

# WHO IS THE REAL THIEF?

by  
*Mariano Guagliardo*

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I read the document entitled “Here I Stand”, edited in December 2001, by the president of VGR Inc., and I could not refrain from writing a little note. About the Franchise I wrote a very extensive exposition. But looking to a such amazing document published by the president of VGR. Inc., and considering the things there said about the distribution of the Message, I feel just to say a few words about it. I do not say much, because I know that other brothers (like brother Ed Byskal, brother Samuel Suter and brother Harry van der Stel, and many others) have already commended and opposed this astonishing document.

1) It is written there that those that take the Message not distributed by VGR Inc. are taking “stolen food”. This statement automatically and emphatically declares that all those that distribute the Message without the permission of VGR Inc. are considered and declared “thieves”. Well, if the president of VGR Inc. declares thieves those brothers that give out the Message without his permission, then how should the brothers that give out the Message consider the president of VGR Inc.?

Look here. To have all the tapes from VGR Inc. we need to pay 4560 (four thousand five hundreds and sixty) U.S. dollars. Boy, that’s a lot of money, especially for the brothers of those countries that have not the U.S.A. standard of life. That is a price that just few could afford!

Now, brother Neil Halava distributed all 1120 Messages in infobase format, with the Voice, for only \$100. Tucson Tabernacle is distributing all 1120 Messages for \$589, included the Player. Cloverdale Bibleway was distributing all the 1120 Messages with the Voice in MP3 format for only 149 \$, and now they have reduced the price to 50\$ (without taxes), plus since 3 or 4 years they have put in Internet all the Message in Audio format, and ANYONE around the whole world can download It FREE OF CHARGE. Brother Daniel Billesberger from Edmonton is giving out 1159 Messages in MP3 format for only 39\$.

Now, if the brother asks only 39 dollars to give us all the Message, then why VGR Inc. asks us 4560 dollars? Why? Are they not able to give out the Message for the same price? Why VGR Inc. do sell It 116 times more expensive?

Think: It's like going to buy a piece of bread in a bakery shop. You go to Mr. Daniel Billesberge's shop and he sells you a piece of bread for 1 dollar. Then you go to VGR Inc.'s shop, and FOR THE SAME PIECE OF BREAD they ask you 116 dollars. Well, would you not run out of VGR Inc.'s bakery shop screaming: "They are thieves! They are thieves!"? Would you not call the Federal Police to arrest the owner of that shop? Surely you would do it, if you are a honest man!

And also think on this one: What if the owner of VGR Inc.'s bakery shop will write letters to the owners of the other shops, telling them that they MUST stop selling the Bread of Life for such a low cost, because they are DAMAGING THE FINANCIAL BUSINESS of VGR Inc, without even considering the fact that around the world there are people in need of that Bread, with some that even cannot buy It because the cost is MUCH ABOVE their financial possibilities? Telling them even that ONLY the VGR Inc. bakery shop have the LEGAL RIGHT to sell the Bread of Life? Huh!

Do you know what at list I would say to the owner of VGR Inc. bakery shop? YOU ARE A CRIMINAL! I will call you in front of the Supreme Court, to answer of your crime before the Supreme Judge, the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely I would do it. Any sound and loyal Christian believer would do it. And I am doing it now.

Well, 4560\$ is the cost for the "cassette" format. But for the CD's format VGR Inc. asks 847 dollars for only TWO years, 1965-1964! Then, for all the years, how much money VGR Inc. will ask to each member of the Bride of Jesus Christ to have all the Messages? At the moment I do not know!

**Think:** For all the Messages in cassettes format, for the year 1965 VGR Inc. asks 243 dollars. For the whole year 1965 in CD's format, VGR Inc. asks 350 dollars; 107 dollars MORE than the tape format.

For the whole year 1964 in cassettes format, they ask 288 dollars. For the same year in CD's format, they ask 497 dollars; 209 dollars MORE than the tape format. Brothers, just think if this is not a clear and plain and pure religious robbery!

Now, who is the REAL thief? If the president of VGR Inc. calls "thieves" the brothers that are distributing the Message at 39 dollars, how should WE call the president of VGR Inc. that is distributing the Message at such a high cost?

If he calls thieves also the brothers that are distributing the Message free of charge, then WHAT IS HE, that is taking all this money from the believers and merchandise with the Word of God? You know what? For any sane mind person, the real thief is the one that is taking such a lot of money from the members of Christ's Bride.

Yes, VGR Inc. is stealing the money from the Bride of Jesus Christ, by using the Word that God has sent FREELY to Her! They ask to each member of the Bride a lot of money, only to give them what BELONGS to them. The Bride has to pay a lot of money in order to have Her own God's given property! She has to pay a lot of money to have Her own Husband, the Word! She has to buy Her own Husband at high cost! The Bridegroom has brought Her with His own blood, and now She has to buy Him with a lot of money from Joseph Branham, the sole legal owner of Her Bridegroom. Huh, just think if this is not a blasphemy, my dear brethren!

The true fact of the story is that the VGR Inc. president is the one that is "depriving" the Bride of Her Food, by

giving It at so high cost that just few could afford to have It. It is just like the same Roman Catholic system, where only the rich people can pay their way to heaven. Exactly the same system.

If there is one real thief before God, then that is the man (or the men) that is asking such a high quantity of money in order to give the Food. Yes, that is the one that is going to be judged before God as a thief. Amen.

If what the president of VGR Inc. is doing is right, then Brother Branham is not right when he speaks against the Roman Catholic Church for spoiling the money from the people. But as the prophet spoke against the money making business of the Roman Catholic Church, so he would also speak as hard as he could against the money making business that his son according to the flesh is doing with the Message of God. That is just exactly right.

See, by quoting Martin Luther, Joseph has brought himself back to the time when the Spirit of God fought, by Martin Luther, against the indulgences and things sold by the Roman Catholic Church. At that time that spirit was working in the Roman Catholic Church, and Martin Luther fought against it and the Roman Catholic Church fought against Martin Luther. Now that same spirit that was working then through the Roman Catholic Church has taken a hold of VGR Inc., and as a result the president of VGR Inc. is making a lot of money with the Word of God. At the same time, the same Spirit that was working then by Martin Luther is working “now” by many different servants of God around the world, doing exactly the same thing: Translating and distributing the Word of God among the people outside the control of the Roman Catholic Church (now the VGR Inc.). And as the Roman Catholic Church fought against Martin Luther, because of his translation of the Word of God, so is now VGR Inc. fighting against those that are translating and distributing the Word of God for this age. Oh, the parallel is just perfect!

2) The president of VGR Inc. says that anyone that takes the Message not distributed from VGR Inc. is eating “stolen food”. Well, Jacob stole the blessing from Esau, and God did not counted him guilty. Esau despised it, and Jacob stole it from him. The same is with us. VGR Inc. have not giving out the Food freely, at a reasonable cost, and the “needy hungry souls” have brought us to steal the Food. VGR Inc. have loved money more than the work of the Lord, and because of this others have done the job asking just little money to cover the expenses, while others have done it even without asking money at all.

If VGR Inc. would have given out the Food as It should have been given, according to the REAL spiritual orders given by the prophet, then there was no need to steal It from them. But they have missed to do the job properly, and God have risen many others to do the job. And now, who can stop them? The president of VGR Inc.? Hah, it is too late!

But “he” say that It is stolen Food, not “God”. Hah!

You know what? Stolen or not stolen, the important thing is that God has provided Food to His Children around the world without using VGR Inc. president. That is the main thing.

When David was hungry, he took and eat the bread that was only for the priests, and God did not considered him guilty of that. Huh! When the Pharisees rebuked the needy people that came to Jesus on the Sabbath day for their healing and various needs, Jesus healed them anyhow, and He was not guilty before God. Huh!

And as the Pharisees where using the Word of God to rebuke Jesus for the good that He was doing to God’s children, so is doing also the president of VGR Inc. towards those faithful servants of God, which, obeying God’s orders, are providing Food to the Bride worldwide. Yes, the VGR Inc. president is saying just exactly what the Pharisees told to Jesus about His works. Just the same thing. The president of VGR Inc. is mis-using the words

of the prophet about the franchise to rebuke, scare and threaten those faithful servants that are doing exactly what the prophet and God wanted to be done. Do you see who is now playing the part of the Pharisees? Yes, that is exactly right: VGR Inc. president IS NOW PLAYING THE PART OF THE PHARISEES.

3) Tell me, president of VGR Inc.: Instead of spending all those millions of dollars to build that “special place” that you have build there in Jeffersonville, using the money that you have stolen from the Bride, why don’t you have spent those money to give out the Message in a more reasonable price? But, no, you have spent all those millions of dollars on a useless building that soon has to fall down, and then you put so a high price on the Message, on the Food, till just a few could afford to have It. Woe onto you!

And not only that, but now you have even enough nerves to call the servants of God “thieves”, only because they have given, and are giving, the Food to God’s children at a price that every one can afford? And some are giving It even free of charge? Only because they are doing the job that you was supposed to do, but did not, you call them “thieves”? God will judge you, president of VGR Inc., for such an infamous accusation that you have public given to the brothers and ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ around the world.

4) So now the president of VGR Inc. is not only a “liar”, by misusing what the prophet said about the franchise, but is also a “thief”, by stealing the money from the Bride. He has forgotten that “liars” and “thieves” do not enter into the Kingdom of God! REPENT, you child of the prophet, before it is too late! I adjure you, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ: Repent! If brother Branham would have been here, the first one against whom he would preach was YOU. Yes.

5) In his letter “Here I Stand”, he takes the words of Martin Luther and, without knowing it, he uses them against himself. See, Martin Luther was the one that was accused of giving out the Word without the permission of the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. Now is he, the president of VGR Inc., the one that is accusing us for giving out the Word without his permission. So, on which side is this president standing? Not on Martin Luther’s side, but on the Roman Catholic Church side. See? WE are on Martin’s side, because we are doing exactly the same thing that Martin did, that is: giving out the Word without the permission of a man. He, the president of VGR Inc. is on the Roman Catholic Church side, because he is the one that is bringing the accusation against us. See? YOU HAVE CONDEMNED YOURSELF, my brother Joseph!

See, in other words, by taking those words “Here I Stand”, he is telling us this: “I stand on the side of the Roman Catholic Church, and condemn you as they condemned Martin Luther”. See? The same fruit! Sure, he uses the “words” of Luther, but the “position” he puts himself in is that of the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. So he is acting like Balaam, that by “words” he spoke right, but by his “acts” he was a false prophet, because he loved money more than he loved the Word. Just like what is doing the president of VGR Inc.

6) Let me tell this. If God would consider me a thief only because I am translating His Message for His children that are here in Italy, providing them the Spiritual Food, then I would be very glad to die in such a condition. If giving all I have (life, time, money, talent, dedication) to provide Food for God’s children makes me guilty, makes me a thief, then let me die in such a guiltiness. It would be a great honor fo me!

See, the fact is this: The president of VGR Inc. is trying to scare the servants of God, by telling them that for breaking the laws of his hypothetic franchise holder on the Message, the penalty could be of 250.000 dollars, and ten (10) years of imprisonment. You know what? That is just a “scarecrow” that he is putting in front of the believers. But I ask him this: If you have in your heart to do some legal action against some brother, why don’t you do it quickly? I tell you the same words that my Lord Jesus told to Judas: “That thou doest, do quickly”.

7) You know what? One time it was Joseph that was sold by his brothers, because he was more spiritual than them. Now is vice versa; now is Joseph that is selling his brothers, only because they are doing for the Lord more than him.

Could it be that as the brothers of the Joseph of the Bible sold him into Egypt, now is this Joseph that will sell his brothers to Egypt? Could it be? It looks like so.

Could it be that now is this Joseph the one that will bring pressure on the Bride? Could it be that now is this Joseph that will give the Saints in the hands of the worldly Authorities, to be persecuted, as the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church have done in the past? Could it be that now is this Joseph the one that will call some ministers of Christ to answer before some earthly perverted judge for preaching and spreading the Message? Could it be that now is this Joseph the one that will put the Bride in the hands of the Ecumenical World Council of Churches to be persecuted? Could it be that now will be this Joseph the one that will do such a shameful thing? Could it be?

Some years ago I had in my house for two weeks Sarah Branham and all her family. She told me many things that were not so nice to hear. At that time I would not believe such things. But now, in the light of what VGR Inc. is doing, I say: "May be she was right in many things she said?". I do not know; I am just questioning myself. Poor sister Sarah, and her children and husband! May God bless them! Also she is a daughter of the prophet. And when I think the way she has been treated, and the way she was living (I do not know now where and what she is doing), I feel very much compassion for her and her children. I pray that the Lord will take care of her.

8) It would be a great spiritual victory for VGR Inc. president, and for all the Bride, if he could just say: "Brethren, let's work together. You all do what you can, and I do what I can. Let's all be busy in spreading this wonderful Message. The time is short, and the work must be done quickly. So, let every one do what he can, for the glory of God". Oh, this would be a great spiritual victory for the president of VGR Inc. and for all the members of the Bride, worldwide.

But if the president of VGR Inc. would refuse this great victory, then he has no other chance than to take on only what remains for him: GUILTINESS before God, for putting an obstacle to the progress of the work, and a stumbling block before the people. Think of what the denomination's leaders are thinking now about the Message believers and about the sons of brother Branham. What a reproach all this is bringing to the Cause of the Lord! REPENT, you president of VGR Inc.! Today I call you to repentance, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And stop to threaten your brothers that are working for the Lord Jesus Christ. You CANNOT stop them, anyhow.

Oh, what a blessed thing could be if the president of VGR Inc. would declare: "Brethren, the Message is free. Any one can use the tapes to farther the Kingdom of God. Any one can translate It in his own language. Any one can duplicate the tapes. Do not manipulate what the Message says, otherwise you will pay before God. But if you duplicate, translate, distribute It faithfully, you are just free to do it, and God will surely reward and bless each one of you richly". Oh, what a blessing that could be!

Let me close this little tract with what the prophet says about how works the "spirit of money making".

## From the Seven Church Age Book.

### 311-2 PHILADELPHIAN CHURCH AGE - CPT. 8

*That spirit that was in Judas went right along through the ministry of Jesus. Then they both came to the cross. Jesus was hanged upon the cross, gladly giving His Life for sinners and commended His Spirit to God. His Spirit went to God and then was poured out into the church at Pentecost. But Judas hanged himself and his spirit went back to Satan, but after Pentecost that same spirit that was in Judas came back to the false vine that grows right along with the true vine. But notice, Judas' spirit never got to Pentecost. It never went up to receive the Holy Spirit. It could not. But what did that Judas spirit go for? It went for the bag of gold. How it loved money. It still loves money. If it goes about in the Name of Jesus doing mighty things and holding great meetings, it still makes more of money and buildings, and education and everything with a material concept. Just watch that spirit that is upon them and don't be fooled. Judas went about as one of the twelve and he did miracles, too. But he did NOT have the Spirit of God as his own. He did have a ministry. He never got to Pentecost as he was not true seed. He was not a true child of God. No sir. And it is that way right now in the synagogue of Satan. Don't be fooled. You won't be fooled if you are of the very elect. Jesus said you wouldn't be fooled.*

*Yes, these folks say they are Christians but they aren't.*

### 329-1 LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE - CPT. 9

*The second thought that must be impressed on our hearts is that the seven church ages started out with the antichrist spirit as well as the Holy Spirit Who is to be blessed forever. I John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Did you notice it? The antichrist spirit is identified with false prophets. The ages came in with false prophets and they will go out with false prophets. Now of course there is going to be a REAL FALSE PROPHET in the grand sense of that man mentioned in the Revelation. But as of now before his revelation there are to appear many false prophets. Matthew 24:23-26, "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not." These false prophets are earmarked for us in various other Scriptures such as the following. II Peter 2:1-2, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord That bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." II 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." I Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Now in every case you will notice that a false prophet is one who is outside the Word. Just as we showed you that 'antichrist' means 'anti-Word' so these false prophets come perverting the Word, giving it a meaning that fits their own devilish ends. Have you ever noticed*

how the people who lead others astray bind them closely to themselves by fear? They say that if the people don't do what they say, or if they leave, then destruction will follow. They are false prophets, for a true prophet will always lead one to the Word and bind the people to Jesus Christ and he won't tell the people to fear him or what he says, but to fear what the Word says. Notice how these people like Judas are out for money. They get you to sell all you have and give it to them and their schemes. They spend more time on offerings than the Word. Those who attempt to operate gifts will make use of a gift which has a margin of error in it and then ask for money, and neglect the Word and call it of God. And people will go to them, and bear with them, and support them, and believe them, not knowing it is the way of death. Yes, the land is full of carnal impersonators. In that last day they will try to imitate that prophet-messenger. The seven sons of Sceva tried to imitate Paul. Simon the sorcerer tried to imitate Peter. Their impersonations will be carnal. They won't be able to produce what the true prophet produces. When he says the revival is over they will go around claiming a great revelation that what the people have is exactly right and God is going to do bigger and more wonderful things amongst the people. And the people will fall for it. These same false prophets will claim that the messenger of the last day is not a theologian, so he ought not to be heard. They won't be able to produce what the messenger can; they won't be vindicated by God as that last day prophet is, but with their great swelling words and with the weight of their world-wide notoriety they will warn the people not to hear that man (messenger) and they will say he teaches wrong. They are running exactly true to their fathers, the Pharisees, who were of the devil, for they claimed that both John and Jesus taught error.

#### **342-3 LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE - CPT. 9**

Do you know that religion today is known as big business? It is an absolute fact that they are placing business managers in the churches to take care of finances. Is this what God desires? Did not His Word teach us in the Book of Acts that seven men full of the Holy Ghost and faith served the Lord in business matters? You can surely see why God said, "YOU say you are wealthy; I never said so."

#### **342-4 LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE - CPT. 9**

There are radio programs, television programs, and numerous church endeavors that are costing millions and millions of dollars. Wealth pours and pours into the church, the membership increases along with the money, yet the work is not being done as it was done when there was no money, but men rested solely on the ability given them by the Holy Ghost.

#### **342-5 LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE - CPT. 9**

There are paid preachers, paid assistants, paid ministers of music and education, paid choirs, paid custodians, programs, and entertainment--all costing great sums, but for all that, the power is decreasing. Yes, the church is rich, but the power is not there. God moves by His Spirit, not by the amount of money or talent in the church.

342-6 LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE - CPT. 9

Now I want to show you how diabolical this urge for money has become.

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I want you to notice in a particular way these words of the prophet, and apply them to the president of Voice of God Recordings Inc.:

*Those who attempt to operate gifts will make use of a gift which has a margin of error in it and then ask for money, and neglect the Word and call it of God. And people will go to them, and bear with them, and support them, and believe them, not knowing it is the way of death”.*

**Just what Joseph Branham is doing!**

And notice also this one:

*...but with their great swelling words and with the weight of their world-wide notoriety they will warn the people....*

With the weight of their world-wide notoriety! Just like Joseph, that is using the notoriety of being the son of the prophet, according to the flesh, and by this he is threatening the brothers. Do you see it?

My dear brothers and fellow ministers in Christ that are around the world:

**Let’s fight against this evil spirit of Mammon that is trying to rule over us!**

**The Message has set us free, let’s fight to keep this freedom!**

**Amen.**



*Bro. Mariano*

*Italy - January, 2002.*