph 3).</p>	<p>Use of repetition</p>
		<p>Vivid language</p>	<p>It is also not difficult to find how there are many believers that having a good understanding of the word submit themselves to the doctrines of men, and reject God's truth. It is not difficult to find how a large number of believes that have a good understanding of the</p>	<p>Use of repetition</p>



			word....(paragraph 6).	
		Description	<p>The devil is very pleased when he is able to separate a believer from God. How does he accomplish this? He is able to accomplish this for two reasons; first is because he disguises the lies to make them seem as the truth....and secondly is because he does not do it all at once, but rather does it in small portions (paragraph 7).</p>	
		Vivid language	<p>For those that live in the world what I say seems like sheer madness. For those that live in the world what I say makes absolutely no sense whatsoever; but for all faithful believers, today's message, although it may be considered a bit harsh by some, should serve to makes us reflect and analyze our life within the body of Christ (paragraph 9).</p>	Use of repetition

3	Ethical appeal	The credibility and knowledgeability of Bishop		
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Table 6. Appeals used in the text of sermon “The Power of Prayer”

No	Appeal	Feature	Sentence	Explanation
1	Logical appeal	Example	“Herod the great was the king that ruled during the time of the birth of Jesus and tried to kill him. This was the king responsible for the most horrible crime that we can find in history....” (paragraph 3)	
		Analogy	“When we meditate in what was happening at that time and on what happens in our daily life, we quickly realize that things	

			are not that different. I say that there isn't much difference because Herod was not too different from our enemy today (...). king Herod hated the church, and our enemy hates the church...."(paragraph 5)	
2	Emotional appeal	Vivid language	"We want what we want right now, we want everything Polaroid camera style, we want to see everything instantly".	Use of repetition
		Vivid language	"This was the king responsible for the most horrible crime that we can find in history. This was the king that orders that all children under the age of be put death in the Bethlehem area".	Use of repetition
		Vivid language	"This is the god that we serve. This is the god in whom we have placed our trust, the almighty god. This is the god that we must preach, a god willing to liberate us from any situation".	Use of repetition

		Vivid language	<p>“Everything that we have been able to appreciate up till now can be described with just one word. Everything that happened in this brief moment of history with peter can be described by the word ‘miracle’.”</p>	Use of repetition
		Vivid language	<p>“This is why it is uncommon to find that the prayer life of many is very weak. Weak because many pay, but they do not do so completely trusting that god will answer. Weak because they do not place all of their hearts and faith into it, trusting in god’s power, mercy, and grace”.</p>	Use of repetition
		Vivid language	<p>“When we do this, then we will never see that he is present to liberate us from our difficulties, our fears, and our problems. When we do this we fail to realize that he is present to break the chains that bind us, and to open the fortified doors that</p>	Use of repetition

3	Ethical appeal	<p>Vivid language</p> <p>The credibility and knowledgeability of Bishop</p>	<p>imprison us”.</p> <p>“Never forget that god is present to liberate you; that god is present to forgive you, and that god will always hear the prayer of all faithful believers”.</p>	Use of repetition
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Table 7. Appeals used in the text of sermon “Don’t Let Your Heart Be Troubled”

No	Appeal	Feature	Sentence	Explanation
1	Logical appeal	Fact	“Nowadays we can’t watch television or listen to radio without hearing mention of distant wars and disasters.”	
		Fact	“we can’t watch television or listen to the radio without hearing that Iraq biological weapons at their disposal, weapons that can cause the death of thousands of people with just one use.”	
2	Emotional appeal	Vivid language	“The truth is that nowadays we can’t watch television or listen to the radio without hearing mention of distant wars and disasters. We are living in difficult times; we are living in prophetic times. All we have to do is examine the word of god and realize the signs are being given. As I said, we can’t watch television or listen to the radio	Use of repetition

			without hearing that Iraq biological weapons at their disposal, weapons that can cause the death of thousands of people with just one use....”	
		Vivid language	“Therefore, the purpose of this preaching is to call believers to repentance; the purpose of this preaching is to call believers into his service. The purpose of this preaching is to awaken those that have fallen asleep in the pews of their churches and are so comfortable that they don’t realize the lord is at the door”.	Use of repetition
		Vivid language	”many think that we have time, many feel that there will be enough time tomorrow to ask for forgiveness of god, that tomorrow they can start a new life, but if this is your way of thinking I am here to tell you that tomorrow is not guaranteed	Use of repetition

			to anyone, and that tomorrow may never come for you”.	
		Vivid language	“Without doubt we have all heard of wars and rumors of wars. Without doubt some of us get worried when we see man made establishments and systems disappear in a twinkling of an eye”.	Use of repetition
		Vivid language	“Throughout history we have all been able to see how nation has risen against nation; we have seen how thousands of people die daily from hunger, yes you heard right, hunger; we have seen how many have lost their life’s in earthquakes; but none of us have seen how people die of a ‘plague’.”	Use of repetition
		Vivid language	“This is something we have seen in our times, we have seen how man has used nuclear bombs and destroyed entire cities and all the residents	Use of repetition



3	Ethical appeal	<p>Vivid language</p> <p>The credibility and knowledgeabi</p>	<p>therein. There are many nations that have this technology, there are many nations that have never used these types of weapons, but as we know there are many that posses this technology not to help the residents of their country but to be ready for war”. “The time for god’s return is close, and that is why we cannot allow our faith to weaken, and we cannot allow our hearts to be so troubled that we sin against god. How we can accomplish this? We can achieve this trough repentance, we achieve this by making him our king and our personal savior, and we achieve this by doing his will”.</p>	Use of repetition
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		lity of Bishop		
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Table 8. Appeals used in the text of sermon “God Is With Me”

No	Appeal	Feature	Sentence	Explanation
1	Logical appeal	_____	_____	_____
2	Emotional appeal		<p>“It is sad to think about it, but all of us here know people that think this way. All of us here know people that think that regardless of their actions or behavior, god approves and blesses them at all times. It is sad to think about that fact that there are so many people that deceive themselves daily, thereby surrendering to the</p>	Use of repetition

			<p>enemy all of the blessings that god has given them....it is also very sad to think that many souls do not know the truth because there are many within the body of Christ that are afraid to preach the truth”.</p> <p>“It is very beautiful to hear about how we are all saved, it is very beautiful to hear that god is always by our side, and it is very beautiful to hear that we will inherit eternal life”.</p> <p>“You can not imagine how many times I have been rejected by people simply because I preach god’s truth. I have been rejected because many refuse to accept it for what it is; conviction from the holy spirit so that we will always draw nearer to god. I have been rejected because many see it as if I am attempting to manipulate</p>	<p>Use of repetition</p> <p>Use of repetition</p>
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			<p>their life or as an invasion of their privacy”.</p> <p>“God provided us with the only thing that can defeat sin in our life, and his name is Jesus. God loves the sinner, but despises sin. God wants us to have a close relationship with him; god wants us to turn our backs to sin and to walk with Jesus”.</p> <p>“In conclusion, the truth is that we serve the god who is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. The truth is that Christ died on the cross for our sins....the truth is not easy to preach, but it is even more difficult to accept; but never forget that the truth has set us free. The truth is that we can not say that our relationship with god is good if we lead a life of sin. The truth is that if we do not serve him faithfully, then</p>	<p>Use of repetition</p> <p>Use of repetition</p>
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3	Ethical appeal	The credibility and knowledgeability of Bishop	we will never receive the blessings that he has in store for us.”	
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From the four sermons that are observed by the researcher, in terms of Toulmin's theory, all of them employs claim, warrant, data, and backing. And they do not employ rebuttal and qualifier. Most of claims are stated clearly by Bishop but the researcher found one claim that is implied by Bishop. Then, warrants are stated clearly in all of sermons. And Bishop always uses quotation from Holy Bible to be a warrant. It seems that he uses quotation from Holy Bible as warrant to make a claim more credible. While, backing or support for claim are always quotation from Holy Bible.

When Toulmin's theory talks only about logic, Aristotle's theory includes three aspects: logic, emotion, and ethic. In terms of Aristotle's theory, all of sermons employ all three appeals, except the last sermon. Logical appeal is used in three sermons but the last sermon does not use logical appeal. In employing logical appeal, Bishop uses analogy, definition, reason, example, and fact. Then, in employing emotional appeal, Bishop uses figurative language, description, and

vivid picture. He uses many repetitions in all of four sermons. Finally, all of these sermons employ ethical appeal using the credibility and Bishop's knowledge.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion and suggestion based on the previous chapter on this study.

#### 5.1. Conclusion

Having done the analysis, the researcher makes some conclusions based on the analysis and the discussions of findings.

1. Argument simply is a claim in which something should be believed or done, plus proof or good reasons for believing or doing it. Concerning with argument, there are two theories talking about it. First is theory proposed by Toulmin. Based on Toulmin's theory, there are six elements of argument: claim, data, warrant, backing, qualifier, and rebuttal. In addition, the first three elements: claim, data, and warrant are elements that must be existed in a good argument, weather they are stated or unstated. In this research, all sermons use the major element: claim, data, and warrant. Most of them are stated clearly by Bishop. Then, backing or support is the only one of additional elements that is stated by Bishop but rebuttal and qualifier are not found.

2. In this research, the researcher found that warrant and support or backing is always quotation from Holy Bible.

3. Because Aristotle realized that logic alone is not always sufficient to persuade an audience, then, he defined three kinds of appeals that make up an argument: logic, ethic, and emotion. In this research, all of sermons employ those three appeals except the last sermon that does not employ logical appeal. Then, many uses of emotional appeal are found. In this sermon, Emotional appeals are mostly

used by Bishop than another two appeals. Shortly, in religious genre, especially sermon, emotional appeals are mostly employed to make a convincing argument.

4. In this study, the researcher finds that many quotations from holy bible are used by Bishop to base on his claim, his data, his suggestion and his advice. It is because the more reliable source or reference in the sermon is Christian's source from bible that contents the words of God. This is something that differentiates argument made in the sermon and in another genre. In another genre, statistics and expert opinion may be more used in supporting the claim of the writer. Overall, in religious genre, especially sermons, quotations from Bible are mostly used.

## **5.2. Suggestion**

Argument seeks to convince the audience or the readers for a claim, or proposition, or thesis statement made by the speaker or the writer. In this research, two theories of argument are used: Toulmin's theory and Aristotle's theory.

In this study, the researcher tries to find how Bishop Jose R. Hernandez makes arguments in his sermons. The researcher suggests to the next researchers to investigate arguments using different theories and investigate another objects except sermons, such as speech, essay, and article.



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## About Bishop Jose R. Hernandez

Please allow me to tell you a little about us. My name is Jose R. Hernandez and my wife and I are from Cuba. We currently live in the in the Miami, Florida area.

My wife and I came to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in 1992 and were baptized in the waters. Apart from being the bishop of this international ministry I have been employed as a police officer by the largest police department in south Florida since 1982. As you may very well imagine, in my secular career I have seen the ugliest side of our society.

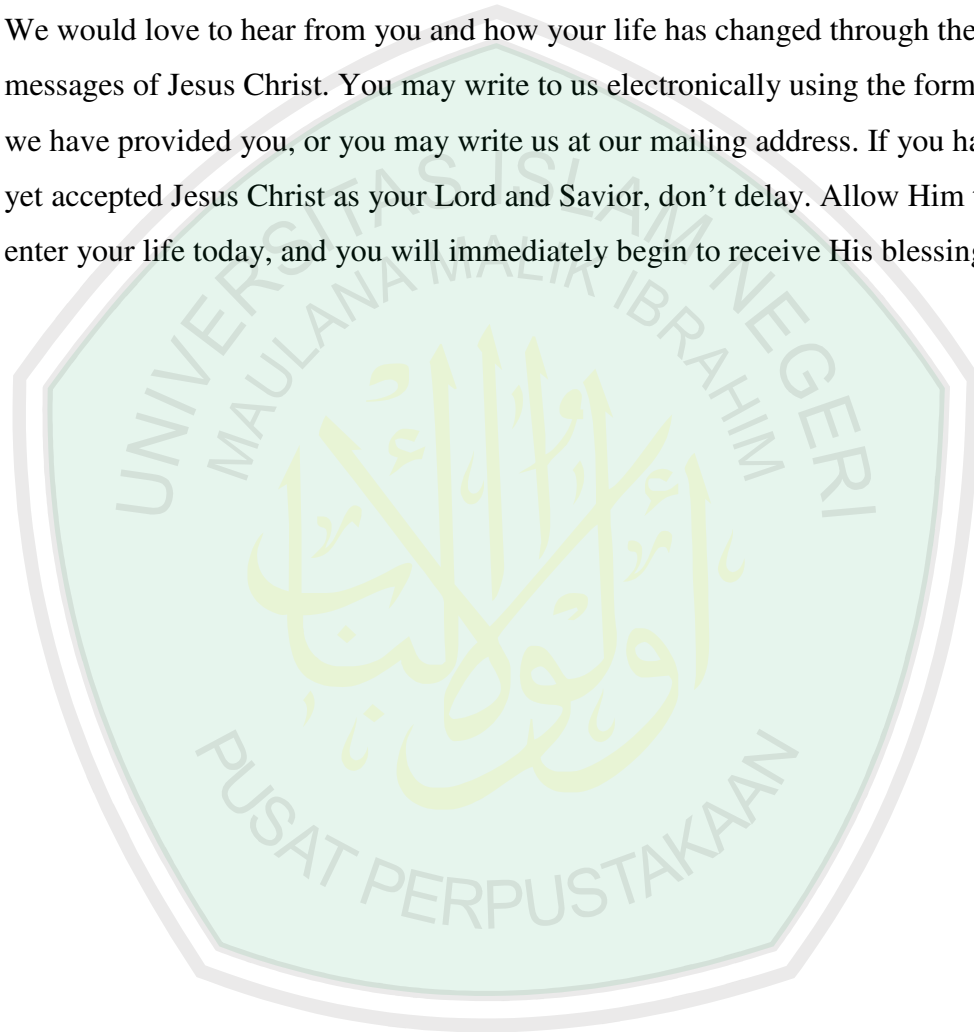
I am a witness of the immorality, the degradation of the family principles, and the hate that oftentimes people feel toward each other. In an alarming fashion, drugs and violence have taken a strong hold in our society, and have taken it captive. Life has little or no value at all, and our youth are being led astray seduced by the demons of money and power. The "New World Order" has become a theme commonly spoken about, and apparently the majority of people see it as a positive effect. Society seems willing to accept just about any religion and or belief system just as long as the one true and almighty God is not mentioned.

All true Christians know that these events and the vents occurring around the world signal that we are living in prophetic times. With each minute that passes this world gets closer, and closer to the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The second coming is the event that all true believers have been expecting with great anticipation, but a problem has risen in the church of today that is leading many believers down the path of destruction. Many believers have apostatized from the true doctrine and have traded grace for law, and repentance for money. Although no one can exactly say when our Lord will come again, we all have to pay very close attention to the warning that the apostle Paul left us:

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh

upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6

We would love to hear from you and how your life has changed through the messages of Jesus Christ. You may write to us electronically using the form that we have provided you, or you may write us at our mailing address. If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, don't delay. Allow Him to enter your life today, and you will immediately begin to receive His blessings.



**Bishop Jose R. Hernandez**

**Defend your faith**

I don't know how many of you have been paying attention to recent events, but things are going from bad to worst in a hurry. As we all know last week was what is considered as holy week. In other it was the season that marked the last days of our Lord here on earth in a physical body. Since the latest census of this nation has proven that 90% of this nation claims to be Christian, the more popular medium of entertainment, that is to say television, always produces movies about the Christian faith, and/or broadcasts old movies all related to this season. The problem isn't that they produce or broadcast these types of movies; the problem is that in the majority of the cases, these movies are not biblically correct, and only serve to confuse those that may not know very much about the Word of God or those with a debilitated faith. For example, I don't remember exactly what day it was, but I saw that there was a remake of the Ten Commandments being broadcasted. It was a movie that I think was broadcasted over the course of a couple of days; in all reality I only watched about 20 minutes or so of the movie. I only watched for approximately 20 minutes because in that short period of time I was able to discern that the movie did not glorify God, instead God appeared to have been taken out of the equation. The last part that I saw was when the actor that was playing the part of Moses was sitting in the darkness, and was speaking to himself out loud saying something like, God I don't know when you are speaking to me, I don't know if it is my imagination or what. I also saw another scene where Joshua, perhaps the most faithful and brave servant that Moses had, was portrayed as rebellious and a coward. According to this movie it wasn't until Joshua had a physical confrontation with Moses, where Joshua tried to kill him that Joshua became a brave and obedient servant. I don't know about the rest of you, but in all of my years as a Christian and in the ministry, I have not been able to find any biblical reference that will support that God is a god of confusion, and that Moses was unsure of when God spoke to him. Additionally, I have also not found any biblical reference to support the fact that Joshua was a coward and had a fight with Moses and tried to kill him. Why have I said these things? I have

said these things because these lies are exactly what are being spread through the world in our time. With every minute that passes Satan's army advances taking more and more territory. With every minute that passes Satan maneuvers his troops and advances in the battleground, and God's army retreats in defeat. Why is this happening? This is the topic that we will be examining today. Let's now turn to the Word of God.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

I think this small portion of the scriptures clearly allows us to see what is happening in God's people today. What is happening in God's people today can be easily described with just one word, and this word is "apostasy." But, what does apostasy mean? When we look up the definition of this word in the dictionary we discover that it is defines as: "1: renunciation of a religious faith. 2: abandonment of a previous royalty;" (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary). As we can see, by definition of the word, in order for an apostasy to take place first there has to have been a following of a true doctrine. Therefore, we can say without a doubt that these verses that we are examining today are not directed to those that live in the world, or at still trapped in the different religions and sects that exist. These verses are completely directed at the body of Christ; these verses are directed at the church. These verses here are a warning about what would occur in the church of antiquity, and what is happening in the church today. I say that it is something that is happening in the church today because it is not uncommon to see how congregations that once followed the sound doctrine, now have departed from it to follow the doctrines of men. It is not uncommon to see how numerous congregations have traded grace for law, and repentance for prosperity. I think it is for this exact reason that Christ declares in Luke 18:8 "...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Brethren, the reality of it all is that if things continue the way they are going, the number of true believers that the Lord will find upon His return will be very few. The fact that some abandon the true doctrine and depart from the way of the Lord, but continue calling themselves Christians is not something that should surprise us. The Lord warned us that this would occur, and would continue to occur, and this clearly reflected in His words as we find in Matthew 7:21-23 when we read “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Therefore, we can clearly see that not everyone that call themselves Christians will be accepted by the Lord, but only those that faithfully keep His word and live within His will. As I have said in numerous other occasions, it is very easy to say that we are Christians, but saying it is not enough. It is not enough because a true Christian is a person that leads a holy life, and submitted to the will of God. Tell the person next to you, a true Christian lives in Christ. But the question that we should be asking now is, why has apostasy taken place, and why does it continue to occur? It would be almost impossible to signal out all the reasons why people depart from the true doctrine, but I would say that there are two principal reasons. These two reasons are lack of knowledge and lack of understanding. Let’s explore these two reasons now to see if we can identify them in our life.

Lack of knowledge in the life of a person can be described in two ways. These two ways are that the person lacks the knowledge in the Word of God that allows discernment between good and evil, or that the person rejects what they know to be true or simply ignore God’s warning to follow their own desires.

Unfortunately this is something that has occurred from the very beginning of humanity, and it is something that is very well reflected in the words of the prophet as we find in Hosea 4:6 when we read “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that



thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” If we were to examine the history of the people of Israel, we would quickly discover that the reason why they went through such difficult times was because they abandoned God’s truth. It’s not like they didn’t know the Word, or that they didn’t know God’s will. They had the prophets, and these faithful servants of God were diligent to preach His word, but regardless of this, the majority of the people, especially the leaders, chose to do what they thought would best benefit them, or what was more convenient instead of following God’s word. The prophet said it this way in Isaiah 5:13 when we read “Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.” As I said, this is something that continues to occur even today.

I say this because there are numerous leaders within the today’s church that having an excellent knowledge of the Word of God, have abandoned and rejected their knowledge and conviction to follow doctrines established by men because it is more convenient, or because they can obtain better benefits, or simply because it is the popular trend to follow. It is also not difficult to find how there are many believers that having a good understanding of the Word submit themselves to the doctrines of men, and reject God’s truth. It is not difficult to find how a large number of believers that have a good understanding of the Word, remain in places where they have seen how the leader is departing or has completely departed from God’s truth. But none of this is something new; we have all been told what to do when we encounter this situation in our life. Look carefully at how the apostle Paul said it in Galatians 1:8 when we read “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” We serve a just God; we serve a God that does not want us to distance ourselves from Him. But on many occasions we fall in the sin of apostasy due to the lack of knowledge of the Word of God.

I say this because if you well know that what you are hearing, and seeing is not what Christ preached and taught, but you remain without doing anything, then by



definition of the word alone, you have apostatized. By definition of the word alone you have traded God's truth to follow the doctrine of men. And the devil takes great pleasure when he can make this happen in the life of a believer. The devil is very pleased when he is able to separate a believer from God. How does he accomplish this? He is able to accomplish this for two reasons; first is because he disguises the lies to make them seem as the truth. This is why we find such a stern warning about this in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 when we read "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." And secondly is because he does not do it all at once, but rather does it in small portions. What happens is that when things are done in this fashion, people fail to see the changes and they slowly grow accustomed to them even though the changes may be mortal. It is very much like the boiling frog syndrome. For those of you unfamiliar with this, it is a theory that states that if you put a frog inside a pot of boiling water, the frog will quickly jump out of it. However, if you take the same frog and put it in a pot of cool water, but slowly raise the temperature until it reaches the boiling point; the frog will remain in the pot of water and will die completely cooked. Why did this happen? It happened because it got accustomed to the changes in temperature but in the end, these changes caused its death. This is the same that has occurred to many believers; they have grown accustomed to certain things, and they have submitted themselves in such a way, that it is no longer submission to the will of God, but rather manipulation by men. And all of this has taken place due to the lack of knowledge and/or ignoring or rejecting what we very well know to be the truth; but there is a second reason that contributes to all of this. This leads me to the second point of this sermon.

The second reason that contributes to the apostasy is the lack of understanding. In John 3:16 the Word of God declares "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This piece of scripture is one that many people know, but can't

fully understand. Do you know why people don't fully understand this? The reason why people can't fully understand this is because none of us here is capable of loving in this fashion. It does not matter how good we think we are. None of us here would offer our son or daughter as a sacrifice to save someone else, especially if that someone else had hurt us deeply as was the case of the nation of Israel.

Something very true about our God is that none of us here will ever completely understand His thoughts. It is as the Word tells us in Isaiah 55:8-9 when we read "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." While it is true that we will never fully understand His thoughts, we can however, obtain full conviction of His Word. For those that live in the world what I say seems like sheer madness. For those that live in the world what I say makes absolutely no sense whatsoever; but for all faithful believers, today's message, although it may be considered a bit harsh by some, should serve to make us reflect and analyze our life within the body of Christ. Paul said it this way in 1 Corinthians 1:18 when we read "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." Many within the body of Christ know about God's love for mankind, but they never fully comprehend it, and that is why they fall from His path and follow false doctrines that only lead them far away from His will. Many fail to understand that although God loves the sinner, He abhors sin. Tell the person next to you, God loves you.

God loves us in a way that we will never be able to love, but God will never accept us if we continue in a life of sin, or if we become accomplices of them. Look carefully at how this is clearly reflected in Romans 6:1-2 when we read "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" This is why we can't be accomplices to all of this falseness and hypocrisy that we are seeing within today's church.

In conclusion. The verses that we have studied today tell us, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” There are a large number of believers that just like those that live in the world are being separated from God’s truth. The main reasons why this is happening are lack of knowledge, and lack of understanding. Many are being led away from God’s presence because they are not taking the time to seek the truth in the only place where it can be found. Brethren, the truth will never be found in a movie, or a television show. Just like those that live in the world, there are a large number of believers that are looking to fill their knowledge, but they trying to fill it through the different philosophies and doctrines that exist in the world. But we have also been warned against doing this. This is something very well reflected in Colossians 2:8 when we read “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” There is but one place where we can find the truth. The truth can only be found in His holy and divine Word. There are many in the world that profess to teach the truth, but the only thing they really do is manipulate people, and keep them deceived with the sole purpose of satisfying their avarice and appetite for the things of this world. Many leaders have departed from the true teachings and the true doctrine, and this has led many believers to apostatize without even knowing it. This is why I urge you today to examine your life. Don’t allow the lack of knowledge and understanding to separate you from God. I leave you with a final piece of scripture to reflect upon. Colossians 3:1-2 “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”



**Bishop Jose R. Hernandez**

**The power of prayer**

Today I would like to speak to you about an aspect in our Christian life that oftentimes is underestimated and neglected by a large number of believers. What am I talking about? I am talking about our prayer life. As I have said in other occasions, a great reality about human beings is that we are impatient. We want what we want right now, we want everything Polaroid camera style, we want to see everything instantly. The problem that exists is that although prayer can work in this fashion, in a great percentage of the times it does not. But we can be sure of two things, and those are that prayer is the most powerful weapon in the universe, and that the prayer of all faithful believers will be heard by God. But like I said, this aspect of our Christian walk oftentimes is underestimated and neglected by many, and that is why we always experience those strange looks whenever we say to some one “I am going to pray about that.” Therefore, today let’s examine that portion of our Christian life that perhaps may be weak, or

neglected. Today we are going to examine a historic event that will reveal to us three blessings that unleashed in the life of every believer through prayer. These three blessings are: peace, liberation, and miracles. Let's now turn to the Word of God.

Acts 12:1-16 - Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) 4And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. 5Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 6And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. 7And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. 8And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. 9And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. 10When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. 11And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. 12And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. 13And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. 14And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. 15And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it

was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. 16But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

As I always say, to reach a better understanding of the message that God has for us today, it will be necessary to conduct a brief review in history. With this purpose in mind, let's now briefly examine king Herod's family line a little closer. Herod the great was the king that ruled during the time of the birth of Jesus and tried to kill Him. This was the king responsible for the most horrible crime that we can find in history. This was the king that order that all children under the age of be put to death in the Bethlehem area. This is something that has for ever been recorded in history, and we find it in Matthew 2:16 when we read "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men." After him, Herod Antipas ascended to power, and this was the king that ordered the decapitation of John the Baptist, so that he could give it to his daughter as payment for a dance. This is something that was also recorded in history, and we find it in Matthew 14:6-9 when we read "But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. 7Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. 8And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. 9And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her." After him, Herod Agrippas ascended to power, and was the king that ruled during Peter's time. This more or less brings us to this point in history. This king was highlighted by his immense hate of Christians, and his intention was to eliminate them all from the face of the earth. This is why we see that he killed Jacob son of John. This event is something that is declared very clearly in the verses that we are studying today when we read "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of



unleavened bread.” Why is it so important that we know these details? These details are of the utmost importance because in them we can appreciate the constant confrontation that exists between good and evil, and the unceasing attack by Satan against the believers. Therefore, with this in mind let’s continue with our message for today.

Continuing we read “And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.” This verse lets us clearly see that this king intended to execute Peter, and that he had taken the best precautions available at the time to prevent him from escaping. He had taken such strong precautions because this was not the first time that he had jailed Peter with this same intention, but in his previous attempt, Peter had escaped. This is something that is very well reflected in Acts 5:17-20 when we read “Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, 18And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. 19But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.” Therefore, it is for this exact reason that we see that the king order that Peter be guarded by 16 soldiers, but as if all of this was not enough, we also see that he ordered that two of them be bound to Peter by strong chains at all times. By taking these precautions the king was making sure that Peter would not be able to escape. He wanted to make sure that this time he would be able to execute him, but the believers had something very different in mind. Tell the person next to you, the believers prayed.

When we meditate in what was happening at that time and on what happens in our daily life, we quickly realize that things are not that different. I say that there isn’t much difference because Herod was not too different from our enemy today.

Let’s look at a few details to see if what I am saying makes sense. King Herod hated the church, and our enemy hates the church; the king wanted to jail and chain the believers, and our enemy look to do the same trough vices and all of the

rest of the bindings that exist in this world today; the king wanted to kill the believers, and our enemy look to do the same through the false doctrines and the propagation of the apostasy; the king at that time had the power to perform all of those atrocities, and our enemy is a real power and possesses the ability to influence all of those things to happen. Therefore, as we can see, there isn't that much difference between this king of the past, and the enemy of humanity. Now, as I said in the beginning, prayers unleash three blessings in our life, that perhaps may not occur immediately, but we can be sure that they will happen. This is something that we can say with confidence because it is a promise from our Lord, just like we find in John 14:13 when we read "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." How many here today want to unleash blessings in your home today? Tell the person sitting next to you; we are going to unleash blessings.

The first blessing that prayer unleashes in the life of every faithful believer is peace. Let's carefully examine what happened here so you can clearly understand what I am saying. Here we see that the Word tells us "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 6And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison." Why do we need to pay closer attention to this? We have to pay closer attention because at this point in time Peter was chained to two soldiers, he was imprisoned in a jail without the slightest hope of getting out; he was waiting to be executed. What attitude was demonstrated by this servant of God? Was Peter pleading for his life? Was Peter nervous and preoccupied? The answer is NO! As we can see in these verses, Peter was sleeping comfortably. I would venture to say that very few of us, if any, given the same set of circumstances would be able to do the same. How many of you have had a sleepless night because of a preoccupation? Now I am not talking about a preoccupation that would cost us our life as was the case here with Peter, I am talking about perhaps a financial preoccupation, or something to do with our jobs, or perhaps a situation with a family member or a loved one. Things that in the



grand scheme of life have very little if any importance at all. But this notwithstanding are things that oftentimes torment is and produce sleepless nights. How many say amen? In Peter's case the circumstances were very difficult, but he slept. How could he do this? He was able to do it for two reasons. First, he knew that his life was not in the hands of a man, but in the hands of God. Second, it is as we find here in the verse today, "prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Brethren, our prayers and the intercessory prayers of our brethren unleash peace in our life. It is for this reason that we are called to constant prayer. Look carefully at what the Word tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 when we read "Pray without ceasing." And also in James 5:15-16 we are told "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Tell the person next to you, we have to pray.

The second blessing that prayer unleashes in the life of a faithful believer is that prayer liberates us. Here we find that the Word tells us "And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. 7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. 8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. 9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. 11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews." Although this king had taken all the

precautions that he could to prevent Peter from escaping, although he was incarcerated, chained and completely guarded, Peter was liberated. The chains that bound him fell from his hands, the jail cell that incarcerated him flung wide open, the soldiers that guarded the prison cell never saw him, and the heavy fortified doors to the city automatically opened. This is the God that we serve. This is the God in whom we have placed our trust, the almighty God. This is the God that we must preach, a God willing to liberate us from any situation. Let's never forget that there are no difficult situations for God, and that there is nothing impossible for Him. Man has many limitations but as we read in the scriptures in Luke 18:27 "And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Brethren, our enemy will not stop attempting to separate us from God's presence, and just like Herod, he will take all available precaution to incarcerate and chain us in the prisons of this world, and the only way that we can defend our selves is through prayer. Do you want to unleash peace in your life? Do you want peace to reign in your home, work, and family? Then start praying!

The third blessing that we receive through prayer is that prayer unleashes miracles. Here we see that the scripture tells us "And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. 13And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. 14And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. 15And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. 16But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished." Everything that we have been able to appreciate up till now can be described with just one word. Everything that happened in this brief moment of history with Peter can be described by the word "miracle." Actually what happened here is comical. I say this because they were praying for Peter's liberation, they were presenting the problem before God and were asking Him for the solution, but evidently they were not doing so completely trusting that God would answer. This is why they could not believe the young woman when she

told them that Peter was at the door. They told her she was crazy. There is a very important lesson here to be learned by all; the lesson is that we must never doubt the power of God. Unfortunately, doubt is one of the chains that our enemy uses to bind many. This is why it is no uncommon to find that the prayer life of many is very weak. Weak because many pray, but they do not do so completely trusting that God will answer. Weak because they do not place all of their hearts and faith into it, trusting in God's power, mercy and grace. Just like the people that were congregated there in that place praying, we forget God's word as we find in Isaiah 65:24 when we read "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." The main problem that exists is that we get so involved in our difficulties and situations, that instead of praying confidently, we fling out prayers "just in case". In other words we underestimate or we simply ignore the power that has been given to us through prayer. When we do this, then we will never see that He is present to liberate us from our difficulties, our fears, and our problems. When we do this we fail to realize that He is present to break the chains that bind us, and to open the fortified doors that imprison us. As I have said in numerous occasions, prayer is the perfect weapon, prayer is the only weapon that we can use to defend ourselves, and it is the only efficient weapon against the powers of darkness. They were united in prayer, they lifted their hearts up to the heaven, and the Father heard them and glorified Himself. Tell the person next to you; keep me in your prayers. Do you want to unleash miracles in your life? Then ask for prayer, and start to pray.

In conclusion. We can never underestimate or neglect our prayer life, because constant prayer is the key for leading a completely blessed life. As we have been able to appreciate, there is not too much difference between what happened to Peter at that time, and what happens to many of us now a day. This small portion of the scriptures reveals to us the permanent confrontation that exists between good and evil. I say this because the line of the Herod's symbolizes Satan's unceasing attack on the church. Herod the great attempted to kill Jesus; his son had John the Baptist decapitated; his grandson had decapitated Jacob, and now

had Peter incarcerated to execute him after Easter. But at the same time that Peter was suffering the chains, the church was suffering with him on their knees in prayer. What was the final result? The result was that the chains that were binding Peter fell from him, and the doors that incarcerated him flung open. Let's never forget that there is great power in prayer. Sincere and persevering prayers produced peace in Peter's life. Sincere and persevering prayers liberated this faithful servant. Sincere and persevering prayers unleashed a miracle in his life. Now the question that I ask is do you want to unleash these things in you life? Then examine your prayer life very closely, and pray to God. Never forget that God is present to liberate you; that God is present to forgive you, and that God will always hear the prayer of all faithful believers.



**Bishop Jose R. Hernandez**

**Don't let your heart be troubled**

The truth is that nowadays we can't watch television or listen to the radio without hearing mention of distant wars and disasters. We are living in difficult times; we are living in prophetic times. All we have to do is examine the word of God and realize the signs are being given. As I said, we can't watch television or listen to the radio without hearing that Iraq biological weapons at their disposal, weapons that can cause the death of thousands of people with just one use. We also hear that North Korea, who has broken all the laws between nations, is now developing nuclear bombs, weapons that can also cause the death of thousands with just one use. The world doesn't realize that we are on the verge of a third world war. I tell you this because when we examine the word of God and compare what it says to world events, you don't have to be a genius to realize that the situation is grave. Why do I tell you this? Let us go to the word and we shall see if what I am telling you is true.

Matthew 24:3-12 – And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Before we proceed I want to make something very clear, the purpose of this preaching is not to scare or frighten anyone; nor do I claim to know the day or date that the inevitable will happen, that is to say when this evil world will end, when our Lord will return to do justice; this date is only known to God. This is something that is clearly stated by our Lord in Mark 13:32 when we read “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.” Therefore, the purpose of this preaching is to call believers to repentance; the purpose of this preaching is to call believers into His service. The purpose of this preaching is to awaken those that have fallen asleep in the pews of their churches and are so comfortable that they don’t realize the Lord is at the door. Many think that we have time, many feel that there will be enough time tomorrow to ask for forgiveness of God, that tomorrow they can start a new life, but if this is your way of thinking I am here to tell you that tomorrow is not guaranteed to anyone, and that tomorrow may never come for you. This is something clearly stated in James 4:13-15 when we read “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” I know that many must be thinking, all of this is well and good, but how do we apply this warning that Jesus gave to our life today? To determine this, let us examine the key points of this warning a little closer.

First, here we read that the Lord says: “Take heed that no man deceive you. 5For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many“. I want to stop here a moment and examine this word “Christ.” This word has come to be synonymous with the name of Jesus, but this word has a meaning of its own. This word has its origins in the Greek word “kristos” which means the “anointed one”. Why is it so important that we make this distinction? The reason is simple; we only have to open our eyes and we can see that across history and in our day as well, there has existed, and there still exists numerous persons who claim to be the only ones who know the truth. If we analyze all the different cults and religions



that exist in this world we can see that they all claim one thing, and that is that only through their doctrines and theologies can anyone reach God. I don't want to go too deeply into this subject since doing so would take too much time and our time today is limited, but I know all too well that everyone here today knows exactly what I am speaking of. You know that cults and all types of religions exist that don't follow the doctrines of Jesus, and that they will never reach God. Confirmation of this statement that I have just made is found in the words of our Lord in John 14:6 when we read "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Therefore, we can clearly see that the warning that Jesus gave us in these verses that we are studying today has come to pass, and is still happening today, because there are many that say that they possess the truth, there are many that claim that only through their religion can you be saved or have eternal life. But the truth of the matter is that you can't obtain salvation and eternal life because you belong to a particular church or because we are members of a particular council or denomination, salvation comes only through the grace of God, and His son Jesus Christ. This is something very well reflected in Ephesians 2:8-10 when we read "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." As we can clearly see, there is nothing on this earth or anyone on this earth that can save you, there is no institution that can guarantee you eternal life, there is only one and his name is Jesus. This is again clearly stated for us in Acts 4:10-12 when we read "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." But unfortunately, this has not stopped all those that preach a different gospel, that twist scriptures to fit their needs, and that is why Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you".

Second we read “And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8All these are the beginning of sorrows”. Without doubt we have all heard of wars and rumors of wars. Without doubt some of us get worried when we see man made establishments and systems disappear in a twinkling of an eye. Throughout history we have all been able to see how nation has risen against nation; we have seen how thousands of people die daily from hunger, yes you heard right, hunger; we have seen how many have lost their life’s in earthquakes; but none of us have seen how people die of a “plague”. I know we have all studied history in school, I know that we have all read about how a long time ago thousands of people perished as a result of plague and pestilence, but with the advancement of technology and medical science, these occurrences or outbreaks have not existed for a long time. Science and the advances in medicine have eradicated just about all pestilence in the world, but unfortunately this same technology and advances in medicine of today are not always used for the good of mankind, they are also used for evil. The technology of today allows us to have much more than people had long ago or could even have imagined. I am talking about of things that we take for granted such as electricity. How is electricity produced in this country? There are many ways to produce electricity, but the most efficient and cheapest is through nuclear plants. There is also nuclear medicine, these treatments can heal, but more importantly this new type of medicine can diagnose illnesses where before it was not possible. But has man concentrated on this only? Has man used this technology for the good of mankind only? The answer is no! Man has also used this technology to kill man. This is something we have seen in our times, we have seen how man has used nuclear bombs and destroyed entire cities and all the residents therein. There are many nations that have this technology, there are many nations that have never used these types of weapons, but as we know there are many that possess this technology not to help the residents of their country but to be ready for war.



Nations where thousands of inhabitants die daily because of hunger, but yet they spend hundreds of millions of dollars developing nuclear weapons. We also have many nations that use this science, that use the advances in medicine but not to eradicate those infirmities, but to cause infirmities that kill. What do you mean Pastor? This is the irrefutable truth about biological warfare. Man has created in his laboratories deadly diseases, he has created viruses that resist all types of antibiotics and their sole purpose is to kill. I do not pretend to be an expert in these matters, and God knows that I don't have a degree in biology, but I do understand the way these things work and what they are for. It is not difficult to infect thousands with a deadly virus; it only takes one evil person to accomplish this. Like I said, I am not an expert, but I know that all viruses have an incubation period. This is the time during which the person doesn't exhibit any symptoms, and does not know they have been infected. Therefore it only takes one person to become infected with this deadly virus and then in turn they infect everyone around them and so on. There are many viruses and they are all transmitted differently; some are ingested, some you breath in; a simple sneeze or cough is all it takes from an infected person. Then what happens? Without knowing what has just happened to us we continue our daily routine, we come in contact with our friends, family and without knowing we have infected them. This is an endless cycle; the end is death to all who have come in contact with you and death to all who came in contact with them. Is biological warfare a defensive weapon? No! It is not a defensive weapon because it kills not only your enemy; it causes the death of all without distinction of who they are. So looking over recent accounts, we can see without a doubt that Jesus' warning is very timely for our day. All these things that are happening are an indication that His return is not as far as some may think. What is the opinion of most people when they hear about the second coming of Christ. The opinion of most is as we find in 2 Peter 3:4 when we read "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." Most people think that nothing will ever change, and most people have become complacent, but I tell you today that the Lord is closer than anyone thinks.

Third, we see that He tells us “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Fortunately, none of us have suffered the tribulation mentioned here; none of the people that we know have been put to death for the cause of Jesus, but I will tell you this doesn’t mean that this has not happened and is still happening. On a daily basis many die in foreign lands because they are followers of Jesus. There are many that are put in jail and are tortured for simply preaching the gospel. These are things that are not publicized in newspapers, or are broadcasted on television, or do we hear of them on the radio, but I tell you they are happening daily. And because these things are happening just like it says in the Word, “the love of many shall wax cold.” This is a great problem in our churches, when our love for God grows cold, when we no longer feel the burning of the Holy Spirit in us, then it becomes easy for us to sin. It becomes easier for us to worry more about the things of this world than to worry about our sisters and brothers and our spiritual life. This is something we have all seen, but it is also something people allow to happen. Many believers allow circumstances and their preoccupation with the things of this world to extinguish the fire of Holy Spirit within them. Many believers permit that lying devil to take control of their life’s; their homes, their families and allow him to destroy all that God had started. The evil in this world is being multiplied more and more; and this is happening because this world does not seek God’s face. That is why I say to you today, it is time to wake up from our slumber, and face the truth. The truth is that the signs are being given, and the prophecies are being fulfilled. Like I told you in the beginning, this is not a preaching to scare or torment anyone; it is a preaching that is calling you to wake up to reality.

To conclude: the Lord told us, “see that ye be not troubled”, but what does this mean? Does this mean we should not be alarmed? Does this mean we should not be paying attention? The answer is NO. What Jesus is saying today is that we

should be paying attention but not allow these things that are happening, these things that we cannot control, to deviate us from the path that God has for us. We have to concentrate on the path that is important; we have to concentrate solely on Him. All of us have to do as we find in Isaiah 55:6-7 when we read “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Tell the person next to you, seek God. If people in this world would stop being so worried about earthly things, things that don’t last, and would seek out God more, things would not be as they are. If God’s people would seek Him more, we would not be suffering like we suffer sometimes. The time for God’s return is close, and that is why we cannot allow our faith to weaken, and we cannot allow our hearts to be so troubled that we sin against God. How can we accomplish this? We can achieve this through repentance, we achieve this by making Him our King and our personal Savior, and we achieve this by doing His will. People of God hear His warning today; people of God listen to His voice today; “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelations 3:20). We cannot let down our guard, we cannot allow our faith to falter because of these things that we are seeing happen today, and we have to persevere at all times. I leave you with these words from our Lord Jesus as we find in “Matthew 24:13 when we read “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

**Bishop Jose R. Hernandez**

**God is with me**

As we all know we are very close to the date when this great nation will be celebrating “Thanks Giving”. It is a day when all of us will unite in our homes with our families and friends, to share an opulent and delicious feast, and although we have yet to reach this date, we will be holding our own small celebration after the service is concluded and will share a very delicious lunch. I really do not want to provide too many details about his tradition today, but I do want all of us to be very cognizant of the fact that it is a day to thank God for all of the blessings that He has poured and continues to pour over His people. This is the real meaning of this date, but unfortunately that will not share or experiment the blessings of God. Let me explain myself a little better.

If you will remember, last week I said that the Lord always provides us an opportunity to preach His word. The Lord will provide us the opportunities so hat we can preach the truth of God to all of those that do not know Him, and to those that have perhaps strayed from the path. This means that when we minister His word, sooner or later we will hear: “I am good, and God is always with me”. And this answer can and often times does come from the mouths of those that are not living or even attempting to lead a holy life. Therefore, today we will be exploring a very delicate theme. I say that it is a very delicate theme because it is one that will force us to examine ourselves. Something that I also mentioned last week is that we needed to look closely in the mirror to ensure that we were not deceiving ourselves. I said this because there is a large number of people that think that even though they are leading a life of sin, God is always at their side. But I regret to inform you that this way of thinking is completely erroneous, and it is one that causes many to stray from the true path, leading them to reject the salvation that Christ died on the cross to give us. Why do I say this? I say this because the truth of the matter is that God live in sin. But regardless of this great truth, many continue to believe that regardless of their actions, God guides them and blesses them at all times. But, what does the Word of God have to say about all of this?

2 Peter 2:12-21 - But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish

in their own corruption, 13and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. 17These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 18For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

As I always say, to obtain a better understanding of the message that God has for us today, it will be necessary to conduct a brief history review. According to the historians this letter was written by the apostle a little before his death between 64 and 66 a.C., and it was written with two specific purposes. The first purpose and the basic theme that is found throughout this letter is the contrast between the knowledge and practice of the truth verses falsehood. Therefore this epistle was written with the purpose of exposing the dangerous and seductive works of the false teachers and to forewarn the believers to prevent them from being dragged once again away from God's presence. This is something that is very well reflected in 2 Peter 3:17 when we read "You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked". The second purpose was to exhort believers

to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is something that is very well reflected in 2 Peter 3:18 when we read “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen”. Keeping these brief details in mind, let’s now continue with our study today.

As we can all see, the apostle used some very strong words in these verses. These are words that many do not want to hear, but they are words that all of us should be preaching. I say this because as I stated in the beginning, the world is full of people that think that no matter what they do, God is always with them. There are many people that are totally convinced that because they have accepted Christ and have been baptized in the waters they can continue to sin and that God guides them and blesses them at all times, but this way of thinking is the greatest lie that the devil has ever invented. The main reason why many fall into this trap is lack of knowledge of the word of God. This is something that is very well reflected in the words of the prophet as we find in Isaiah 5:13 when we read “Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because they have no knowledge; Their honorable men are famished, And their multitude dried up with thirst.”. Lack of knowledge and or ignoring God’s word is something very dangerous. I say this because when we know God’s word, and when we take the time to know God, we will not have to search too hard to find the truth. The truth being as we find in 1 Peter 1:14-16 when we read “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy”. Tell the person sitting next to you, be holy.

It is sad to think about it, but all of us here know people that think this way. All of us here know people that think that regardless of their actions or behavior, God approves and blesses them at all times. It is sad to think about that fact that there are so many people that deceive themselves daily, thereby surrendering to the enemy all of the blessings that God has given them. They deceive themselves because they chose to follow doctrines concocted by men, which were inspired by



demons. It is also very sad to think that many souls do not know the truth because there are many within the body of Christ that are afraid to preach the truth. The truth is very shocking and it is something that is frequently rejected by men. When we study the Word of God we quickly discover that the rejection of God's truth is the biggest problem that mankind has faced from the very beginning. Look carefully at what we find in Genesis 2:16-17 when we read "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." God did not lie to man, but man chose to disobey and not believe His truth; the result was death. The same thing happened with Jesus Christ. Look carefully at what we find in John 14:6 when we read "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me". Jesus told them very clearly that the only way to reach the Father was through Him, but men decided not to believe Him; men decided to reject Him. Look carefully at how this is very well reflected in John 1:10-11 when we read "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." The truth is very shocking and it is not easy to preach, but the truth of the matter is that the truth is the only thing that separates us from the darkness.

I say that the truth is something that is not easy to preach because preaching the truth can make a congregation disappear. It is for this reason that we see how many preachers have opted to preach only the pretty messages; messages to please the ears, messages that everyone loves to hear. It is very beautiful to hear about how we are all saved, it is very beautiful to hear that God is always by our side, and it is very beautiful to hear that we will inherit eternal life. Now, I do not want to be misunderstood. What I have just mentioned is the truth about our faith, these are promises from our Lord, but in order to receive them we must be faithful. Look at how the Lord tells us in John 8:51 when we read "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death". And also in John 14:21 when we read "He who has My commandments and keeps

them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him". The key word in these two verses is "KEEP". Tell the person next to you, keep God's word.

What has happened is that many think to know God's mind, but the reality of it all is that they are gravely mistaken. You can not imagine how many times I have been rejected by people simply because I preach God's truth. I have been rejected because many refuse to accept it for what it is; conviction from the Holy Spirit so that we will always draw nearer to God. I have been rejected because many see it as if I am attempting to manipulate their life, or as an invasion of their privacy. This is why I have often heard people say things like: "you are very wrong, God knows who I am and accepts me just as I am"; or perhaps, "pastor, you are forgetting that we saved by grace and not by works". Let me tell you something, both of these responses are very valid to an extent. It is very true that we are saved by grace. This is something that is very clearly stated in Ephesians 2:8 when we read "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God". It is very true that God does know us individually and accepted us just as we were; but something that is also very true is that He called us to change. Look at how this is very well illustrated in Romans 6:6 when we read "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin". And also in Ephesians 4:22 when we read "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts". YES, we have been saved by grace, but this does not give us the license to sin.

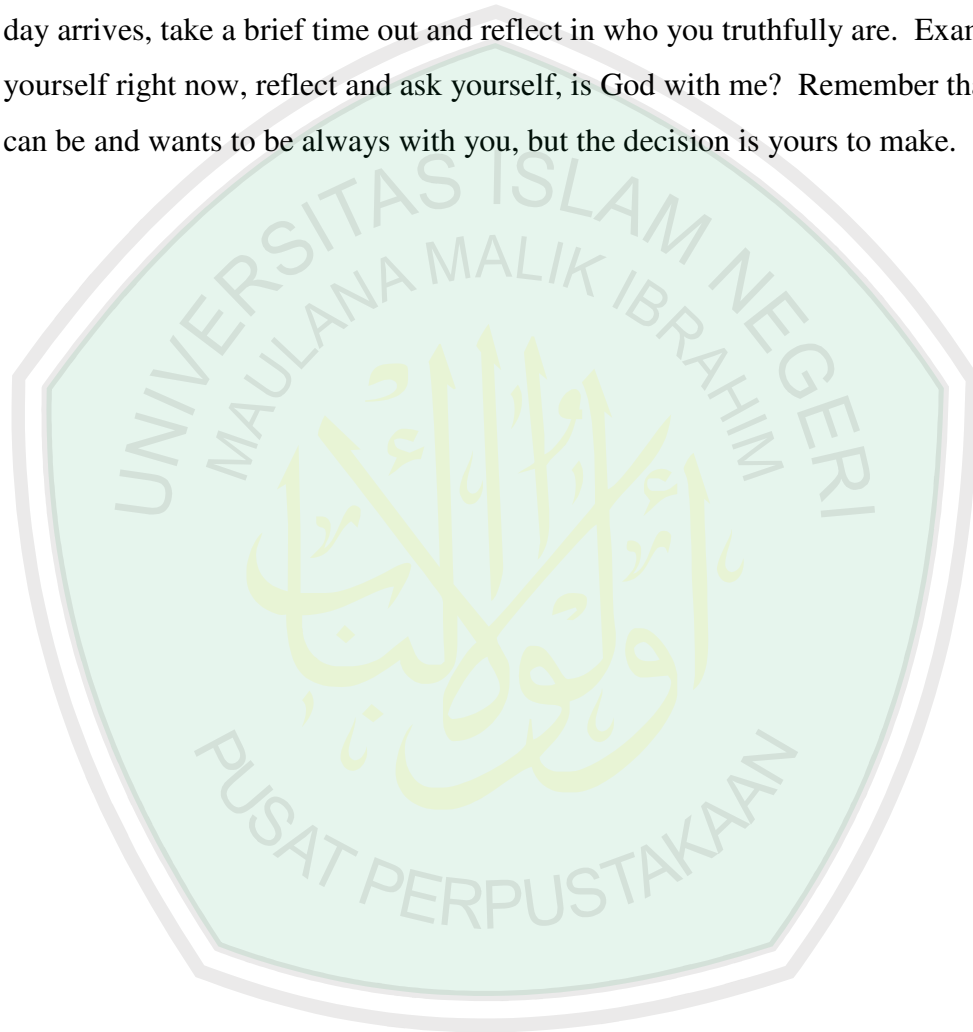
Being saved by grace does not mean that we can continue leading a life of disobedience, rebellion and sin. Look at how this is something that is clearly stated in Romans 6:15 when we read "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!" In this brief statement we can clearly discern that when we allow ourselves to be dominated by sin, then we are not with God. The truth is that when we allow sin to influence and dominate our way of



thinking and behavior, we can not say that God is with us. Look at how this is clearly stated in Romans 6:16 when we read “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” The truth is that if we continue to lead a life of sin, then we will never obtain the eternal life that Christ died on the cross to give us. This is something that is very clearly stated in Romans 6:23 when we read “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”. And also in Hebrews 10:26-29 when we read “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?” God provided us with the only thing that can defeat sin in our life, and His name is Jesus. God loves the sinner, but despises sin. God wants us to have a close relationship with Him; god wants us to turn our backs to sin and to walk with Jesus. But sin, traditions, and doctrines inspired by demons and implemented by men have created a barrier between God and men. And although God’s love for us is an eternal truth, another eternal truth is that God will not change His word and character for anyone. Look carefully at how our Lord stated this very clearly in Matthew 24:35 when we read “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”. Tell the person sitting next to you, God will not change His word.

In conclusion. The truth is that we serve the God who is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. The truth is that Christ died on the cross for our sins, it is as we find in Matthew 20:28 when we read “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Tell the person next to you, Christ came to rescue us. In John 8:32 we find that our Lord tells us “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” The truth is not easy

to preach, but it is even more difficult to accept; but never forget that the truth has set us free. The truth is that we can not say that our relationship with God is good if we lead a life of sin. The truth is that if we do not serve Him faithfully, then we will never receive the blessings that He has in store for us. We are about to celebrate thanks giving day, a day when we will be remembering God at all times thanking Him for what He had done and continues to do in our life, but before that day arrives, take a brief time out and reflect in who you truthfully are. Examine yourself right now, reflect and ask yourself, is God with me? Remember that He can be and wants to be always with you, but the decision is yours to make.



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Judul Skripsi : Arguments Used by Bishop Jose R. Hernandez in The  
Text of Sermons  
Dosen Pembimbing : Drs. H. Djoko Susanto, M.Ed., Ph.D

No	Tanggal	Materi	TTD	
1	10 Maret 2008	Pengajuan Judul	1.	
2	02 April 2008	Konsultasi Proposal		2.
3	11 April 2008	Seminar Proposal	3.	
4	09 Mei 2008	Konsultasi Bab I		4.
5	23 Mei 2008	Revisi Bab I	5.	
6	13 Juni 2008	Konsultasi Bab II		6.
7	27 Juni 2008	Revisi Bab II	7.	
8	11 Juli 2008	Konsultasi Bab III		8.
9	25 Juli 2008	Revisi Bab III	9.	
10	07 September 2008	Konsultasi Bab IV		10.
11	10 September 2008	Revisi Bab IV	11.	
12	12 September 2008	Konsultasi Bab V		12.
13	18 September 2008	Acc Keseluruhan	13.	

Malang, 18 September 2008  
Mengetahui,

Dekan Fakultas Humaniora dan  
Budaya UIN Malang

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