

The Biblical Examiner

Seeking first the Kingdom of God and its Advancement

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

Judgment

Completing a study of the book of James, which is now posted at biblicalexaminer.org, there are a few points I feel need to be shared with those who may not have been able to do a serious study in James. Reading Rushdoony's book on James, my attention was "sparked" to study out two very important points in this last chapter, chapter 5. I hope these points lead the reader to a broader understanding of some difficult passages. (Psalms 119:96, Ezekiel 47.)

(For the last 30 years, I have studied Scripture "at the feet" of great men of the past with their books. In the case of James, the man was R.J. Rushdoony. Anyone can get a good "college level, Biblical education", with a good library and the desire for serious study. That education will be better than any class room study. See <http://www.biblicalexaminer.org/bklist.shtml>)

THE FIRST POINT OF INTEREST IS JUDGMENT

James was a half-brother of Jesus. He was martyred in A.D. 62 under Nero, A.D. 54-68. This book was written several years earlier. The date has been placed between A.D. 35 and 52 under either Caligula or Claudius. So James' letter may well be the earliest book in the New Testament. Thus James, as well as all the New Testament authors, wrote in the midst of horrible persecution by both the Jews, as Saul was doing, and by Rome under two or three very wicked Emperors, particularly Nero. His persecution against Christians took on new energy after he burned Rome in A.D. 64, and blamed it on the Christians.

Note that the persecuted Christians probably had high hopes that when one emperor was replaced with another, the persecution would ease up. But each new emperor was worse than the previous.

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ROME:

Tiberius Caesar, A.D. 14-37

Caligula, 37-41 – At the beginning of his spectacular career, Caligula announced that he was a god, fully equal to Jupiter. He had all the heads of the images of Jupiter replaced with his head.

Claudius, 41-54 – Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome because he considered them trouble makers. Aquila and Perscilla were among those expelled.

Nero, 54-68 – his reputation is very well known. He executed Paul.

Galba, 68.

Otho, 68.

Vitellius, 69.

Vespasian, 70-79, emperor when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Titus, 79-81, was the one credited with destroying Jerusalem under Vespasian. He spared Josephus, whom God spared so he could write an eye witness account of probably the most important event in world history, particularly for the church.

ROMAN GOVERNORS IN JERUSALEM:

Pontius Pilate, 36-37. Pilate wanted Jerusalem to be like all the other cities of the Roman empire, so he ordered that images of Caesar be established next to the Temple. The Jews were so incensed that a group of about seven thousand marched on Pilate, demanding the images be removed. Finally, Pilate grew tired of the mob, and said that if they did not disperse, he would have them executed. The Jews threw themselves on the ground and laid their necks bare. Pilate gave way, and removed the images.

Paul appeared before both Felix (52-60) and then Festus (? - 62).

(Charles Ludwig, "Rulers of New Testament Times. Accent Books, 1976.)

James 5:10, 11, “the prophets as an example.” The Christians of James’ day were suffering persecution from the rich, chapter 1, and suffering at the hands of the Jews, Saul, Acts 9. The Jews’ conflict was building in Christ’s day, as He was tempted many times by the Jews to side with them against Rome. The revolt took a serious, military turn about A.D. 40. Judah was pretty much left on its own with self-rule from the time of the Maccabees. Rome wanted peace with the Jews, for Judah was a major cross-road for trade of its day.

The sufferings of the prophets of old were well-known, and James reminds them of their sufferings for speaking the word of the Lord. Jeremiah was cast into the dungeon by his own people, because he spoke the word of the Lord to King Zedekiah. (Jeremiah 38.)

James tells his readers to take these men and all the prophets, as examples “of suffering affliction, and of patience”. Those who endure are happy or blessed. Using Job’s example, James clearly presents God’s compassion and mercy.

Hebrews 11 also gives the same message to the Christian synagogue of faith and patience, v. 39 “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:”

◇ V. 11, WE COUNT THEM HAPPY...

In vv. 1-6, the rich had taken advantage of the poor who were unable to defend themselves. (James 1.) The rich used their power to transfer the wealth from the helpless to themselves, even driving the poor to starvation.

Now James assures those who had fallen victim to the rich of God’s judgment against their rich oppressors. The idea of and concern for judgment today is basically only of the Last Judgment: “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” (Hebrews 9:27.)

The Last Judgment is certainly important, and is the subject of our Lord’s sermon in Matthew 25:31-34,

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

However, God has come many times throughout

history in judgment against the world of sin and evil.

We read of God’s judgments, beginning in the Garden, and followed by the Flood, the Tower of Babel, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Rome and other great nations of their day. (2 Kings 18:25, 2 Chronicles 35:21, Isaiah 36:10.) In these events, we see God’s judgments pronounced and then brought to pass on men and nations. God’s judgments in history have a purpose. Judgments restore order by bringing about condemnation and destruction on sinful men and nations.

When we pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10), we are praying, among other things, for judgment. Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace because He is the Lord of Judgment.

We read of His coming in clouds throughout history, which signifies judgment.

Isaiah 19:1 “*The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.*”

Psalms 37:28 “*For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*”

Revelation 1:7 “*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*”

James 5:3, James speaks of the coming and very near judgment, even at the “door”. Apparently, he was referring to the quickly approaching judgment of Jerusalem and Judea as promised by the Lord in Matthew 24.

As we see in Isaiah, the clouds of judgment do not have exclusive reference to the Last Judgment. Revelation described what was to take place in 70 AD. The unsaved Jewish historian, Josephus, describes the “the Lord” riding upon the swift cloud of judgment against Jerusalem. He revealed Himself in the clouds of judgment to everyone in that day. Here is just one short sentence of that eye-witness account:

“Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the twenty-first day of the month of Artemisios [Iyyar], (Niese: June 8, Capellus: May 21) (297) a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those who saw it, (298) and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunsetting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their

armour were seen (299) running about among the clouds, and surrounding the cities.” (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapter 5, § 3)

God’s judgment was seen in the clouds around Jerusalem. God’s literal army which did the destruction was the mighty Roman army.

Titus himself said that God was the one who overthrew the Jews, and ejected them from their strongholds. Rome was not strong enough to take the walls, nor take the towers: “We have certainly had God for our assistant in this war, and it was no other than who ejected the Jews out of these fortifications; for what could the hands of men or any machines do towards overthrowing these towers?” (Ibid., Book 6, Chapter 9, § 1, ect. See Ussher, 6979.)

Accordingly, “The last days” of James 5:3 do not refer to the end of the world, but to the end of the Judaic world that condemned and crucified Christ, as clearly prophesied by Christ in Matthew 23.

From the biblical perspective, history is a series of judgments, great and small. All the judgments will peak with the Last Judgment. History is a series of judgments, as we see around us today. Because man refuses to see that the wars and catastrophes are judgments, he fails to repent and grow, which leads to more judgments.

There is a last judgment of which Peter speaks in 2 Peter 3:8-14:

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

◇ SPECULATION

Must the “fervent heat” rain down on the world from above as it did on Sodom? There are plenty of speculations as to what the “heat” might be, and that is all they are, speculations.

Over the years since the first atom bomb, speculation

has included that 1 Peter 3:11 refers to atomic fire. Atomic fire will generate an unbelievable fervent heat, actually the heat of the sun. An uncontrollable atomic fire started in March 2011. It continues to burn with increasing intensity, and is beyond modern technology to control it.

“Tokyo Says Radiation Levels ‘Absolutely Safe’ for hosting Olympics” (<http://blogs.wsj.com/japanreal-time/2013/09/04/tokyo-says-radiation-levels-absolutely-safe-for-hosting-olympics/>)

There are all kinds of speculations about the cause of the entire situation, but Divine Providence started that the fire with an earthquake that destroyed Fukushima. There is no way to describe the world wide death and destruction that is now taking place, and will continue to worsen with no end in sight. We saw just the beginning of the destruction within the first 11 months. The infant mortality rate increased by 35% in California. Projections say that within 10 years, the entire Pacific ocean will be polluted with radiation. Already the sea food from the West Coast is contaminated. The radiation showers down on all plants, and man and animals eat those plants.

The answer by the US government has been and continues to be to ignore radiation level of the West Coast, and of the food from that area. Private monitors, however, tell the truth. The US response has been to refuse to even address the disaster that is progressively growing worse. Their answer is to raise the published safe levels of radiation, and ignore the problem. All the main stream media has done the same, including popular talk show hosts such as Rush Limbaugh.

The death and destruction may well fit into the population control efforts by the wicked, but it certainly was the God of Providence Who started the nuclear fire.

EINSTEIN SAID THAT SPLITTING THE ATOM WAS A TERRIBLE WAY TO BOIL WATER.

Among the major immediate health problems is that radio active Iodine causes cancer of the thyroid. It is being carried by jet stream particularly up the west coast and into Alaska. The radiation will pollute the entire Northern Hemisphere. The radioactive iodine loses its danger after about 6 weeks, and those of us in the East may be out of its reach. A preventive for the radioactive iodine is Liquid Dulse, which fills the thyroid with good iodine, preventing the radioactive iodine from filling that void.

It is difficult to get an honest evaluation of what is

going on, as the spin machine has gone into full speed to prevent panic by the population of the Northern Hemisphere.

We are told that the world will be destroyed by fire. Does that fire have to rain down as it did on Sodom? The nuclear fire at Fukushima has not even begun in earnest. There are thousands of tons of fuel rods on the top floors of the reactors at Fukushima, with many tons 50 ft high on top of damaged reactor #3. Due to the “dam” of frozen earth attempting to hold back the radioactive cooling water from the ocean, the water under the plant is saturating the ground. If and when the building collapses, the nuclear fire will ignite in earnest, with no way to stop it. The entire Northern Hemisphere will be polluted with an unseen death. Could that fire fit into 2 Peter 3:9-14?

(See “FUKUSHIMA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW”, by Devvy. 8/25/13. NewsWithViews.com <http://www.newswithviews.com/Devvy/kidd601.htm> I have the entire article, which I will send upon request.)

Failure to recognize the fact that judgment is a call to repentance only results in more judgments. The world is determined to deny that the various serious “natural events” and accidents are God’s call to repent. What is in store from God’s hand of judgment?

V. 7, Judgments are “the coming of the Lord” as King to bring conviction to evil-doers and justice to the world. Indeed, many “innocent men” die in these judgments, but a world war against God must result in a world wide judgment, as the world forsakes justice.

James urges a difficult path for God’s people who were suffering at the hands of the rich as they saw what little wealth they had being transferred to the rich; that is, patience and steadfastness in the faith until “the coming of the Lord.” In James case, the “coming of the Lord” in judgment was the Jewish-Roman War of A.D. 66-70. The Lord promised that that war would be unrivaled in its horrors, and even though Christians who were forewarned survived the fall of Jerusalem, they lost their homes and relatives. (See the “Triumph of Titus” by Bro. Need.)

James uses a clear image to describe the coming judgment. A harvest requires “the early and latter rain.” The farmer patiently waits on the rains because he wants a harvest. So too must we wait on God’s judgments as reviving rain. The alternative to judgment is that injustice will continue and triumph. And many “righteous” people will perish along with the wicked in God’s world-wide war against injustice and evil.

Egypt experienced judgment after judgment in the ten plagues, each one increasing in severity, yet

Egypt refused to repent. The result was the death of a generation of young men in the Red Sea.

Likewise, the people of our day refuse to learn and be spared further judgments. In all this, God is breaking up ground to sow His seed, “thy kingdom come”.

Is it any wonder that even Christians deny that the “Lord’s Prayer, ‘thy kingdom come’” is for our age of grace? It means judgment must “rain upon the just and the unjust”.

As “the husbandman waiteth for the” the rain and fruit, we must wait on the Lord of Judgment to act. Man cannot control the Lord of Judgment any more than the can control the weather, particularly the needed rain when wild-fires are burning.

V. 8, James urges to “Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”. Everything that these Jewish Christians loved, their land and its people, was about to be destroyed in “the coming of the Lord”, yet James urges patience.

V. 9, we are told “Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth at the door.” The judgment was inevitable on those who had crucified their King, the Lord of Glory. We know that many of those very persons who demanded the crucifixion of the Lord were called, converted and were now part of the Christian synagogue.

The new Christians were not to involve themselves in grudges, murmuring, nor accuse one another. They were not to grudge against those who crucified the King, nor against those rich Jews who were persecuting them at the time.

The crucifixion was done according to the predetermined counsel of God, and it was now time to consider the future, not the past. When judgment is at the “door”, it is too late to try to relive the past. They were told that they will have a future if they will think in the terms of the King’s work, the “Kingdom of God, and his righteousness”.

Vv. 7, 8, “coming” is the word “parousia”, which means “visit of a ruler”. (“Theological Dictionary of the New Testament”, Online Bible.) His “coming” (parousia, or royal visit) refers to God’s comings in judgments throughout world history.

“**Shaking**”, or instability, both in the world and in the church, marks a time of judgment, so that righteousness can prevail. (Hebrews 12:25-29) As God shakes earth and heaven so “those things which cannot be shaken may remain”, James urges patience. He knows that living in an age of terrible shaking is difficult, and he

does not mislead us into thinking that things will be easy in the time of upheaval and judgment. Jeremiah had clearly expressed distress and pain over judgment in his Lamentations.

James urges patience because the conclusion of God's judgments is good, however painful. In a sinful world, God's judgments are necessary, and considered in the light of His word, they are a blessing. Patience means that our perspective of history sees God's Divine Providence at work. By God's grace, we know His purposes for His Kingdom, for history, and for us is being accomplished. Patience can be a mark of grace, a trust in God's purposes, and a knowledge that "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Patience means recognizing that there can be no peace without judgment. Peace without justice would be no more than hell. Peace without justice would mean an unchanging and everlasting state of evil. History is a series of judgments to prepare the way for God's new creation. However difficult and painful, we must welcome God's judgments against the sinful plans and actions of evil men. (RJR)

Scrabble Anyone

This is one of the cleverest E-mails I've received in a while. Someone out there must be "deadly" at Scrabble. Wait till you see the last one! It will be hard to top, because it fits to a "T".

PRESBYTERIAN: When you rearrange the letters: BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER: When you rearrange the letters: MOON STARER

DESPERATION: When you rearrange the letters: A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES: When you rearrange the letters: THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH: When you rearrange the letters: HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE: When you rearrange the letters: HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY: When you rearrange the letters: DIRTY ROOM

SLOT MACHINES: When you rearrange the letters: CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY: When you rearrange the letters: IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS: When you rearrange the letters: LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS: When you rearrange the letters: ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

A DECIMAL POINT: When you rearrange the letters: I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES: When you rearrange the letters: THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO: When you rearrange the letters: TWELVE PLUS ONE

AND FINALLY, FOR THE GRAND FINALE:

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: When you rearrange the letters: "An Arab Backed Imposter"

Documentary

The Disappearing Male

By Dr. Mercola, 8/31/13

[I was not going to reproduce the entire article, but I believe it is important enough to include. Judgment is here, loud and clear.]

The chemical industry is only 100 years old, but in this short time they've created substances that may now be threatening human survival.

A handful of these chemicals are detailed in the film *The Disappearing Male*, which gives an educational glimpse into exactly why environmental chemicals, and particularly the gender-bending kind, are so detrimental.

It's becoming quite clear that chemicals in the environment are prompting significant changes to animals, especially males, and that extends to human "animals" as well.

INFERTILITY RATES ARE RISING AS SPERM COUNTS DROP

One couple in the film described the waiting room at their infertility clinic as similar to an emergency room — packed with lines extending down the hall. Infertility is more common than many think these days. An estimated 1 in 6 American couples struggle with getting pregnant each year and there's compelling evidence

WHEN THY JUDGMENTS ARE IN THE EARTH,
THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WILL
LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS. ISA. 26:9

that hormone-disrupting environmental chemicals are partly to blame.

The problem with low sperm counts has become so severe that the World Health Organization has had to

continually drop what's considered a "normal" sperm count to lower and lower levels over the last several decades, lest too many men be classified as infertile.

Chemicals that may disrupt sperm count and quality are pervasive in today's modern world. They lurk in personal care products, food containers, medical tubing, toys and more. Bisphenol-A (BPA) and phthalates are two of the most well known culprits.

BISPHENOL A (BPA)

BPA is a common ingredient in many plastics, including those in water bottles and children's toys, as well as the lining of most canned goods. (Soft drinks, flavored water, "bottled" water, ed.) It was recently discovered that even many cash register receipts contain this chemical. BPA is so pervasive it has been detected in the umbilical cord blood of 90 percent of newborn infants tested!

Recent studies have confirmed suspicions that BPA is affecting male fertility, primarily by reducing semen quality. One such study, which provides the first epidemiological evidence of an adverse effect on semen quality, was published in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*. The researchers found that higher urine levels of BPA were significantly associated with:

- ◇ **DECREASED SPERM CONCENTRATION**
- ◇ **DECREASED TOTAL SPERM COUNT**
- ◇ **DECREASED SPERM VITALITY**
- ◇ **DECREASED SPERM MOTILITY**

Compared with those who did not have detectable levels, the men with detectable levels of BPA had more than:

Three times the risk of lowered sperm concentration and lower sperm vitality

- ◇ **FOUR TIMES THE RISK OF LOWER SPERM COUNT**
- ◇ **TWICE THE RISK OF LOWER SPERM MOTILITY**

In women, BPA can also reduce chances of successful in vitro fertilization (IVF) by interfering with oocyte (immature egg cell) quality. Two recent studies attest to this. One found an inverse association between BPA concentration and normal fertilization, and the other found that "BPA was detected in the urine of the majority of women undergoing IVF, and was inversely associated with number of oocytes retrieved and peak estradiol levels."

PHTHALATES

Phthalates are another group of chemicals that wreak havoc with reproductive health. Exposure to phthalates can lead to incomplete testicular descent in fetuses,

reduced sperm counts, testicular atrophy or structural abnormality and inflammation in newborns.

Phthalates are commonly found in vinyl flooring, detergents, automotive plastics, soap, shampoo, deodorants, fragrances, hair spray, nail polish, plastic bags, food packaging, garden hoses, inflatable toys, blood-storage bags, intravenous medical tubing, and more.

A 200% Increase in Male Genital Birth Defects

Gender-bending chemicals are the likely culprit behind a 200% increase in male genital birth defects in recent years, the film cited, highlighting one woman who believes her son's undescended testes falls into this category.

Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act in 1996, which required the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to initiate the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP) to screen pesticides and other environmental chemicals for their potential to affect the endocrine systems of both animals and humans. According to the EPA:5

"In the 1990s, some scientists proposed that certain chemicals might be disrupting the endocrine systems of humans and wildlife. A variety of chemicals have been found to disrupt the endocrine systems of animals in laboratory studies, and compelling evidence shows that endocrine systems of certain fish and wildlife have been affected by chemical contaminants, resulting in developmental and reproductive problems."

However, despite the fact that nearly two decades have passed since the beginning of the program, the market is literally flooded with chemicals that have the potential to wreak havoc on reproductive health, especially when exposure occurs in utero or during childhood (as is often the case).

The strongest evidence showing that exposure to environmental chemicals can lead to disruption of endocrine function comes from the bizarre changes seen in a number of wildlife species, such as male fish transforming into females; frogs developing a variety of defects like multiple testes or ovaries; and hermaphrodite bears, just to name a few.

The effects are being seen in humans as well. The endocrine-disrupting chemicals phthalates, for instance are linked to testicular atrophy or structural abnormality. In experiments on rats, phthalates have demonstrably blocked the action of fetal androgens, which affects gender development in male offspring, leading to undescended testes at birth and testicular tumors later

in life.

Studies have also found that boys whose mothers had high phthalate exposures while pregnant were much more likely to have certain demasculinized traits and produce less testosterone.

The more a pregnant woman is exposed to high levels of phthalates, the greater the risk her son will have smaller genitals and incomplete testicular descent, leading to impaired reproductive development. The chemical also appears to make the overall genital tracts of boys slightly more feminine. It is believed that phthalates have these adverse effects because they reduce testosterone synthesis by interfering with an enzyme needed to produce the male hormone.

EVEN THE MOST VULNERABLE ARE BEING INUNDATED WITH GENDER-BENDING CHEMICALS

Studies have shown that premature babies are exposed to extremely high concentrations of phthalates, which are widely used to make plastics like polyvinyl chloride (PVC) used in medical tubing and other medical equipment. With each plastic tube that a newborn is hooked up to, the rate of phthalate exposure increases. And for those premature infants who spend weeks and months in the neonatal intensive care unit, the exposure levels can be extraordinary.

A report released by the nonprofit organization Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) found that male infants exposed to phthalates through medical procedures are most at risk of suffering health effects. The phthalate di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, or DEHP, in particular, is raising concern because of research linking it to:

Disturbed lactation – “Decreased dysgenesis syndrome”: A syndrome involving cryptorchidism (undescended testicles), hypospadias (birth defect in which opening of urethra is on the underside of the penis instead of at the end), oligospermia (low sperm count), and testicular cancer

Interference with sexual differentiation in utero – Enlarged prostate glands

Impaired ovulatory cycles and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) -- Numerous hormonal disruptions

Early or delayed puberty – Breast cancer and uterine fibroids

A typical American comes in regular contact with some 6,000 chemicals and an untold number of potentially toxic substances on a less frequent basis. There are approximately 75,000 chemicals regularly manufactured and imported by US industries, so you

could be exposed to any number of them. Disturbingly, most of them have never been adequately tested for safety for adults, let alone their impacts on the most vulnerable among us, our children.

The chemical industry has, in fact, resisted testing chemicals on developing bodies, as might occur when a fetus is exposed in utero, likely because they'd have trouble explaining away all the ill effects that are likely to be revealed. Furthermore, there is absolutely no toxicology research that takes into account the effects of multiple, simultaneous chemical exposures and their resultant synergistic toxicity, which is what actually happens to exposed populations in the real world.

THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL LOBBYISTS

Like the biotech, pharmaceutical and processed food industries, the chemical industry wields incredible power over Congress, and uses it to have bills passed in their favor – and regulatory violations overlooked. Perhaps that is why, despite the proven risks, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has denied a petition to ban BPA from food packaging. The FDA and most other US regulatory agencies are backed by pro-industry, pro-corporation advocates who often have massive conflicts of interest when it comes to protecting the health of the public.

In fact, the revolving door between private industry and government oversight agencies like the FDA is so well established these days, it has become business as usual to read about scandal, conflicts of interest and blatant pro-industry bias, even when it flies in the face of science or the law. The fact is, if you want to stay safe, you can't depend on the FDA, the EPA or any other government agency; you've got to look out for yourself.

PROTECTING YOURSELF IN A CHEMICALLY DRIVEN WORLD

No one knows what health consequences to this toxic chemical cocktail will cause to an adult, let alone a developing baby. Unfortunately, it is our future generations, and possibly the species as a whole, who will likely pay the heftiest price for this lack of safety concern, as an embryo and fetus develop at a much faster rate than adults.

While this development occurs, cell division and growth is rapid -- and these rapid changes provide many opportunities for mistakes to occur. It's clear that boys appear to be at particular risk but, really, no one is safe. I encourage everyone with children or grandchildren to review Theo Colburn's *Our Stolen Future*, which is

one of the BEST resources on this topic. Further, while you make the switch to remove and reduce chemicals around your home, remember that one of the ways to significantly reduce your toxic load is to pay careful attention to what you eat.

Organically-grown, biodynamic whole foods are really the key to success here, and, as an added bonus, when you eat right, you're also optimizing your body's natural detoxification system, which can help eliminate toxins your body encounters from other sources. Rather than compile an endless list of what you should avoid, it's far easier to focus on what you should do to lead a healthy lifestyle with as minimal a chemical exposure as possible:

As much as possible, buy and eat organic produce and organic free-range foods to reduce your exposure to pesticides and fertilizers.

Rather than eating conventional or farm-raised fish, which are often heavily contaminated with PCBs and mercury, supplement with a high-quality purified krill oil, or eat fish that is wild-caught and lab tested for purity.

Eat mostly raw, fresh foods, steering clear of processed, prepackaged foods of all kinds. This way you automatically avoid artificial food additives, including dangerous artificial sweeteners, food coloring and MSG.

Store your food and beverages in glass rather than plastic, and avoid using plastic wrap and canned foods (which are often lined with BPA-containing liners). **[Drinking from plastic bottles is destructive to reproduction, especially for males, *ed.*]**

Have your tap water tested and, if contaminants are found, install an appropriate water filter on all your faucets (even those in your shower or bath).

Only use natural cleaning products in your home.

Switch over to natural brands of toiletries such as shampoo, toothpaste, antiperspirants and cosmetics. The Environmental Working Group has a great database to help you find personal care products that are free of phthalates and other potentially dangerous chemicals. I also offer one of the highest quality organic skin care lines, shampoo and conditioner, and body butter that are completely natural and safe.

Avoid using artificial air fresheners, dryer sheets, fabric softeners or other synthetic fragrances.

Replace your non-stick pots and pans with ceramic or glass cookware. **[Properly seasoned cast iron is the best possible cookware, *ed.*]**

When redoing your home, look for "green," toxin-free alternatives in lieu of regular paint and vinyl floor coverings.

Replace your vinyl shower curtain with one made of fabric, or install a glass shower door. Most all flexible plastics, like shower curtains, contain dangerous plasticizers like phthalates.

Limit your use of drugs (prescription and over-the-counter) as much as possible. Drugs are chemicals too, and they will leave residues and accumulate in your body over time.

Avoid spraying pesticides around your home or insect repellants that contain DEET on your body. There are safe, effective and natural alternatives out there.

Note: I left out the documentation. Article and documentation at http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2013/08/31/disappearing-male-documentary.aspx?e_cid=20130831Z1_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20130831Z1

Priesthood of All Believers

What Is It All About?

By Thomas Williamson

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." - 1 Peter 2:9.

"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father." Revelation 1:6.

Based on these references, and other New Testament teachings, the concept of "Priesthood of All Believers" has been developed. What does this concept mean? Is it scripturally sound? What are the implications of this doctrine for Baptists and other fundamentalist believers?

Carolyn Blevins, on the Center For Baptist Studies web site, traces this doctrine to the time of John Smyth and Thomas Helwys, 400 years ago: "Smyth insisted that the church is a 'kingly priesthood' and that the saints (or Christians) are 'kings and priests.' Thomas Helwys declared that a person's religion was between God and that person.

"John Smyth and Thomas Helwys launched Baptist life on the principle that priesthood was shared by all Christians, not relegated to a few. From their earliest days, Baptists had no office of priest. From the beginning of Baptist life, every person was considered a priest. Individuals continued to be of primary significance in

Baptist life. One of the earliest Baptist confessions of faith, the 1644 London Confession, stated: 'And all his servants are called ... to bring their gifts God has given them . . . according to the effectually working of every part' of the church.' The 1677 Second London Confession affirmed that all members were bound to further the good of the church by exercising their gifts to promote communion, love, and edification in the community of faith.

"Baptists in America addressed the same priority in the 1833 New Hampshire Confession. This statement defined the church as a body of baptized believers which exercised 'the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word.' Southern Baptists use similar language when they adopted the 1925 Baptist Faith and Message describing the church as a congregation of baptized believers 'exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word.'"

William Pinson, Jr., on the Baptist Distinctives web site, states that "On the basis of various New Testament passages, Baptists have insisted that every person who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ has access directly to God. Each is directly responsible to God. Each is to share the love of God...."

"Each believer priest is responsible for his or her own actions. Individual believers can go directly to God without the aid of any intermediary. Individuals can and should read and interpret the Bible for themselves without religious officials dictating to them what to believe.

"Believer priests are all equal to one another in Christ (Galatians 3:26-28). There is only one High Priest, that is Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:23-8:13)...."

"A church does not have only one priest. Potentially it has many who communicate the love and forgiveness of God and demonstrate concern and compassion of one believer for another...."

"Each believer priest in the fellowship is equal to all of the others. Therefore, no one is in authority over all. Thus decisions are made by the community of priests seeking to know the will of the head of the church, the great High Priest, Jesus Christ."

IMPLICATIONS FOR CLERGY/LAITY DICHOTOMY

The concept of Priesthood of All Believers implies that lay people and clergy are on a basis of equality in the church. Are we comfortable with that?

Alexander Hay has written, "The priesthood of all true believers is dearly and emphatically taught in the New Testament (1 Peter 2:5-9, Revelation 1:6). It is

seen in practice in all the order and functioning of the New Testament churches. However, in the church order of today it is rejected...."

"Now it is only the Pastor (Elder) and (in some cases) the Deacon who are given the position of priests, all others being considered as 'laity' - a term not found in the New Testament, and completely foreign and destructive to the order given to the church by Christ.

"Satan's objective in accomplishing this is clear: it has affected the church at its most vital point because it has not only robbed the great majority of believers of the privileges and responsibilities of priesthood that Christ gave them, but has also taken the authority from Christ, the Head and Builder, and put it into the hands of men. As A.W. Tozer has said, the youngest Pastor (in the modern sense) has more real authority in the congregation than Christ does.

"This has resulted in the transforming of the church from a body, each member actuated by and responsible to Christ the Head, into an organization with human leaders who have superior authority and come between the members and Christ. Coupled with this has been the inevitable substitution of man's talents for the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit which has in turn taken from the church its spiritual equipment and power."

Jon Zens criticizes the clergy/laity distinction, saying, "In light of our priesthood, we cannot give credence to the historical 'clergy/laity' distinction. Howard Snyder points this out by saying: 'The New Testament simply does not speak in terms of two classes of Christians - "minister" and "laymen" -as we do today. According to the Bible, the people (laos, "laity") of God comprise all Christians, and all Christians through the exercise of spiritual gifts have some "work of ministry." So if we wish to be biblical, we will have to say that all Christians are laymen (God's people and all are ministers. (Sic.) The clergy-laity dichotomy is unbiblical and therefore invalid...."

"In light of this, the service of elders and deacons must be viewed against the backdrop of the general priesthood of believers. They serve as an important part in the edification of the body; they do not constitute the only sources of edification in the body."

SERFS UP! DO WE DARE ALLOW ALL BELIEVERS TO BE PRIESTS?

Naturally, there are some among the various denominations, including some Baptists, who are not comfortable with the idea of Priesthood of All Believers. They believe that in every church there should be one

senior pastor who is set aside from, and in domination over, the other believers. He has the sole authority to determine everyone's faith and practice and tell the laymen what to do and believe. In Baptist circles, this principle is known as Preacher Rule.

Such domineering principles are expressed in various ways. Some pastors demand that their followers must believe whatever their pastor teaches them, without question. They also attempt to interfere in personal decisions of their church members, dictating whether or not they can be married, accept a job in another city, attend a certain college, etc. (I was told of a pastor who demands to know what his members make, to make sure they tithe properly, ed.)

They may attempt to control the sources of information received by their members (reading material, television, internet, etc). They may pressure members to perform certain duties in the church, and may rebuke those who decline. Christian service of any type by laymen, outside of or not authorized by the local church, may be discouraged, since such activity brings no glory to the Man of God. There is a tendency to regard lay people not as equals in the Body of Christ, but as subservient serfs and lackeys. Lay people who disobey the pastor or express any disagreement are publicly shamed, humiliated and subject to harsh church discipline.

Often when a member attempts to flee such a church, the pastor will engage in extradition proceedings to force the escapee to come back. (We are very good friends with a family who experienced this very thing, ed.) Sister churches will be discouraged from accepting the fugitive members. Wives of members who leave may be contacted by the pastor and told, "If you don't get your husband back into my church, your marriage will fail and your children will be lost and go to hell." The pastor may attribute any misfortune that may befall former members as an evidence of God's wrath on them for having left their church.

Is this type of domineering leadership accord with the servant type of leadership that the New Testament teaches? (Matthew 20:25-27, 1 Peter 5:2-3) Pastors who lead their congregations in a domineering manner appear to have a poor concept of God's sovereignty. They act as if God's purposes will not be accomplished unless the lay people are chastised with whips and scorpions, and forced to do what is "right" as defined by the pastor.

Pastors who adhere to such authoritarian leadership would hold to a limited view of Priesthood of All

Believers. They would say that it means that lay people can be saved without going through a Roman Catholic priest, and they can pray directly to God. However, it does not mean that lay people can think for themselves, exercise Baptist soul liberty, express disagreement with the clergy or have an equal role in the affairs of the church.

HISTORICAL BAPTIST TEACHING ON THE CLERGY-LAITY DISTINCTION

For the most part, Baptists have not held to the concept of Preacher Rule or a rigid distinction between clergy and laity. The following statements are presented as evidence:

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON: "The church of Rome has struggled to prove her own descent from Peter, but fails at the very beginning ... The whole drift of the scheme is to elevate a clerical caste, and lay all the rest of mankind at their feet. This is the reverse of the religion of the New Testament, which says that all believers are a royal priesthood, made by the Lord Jesus kings and priests unto God." From Spurgeon's Sermons, Volume X, The Priest Dispensed With.

JEREMY CRAFT: "Baptists have always cautioned and stood against pastoral authoritarianism. Elders (ordained pastors) have always had spiritual authority in the church. Yet this authority did not lie outside the confines of the local congregation. Baptists have always taught that elders receive their authority by the Spirit through the recognition of the local body.

"Therefore, emphasis is always placed on the elder's role as shepherd. Shepherds guide and protect the congregation through strong Biblical teaching of Scripture, regular administration of the ordinances, pastoral care, and fasting. The elder's calling is one of submission to the body of Christ. He is to serve and meet their spiritual needs. Likewise, congregations are to submit to the leadership of their elders since they have clearly recognized and confirmed the Spirit's calling on the pastor's life. The relationship of the elder and the congregation is then one of submission and love to each other." - Helwys Society Forum Web Site.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS: "The principles of church government in the Baptist denomination are expressed in the text: 'One is your master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren.' There is no opportunity for the assumption of authority by a few, if it were desired. All meet on the broad, even platform of equality. The rich and the poor, the minister, deacons, and people, are all brethren. The pastor is no more, the poorest member is no less, than

one of the brethren.

“Each church, in its collective capacity, transacts its own business, exercises its own discipline, and receives and excludes its own members, subject only to the authority of Christ, and governed by His Word....

“In a Baptist church there is perfect equality. It could not be otherwise. They recognize the church as a voluntary organization, into which persons enter by their own choice, and whose privileges and benefits all have an equal right to share. Christ has nowhere delegated His authority to a body of arrogant ministers, or prelatical bishops, or blasphemous popes; and Christians have no right to recognize and uphold the assumption of authority by them. It is not a matter of indifference. To support the assumptions of man, who have arrogated to themselves authority which belongs only to Christ, is to engage with them in rebellion against the one only Master: and where this is done knowingly, such cannot be held guiltless.” - From the book “Baptists Thorough Reformers,” late 19th Century.

D.B. RAY: “Thus we find that the elders are to rule by example and by feeding the flock of Christ. Whatever may be the different gifts or offices in the Church of Christ, no member has a right to claim the preeminence in the execution of the laws of Christ. The very fact that the ministers or elders are chosen or ordained by the churches, proves that they are inferior in point of authority to the churches which have invested them with the ministerial office.

“The apostles themselves only claimed to be servants of the churches, for Paul said, ‘We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake,’ 2 Corinthians 4:5. The only way to become great in the kingdom is to be a great servant. Every minister is equal in point of privilege with every other member of the church; but, as a minister in his official capacity, he is subject to, and inferior to the church. His individual acts or decisions have no more binding force than those of any other member.” From the book “Baptist Succession - A Handbook of Baptist History, 1912, pp. 227-228.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION. “We affirm the priesthood of all believers. Laypersons have the same right as ordained ministers to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and minister in Christ’s name. That is why the Convention requires strong lay involvement on its boards.

“This doctrine is first and foremost a matter of

responsibility and servanthood, not privilege and license.

“It is of course, a perversion of this doctrine to say that all views are equally valid, that you can believe anything and still be a Baptist or that the pastor has no unique leadership role.” From SBCNet.

J.E. COBB, Professor, Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas: “It has already been observed that the pastor has no coercive authority over the church which he serves....

“The churches are executives of the kingdom of Christ. That authority rests in the churches - not in the ministry, or in a class of ruling elders, boards, or any such things. In proportion to his ability and spiritual endowment, the executive authority of a church of Jesus Christ rests upon the ‘least’ member of a church as upon the ‘greatest.’ The ‘least’ member in a church has just as much voice in the transactions of the affairs of the church as does the ‘greatest’ member.

“Equal rights to all and special privileges to none is the substance of the divine law in the governmental prerogatives of a church of Christ Jesus taught the doctrine of equality among the churches as well as equality among the members of the churches. One class of members cannot lord it over another class.” “Baptist Church Manual,” pp. 56-57, 127-128.

J.M. PENDLETON: “The Redeemer suppressed all the risings of ambition in the minds of His disciples - assuring them that they were brethren - on an equality - and positively forbidding everything like the exercise of lordship and authority. Christianity reduces none of its votaries to ciphers. It teaches them all that they are immortal creatures - personally responsible to God. It attaches importance and dignity to man; for, while it deeply humbles him before God, it does not degrade him before his fellow-man. Far, very far from it. Those know little of the genius of Christianity who tamely submit to ministerial domination, whether among Papists or Protestants. But enough.

“The view of church government given in the preceding pages I sincerely believe accords with the teachings of the New Testament Baptists maintain this form of government Therefore I am a Baptist” - “Three Reasons Why I Am A Baptist,” 1853, p. 170.

JOHN MASON PECK “His kingdom, in its organized state of small communities, each managing its own affairs in its own vicinage, is a pure democracy. THE PEOPLE THE WHOLE PEOPLE, in each community, choose their own officers - receive and expel members

- conduct all business as a body politic - decide on all questions of discipline, and observe all the institutions of Christ.” - “Christian Repository,” Vol. 2, pp. 47-48. Emphasis in the original.

PRESBYTERIAN VIEWS ON PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

Baptists as a matter of principle have held to the Priesthood of All Believers and have rejected a system of subservience of laity to clergy. Many Baptists have even cited this principle as a Baptist distinctive. But honesty compels us to give credit to other groups, such as Presbyterians, that have also held to such principles.

ROUSAS RUSHDOONY: “The purpose of the church should not be to bring men into subjection to the church, but rather to train them into a royal priesthood capable of bringing the world into subjection to Christ the King. . . . The church has by and large paid lip service to the priesthood of all believers, because its hierarchy has distrusted the implications of the doctrine, and because it has seen the church as an end in itself, not as an instrument.” “Institutes of Biblical Law,” page 764.

P.G. MATHEW, Grace Valley Christian Center, Davis, California: “Ministers of the gospel are God’s gifts to the church. They are not to dominate the people of God (1 Peter 5:3) but to equip them through the preaching of the gospel ‘for works of service’ (Ephesians 4:11-12)....

“We believe that Reformed churches should promote an ‘every believer’ ministry based on the measure of the gifts of grace granted to every child of God (Ephesians 4:7). The weakness of modern churches can be attributed in great measure to their not paying proper attention to this Reformed doctrine. It is high time that we preached this doctrine and released the spiritual energies of God’s people in greater spiritual productivity for the glory of God. We must not only believe orthodox doctrines but also practice them as Paul did.

“Our church has no clergy-laity distinction. All are priests of God, and almost everyone engages in some aspect of the work of the church without pay. Recently I observed one of the members, a university professor, working at the church. What was this learned man doing? Washing windows with great joy. There is such love for God here that members sacrificially lay down their lives for others. They do so spontaneously, not out of compulsion, and thus daily practice the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers.”

JACK HABERER, Presbyterian Mission Agency: In the days of the apostles, the calling to serve as priests was revived. . . . 1 Peter 2:9. In this case God’s word has not come as a promise for the future but as a declaration

for the present: ‘You are . . . a royal priesthood.’

“However, around 200 AD, two of the church’s leaders, Hippolytus and Tertullian, revived the notion of a ‘special priesthood,’ with that title to be worn only by the clergy. By the end of the 4th Century that office had been formalized, and the ‘laity’ accepted 2nd -class status in ministry.

“As a priest-in-training Martin Luther rediscovered the claims of Scripture, with its gift of justification by grace through faith and its commission to serve in the ‘priesthood of all believers.’ He minced no words: ‘All Christians are priests, and all priests are Christians. Worthy of anathema is any assertion that a priest is anything else than a Christian.’

“John Calvin applied that message by forming a polity wherein laity and clergy alike would serve in ordained offices of leadership - as peers in proclamation of the Word, peers in intercessory prayer, and peers in mission service.

“‘Creeping clericalism’ among the clergy plus a spiritual inferiority complex among the laity have continued to minimize believers’ perception and fulfillment of their priestly call. But that call remains God’s call and commission for all God’s people to fulfill.”

CHARLES SWINDON’S COMMENTS ON 1 PETER 5:1-2 AND PASTORAL AUTHORITY

“The first principle is this: The pride of position must be absent. Remember who wrote these words: Peter the apostle, the spokesman for the early church, the one who saw Jesus with his own eyes, who literally walked with the Messiah for more than 3 years. What honor had been his - what privileges, and yet he never hints at his own position of authority. Any sense of pride of position is absent from Peter’s opening remarks. He simply calls himself, ‘a fellow elder, a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory that is to be revealed.’

“I consider these very humbling words. He says nothing about his authoritative apostleship. Nothing about the importance of the recipients of his letter being obedient to his advice. He simply identifies with the elders as a ‘fellow elder.’ And if you want to make the word ‘partaker’ a little bit more understandable, think of the word partner.’ ‘I’m a partner with you in the same glory that’s going to be revealed hereafter.’ He saw himself on the same level as the other elders.”

Based on the equality of believers, Swindoll urges pastors to tolerate differences among their members

on non-essential matters: “The importance of 2-way tolerance is extremely significant. A pastor needs to be very tolerant of the people he is serving. And the people who are being served by the minister need to be very tolerant of him. We need to give each other a lot of wobble room. Congregations need to give each other - and their pastors - room to be themselves.” From “Hope Again,” pp. 220, 222.

DO WE DARE ALLOW “WOBBLE ROOM” FOR THE LAY PEOPLE?

There are some who believe that it is dangerous for pastors to allow their people “wobble room” or “room to be themselves.” They fear that laymen will use the doctrine of Priesthood of All Believers as an excuse to run wild, do their own thing, and totally reject pastoral authority and even the authority of the Bible. Admittedly, the doctrine of Priesthood of All Believers, like any other good scriptural concept, can be misused and pressed too far. For this reason, the Southern Baptist Convention in 1988 passed a resolution affirming belief in the priesthood of the believer, but cautioning that it should not be used to allow people to believe whatever they choose, such as rejecting supernatural elements of the Bible, or to undermine pastoral authority in the local church.

How should we react to the concept of the Priesthood of All Believers? Is it a mistake to let down the boundaries and barriers that prevent the laity in our churches from intruding into the sacred precincts of the recognized, ordained clergy? Should we crack down on the laity and make sure that they understand that they are to be subservient to the clergy? If they do, will this strengthen our churches and promote unity, or will the members flee, leaving behind empty pews and empty offering plates?

I do not pretend to have all the final answers. I believe that we should hold to the principle of Priesthood of All Believers, and the allied principle of Christian Liberty in non-essential matters as taught in Romans 14. There must be a balance between these principles, and the equally valid principles of the authority of the Word of God and of properly exercised leadership of the pastors and congregations over wayward members.

My personal belief is that the concept of Priesthood of All Believers is a concept that is scriptural and helpful, that will promote unity and cooperation between full-time Christian workers and the believers who support them, and that will promote the development of new leadership from within our churches and our movement.

After all, every “clergyman” today was once a lay person who was allowed to develop his spiritual gifts and exercise his priesthood.

Extra

MYSTICISM AND EVANGELICALISM - ARE THEY COMPATIBLE? “ As I survey the contemporary church, one of my gravest concerns is the power and prevalence of mysticism. It appears in pulpits, books, and conversation. It is at the heart of Sarah Young’s bestselling ‘Jesus Calling,’ it is in the much-loved books by John Eldridge, it fills the pages of many books on spiritual disciplines or spiritual formation, it is almost everywhere you look...

“God has given us His Word to guide us in all matters of faith and practice. When we commit ourselves to mysticism, we commit ourselves to looking for revelation from God and experiences of God that come from outside that Word. We reject His gift His good, infallible, inerrant, sufficient gift - and demand more. Because God promises us no more, we quickly create our own experiences and interpret them as if they were God’s revelation. Yet the Bible warns us that we can do no better than God’s Word and have no right to demand anything else. The question for Evangelicals today is just this: Will God’s Word be enough? Because whatever does not lead us toward God’s Word will always, inevitable and ultimately lead us away.” - Pastor Tim Challies, Grace Fellowship Church, Toronto, Ontario

REPUBLICAN SENATOR SAYS EVANGELICALS ARE TOO EAGER FOR WAR. Senator Rand Paul, in a Christian Broadcasting Network interview, recently commented that “I think part of Republicans’ problems, and, frankly, to tell you the truth, some in the evangelical Christian movement, I think have appeared too eager for war. . . . When people come to me and they’re lobbying for ratcheting up some bellicose policy towards some country, even if it’s a bad country, I tell ‘em, when I read the New Testament, I read about Jesus. I don’t see Him being involved in the wars of His days. In fact, people rebuked him for not being the king. They wanted somebody to stand up to the Romans. He stood up in a different way, but He didn’t organize coalitions and guerilla bands and arm them.” (I totally agree. There are professed “evangelical Christians” I know whom I would consider “war mongers”, and they call others cowards, ed.)

Prsonal

September 15, 2013, very strange summer. 43 degrees this morning. We really only had 2 weeks of summer, a few days in which it got up into the 90s. We have turned on the heat pump a couple of times, but the first wood stove fire, 9/24/13.

New grandson. Our youngest daughter just had her first child. We must go to OH for a birthday party and for a baby shower.

◇ **BUSY, BUSY, BUSY.**

It is a sad day when one does not have time to “ride”, and the Harley sits in the garage saying, “Let’s go for a ride”.

“*Thou shalt not steal.*” “*Thou shalt not kill.*” “*Thou shalt not bear false witness.*” “*Thou shalt not covet.*” Each of the Ten Commandments, though most are given in a negative light, each has a positive side. The positive side of each is to do all we can to protect our neighbor’s life, his property, his family as well as his good name.

I was quietly minding my own business here on our mountain—which is known as the dividing line between East and West Hardy County, with each having its own school—when I saw an ad in a local paper telling of some shenanigans being pulled by the County Commissioners. So I got involved. It has taken a great amount of time to ferret out illegal actions to make public, but we seem to be making some progress. We have had to file some “FOIA” requests. Lies and theft of public tax money has been going on for some time, as it does in about any local government. So the time has come from Examiner time, as well as from other areas. So this Examiner is quite late.

Sadly, anyone who will stand for truth, and try to demand accountability according to the law will make enemies in “High Places”, and I am no exception. But we have gained a few friends also, who are tired of the deceit from those “High Places”.

If you would like to see what is taking place, check my face book page: [facebook.com/hardycountyinformed](https://www.facebook.com/hardycountyinformed). When I make a new post, it will get about 1500 views in that week.

It is hypocrisy to sit around and criticize the local officials if you are unwilling to get involved for what is right. One voice can make a difference. Get involved in your local community. If nothing else, write letters to the editor. Everyone who gets the paper will read them.

The Anointing

The second point of interest is James’ use of the word

“anoint” in v. 14.

Vv. 13-16, is a difficult and often misunderstood passage. As I have seriously examined this passage, it appears that it is often misused to give a false hope

This text needs to be understood as an unit, and in the context of sin. James has told of their persecution by unconverted Jews. His answer to persecution is faith and patience in their difficulties. He holds up two men who endured great troubles without wavering in their faith, Job and Elijah. Job was reduced from great wealth to sickness and poverty. Elijah, like them, had been persecuted by his own people, who professed to be the chosen people. Neither Job nor Elijah compromised their faith. Those of the Christian synagogue to whom James writes were likewise hated and persecuted.

V. 13, “Is any afflicted, let him pray.”

V. 13, “Is any merry, let him sing.”

V. 14, “Is any sick, let him call...”

V. 14, “Let the elders anoint...”

“The act of anointing appears to have been viewed as emblematical of a particular sanctification, of a designation to the service of God, or to a holy and sacred use.” Eg., prophet, priest or king. (“McClintock & Strong Cyclopedia.” Ages software.)

Vv. 14, 15 has been a much discussed passage, and has given a false hope to many. It makes for confusion if one attempts to understand it apart from the total context of this letter, and especially in its immediate context.

Another term for “anointing” is unction. The Roman Catholic doctrine of extreme unction is based in this text. “**Extreme Unction**, [is] A Catholic sacrament; a priest anoints a dying person with oil and prays for salvation.”

“**Sacrament:** A formal religious ceremony conferring a specific grace on those who receive it;...”

The Church of Rome has seven sacraments to which they attach mystical power. Some Protestant churches have retained some of Rome’s sacraments as having mystical power, such as the Lord’s Supper.

But this verse has nothing to do with any kind of mystical or magical power, nor can it teach that anointing and prayer by the elders will result in physical healing and forgiveness of sins. (Where in Scripture are we told that one’s prayers can forgive sins of another? There is only One Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.)

◇ **V. 15. “ANOINTING HIM WITH OIL.”**

We find the understanding of this text in the Old Testament rite of “anointing with oil.” This anointing was done to the first man in the line of high priests, Aaron. We also see that kings were anointed, and, in Elisha’s case, a prophet was anointed: “And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.” (1 Kings 19:16.)

Furthermore, lepers who were pronounced clean and whole were anointed on the eighth day, which seems to fit best with the context of vv. 14, 15. (Leviticus 14:1-20, vv. 12, 13 tells us that sin was involved.)

In all instances, it is clear that the anointing is ordained by God. At the very least, anointing marked a change of status.

In the New Testament, the Old Testament implication of anointed is fulfilled, as the believer is justified, and made a royal priesthood in Christ. Christians are told in Revelation 1:6, that they have been made “kings and priests unto God and his Father” by Jesus Christ. Revelation reminds the persecuted and martyred Christians of their high calling and status as “kings and priests” in Christ.

ANOINTING:

First, anointing originated in the consecration into their office and calling of priests, prophets, and kings. Moses anointed Aaron, Exodus 28:41. Samuel anointed both Saul and then David to be king. And Elijah anointed Elisha.

Second, anointing is connected with forgiveness of sin, Leviticus 14.

Third, anointing marks all Christians.

* *Psalms 23:5* “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

* *2 Corinthians 2:21* “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;”

* *1 John 2:20*, “But ye have an unction (anointing) from the Holy One and ye know all things.” — “all things” that are required of a believer, not all knowing.

Fourth, anointing is related to Christ’s triple functions or offices as priest, prophet, and king.

Fifth, anointing in Christ and under His ministry through us, we share in His three offices, in strict conformity with His word.

Sixth, anointing was used by the disciples: “And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.” (Mark 6.13.) The disciples cured a number of sick people by anointing them with

oil, but most were healed without oil. (“Silver and gold have I none... In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk”, Acts 3:6.) Anointing was clearly associated with healing of some sick people. God can use any means of healing, as He did then and does now. We commonly hear of supernatural healings where no oil was involved.

◇ NOW WHAT DO WE HAVE?

The generally accepted meaning of “sick” is a physical ailment, but the context of the sickness here is sin:

V. 15, “and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” “He” and “Him,” refers to the sick one.

“The sick... Present active articular participle of ..., old verb, to grow weary (Heb 12:3), to be sick (here), only N.T. examples.” (“Robertson’s NT Word Pictures.” Online Bible.)

This old verb is only used twice: James 5:14, and in *Hebrews 12:3* “For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

“**Wearied**”, grow weary, to be sick. “**Faint**”, weaken, enfeebled, tired out, faint hearted, &c.

(“**Consider him**. When you become faint and discouraged by persecution, consider what Christ suffered from sinners.” “Peoples New Testament Notes”, Online Bible.)

Hebrews 11 & 12 deal with growing weary and faint in the midst of terrible persecution, as James does in vv. 16-20. Both Hebrews and James call on Christians to “endure” as did the saints of old in Hebrews 11. The call is to endure with the patience of Job, and with the fervent prayer of Elias.

James 5:15, the “**sick**” man is “**wearied**”; he is exhausted under an unrelenting emotional strain. “**Faint**”— enfeebled through exhaustion, weak, despond, faint hearted. (“Greek Lexicon.” Online Bible) Accordingly, the “sick” is not an ordinary physical ailment, but it is associated with sin and the need for forgiveness.

Vv. 14-16

Again, we cannot ignore the historical context of what James is saying. All of the New Testament was written under a very wicked, corrupt and oppressive Roman civil authority, who claimed the authority to authorize the people to worship as they pleased, as did Babylon of Daniel’s day. But the early Christians refused to recognize Rome’s authority to worship; hence, the conflict between Rome and Christianity.

Caligula, 37-41 – At the beginning of his spectacular career, Caligula announced that he was a god, fully equal to Jupiter. He had all the heads of the images of Jupiter replaced with his head.

Pontius Pilate, 36-37. Pilate wanted Jerusalem to be like all the other cities of the Roman empire, so he ordered that images of Caesar be established next to the Temple. The Jews were so incensed that a group of about seven thousand marched on Pilate, demanding the images be removed. Finally, Pilate grew tired of the mob, and said that if they did not disperse, he would have them executed. The Jews threw themselves on the ground and laid their necks bare. Pilate gave way, and removed the images.

The following is lengthy, but bear with me as we consider the historical context. (I love history as it relates to Scripture, but history wearies most Christians.)

The conflict between Christianity and Rome was exemplified by Polycarp, who had been a disciple of St. John, and was martyred around A.D. 155:

CHAP. III. — THE CONSTANCY OF GERMANICUS.

THE DEATH OF POLYCARP IS DEMANDED

For the devil did indeed invent many things against them; but thanks be to God, he could not prevail over all. For the most noble Germanicus strengthened the timidity of others by his own patience, and fought heroically with the wild beasts. For, when the proconsul sought to persuade him, and urged him to take pity upon his age, he attracted the wild beast towards himself, and provoked it, being desirous to escape all the more quickly from an unrighteous and impious world. But upon this the whole multitude, marveling at the nobility of mind displayed by the devout and godly race of Christians, cried out, “Away with the Atheists; let Polycarp be sought out!”

CHAP. IV. — QUINTUS THE APOSTATE

Now one named Quintus, a Phrygian, who was but lately come from Phrygia, when he saw the wild beasts, became afraid. This was the man who forced himself and some others to come forward voluntarily [for trial]. Him the proconsul, after many entreaties, persuaded to swear and to offer sacrifice. Wherefore, brethren, we do not commend those who give themselves up [to suffering], seeing the Gospel does not teach so to do.

CHAP. VIII. — POLYCARP IS BROUGHT INTO THE CITY

Now, as soon as he had ceased praying, having made mention of all that had at any time come in contact with him, both small and great, illustrious and obscure, as well as the whole Catholic Church throughout the world, the

time of his departure having arrived, they set him upon an ass, and conducted him into the city, the day being that of the great Sabbath. And the Irenarch Herod, accompanied by his father Nicetes (both riding in a chariot), met him, and taking him up into the chariot, they seated themselves beside him, and endeavoured to persuade him, saying, “What harm is there in saying, Lord Caesar, and in sacrificing, with the other ceremonies observed on such occasions, and so make sure of safety?” But he at first gave them no answer; and when they continued to urge him, he said, “I shall not do as you advise me?...”

CHAP. IX. — POLYCARP REFUSES TO REVILE CHRIST.

... Upon his confessing that he was (Polycarp, ed.), [the proconsul] sought to persuade him to deny [Christ], saying, “have respect to thy old age,” and other similar things, according to the custom, [such as], “Swear by the fortune of Ceasar ; repent, and say, Away with the Atheists.” (Atheists being those who refused to swear by Ceasar, and worship the gods, ed.) Then, the proconsul urging him, and saying, “Swear, and I will set thee at liberty, reproach Christ ; Polycarp declared, “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury ; how then can I now blaspheme my King and my Saviour?”

CHAP. XV. - POLYCARP IS NOT INJURED BY THE FIRE.

When he had pronounced this amen, and so finished his prayer, those who were appointed for the purpose kindled the fire. And as the flame blazed forth in great fury, we, to whom it was given to witness it, beheld a great miracle, and have been preserved that we might report to others what then took place. For the fire, shaping itself into the form of an arch, like the sail of a ship when filled with the wind, encompassed as by a circle the body of the martyr. And he appeared within not like flesh which is burnt, but as bread that is baked, or as gold and silver glowing in a furnace. Moreover, we perceived such a sweet odour [coming from the pile], as if frankincense or some such precious spices had been smoking there.

(The Martyrdom of Polycarp, The Anti-Nicene Fathers, vol I, pp. 40, 41. WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1979 Reprint. See also The Martyrdom of the Holy Martyrs, *ibid*, pp. 305, 306. “All” the Martyrs had to do was “offer the sacrifice with one accord to the gods.” Then they continue to “worship Jesus”.)

James wrote before A.D. 70, when the early church face a deeply entrenched paganism. That entrenched paganism did not disappear when a person was converted, nor does it today. The early church also faced the demand by Rome to worship the Emperor. All they had to do was say “Lord Caesar” and offer a little incense to the Roman gods, and their lives would be spared. They could even worship Jesus Christ, but

could they worship Him as the true Lord Jesus Christ? (Of course, we could go into the Church Incorporation issue here. See <http://www.biblicalexaminer.org/corp.htm>)

There is a great deal we could say in the matter of Roman Emperor Worship of the first century: Romans 10:9-13, "*whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" was an extremely important point in that day, for it could easily mean persecution and even death. Peter's and John's words, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" (Acts 4:12) were words of treason in their day when salvation was seen in the emperor and in Rome's gods. (Remember, Caligula declared himself to be god at this time, and demanded worship as such.)

Rome overlooked their "atheistic" words that denied the Roman gods at the time, thinking the new religion was simply another sect of the Jewish religion. Rome did not want to add fuel to the fire of war with the Jews that was already starting to burn bright.

Even before Christianity was separated from Judaism by Rome, (A. D. 70) the Christians were not only put to death under Nero for refusing to worship the emperor, but put to death by the Jews, e.g., Saul. But life by the Jews and by Rome was offered to them, if they would only deny the Lord Christ.

Because of the persecution both from the Jews and from Rome, many members of the early church did defect from the faith—apostatize, e.g., Quintus The Apostate. Then when seriously ill and facing death, many made their peace with God by confessing their sin of apostasy to the elders and to the pastor. With the anointing with oil, they were restored to their status as kings, priests, and prophets in Christ. Leviticus 14 is a good example.

V. 15, the word "if" confuses the issue, but the above explanation seems to fit best within both the historical and Scriptural context. I certainly am not discouraging anointing with oil and prayer for physical healing.

In v. 16, James urges all of them to "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." Then Elijah is given as an example of prayer in the midst of persecution by his own people.

All believers have the status as priests, kings, and prophets if they will but exercise it in total faithfulness to Christ's word and humility. Instead of being used for

bitterness against the oppressors, and for criticism of those who defect from the faith, the tongue should be used for prayer for restoration.

Polycarp wrote that the elders in particular should be merciful and work to bring back all who had gone astray. James 2:13 declares: "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment." The goal with regard to those who have strayed is restoration.

The anointing described by James refers to the work of the Spirit Who alone can separate from sin, and bring one into the priesthood of all believers. Anointing reminds the saints of their high calling in Christ Jesus to holiness, faith and patience. (Philippians 3:14.) Anointing reminds us that we are prophets and kings in Christ. By the act of anointing, the repentant sinner was visibly reminded of his restoration. The anointing described by James was apparently reserved for the sick or dying and the repentant former members of Christ's synagogues.

Faithful members had no need for it, but, for those who strayed from the faith, it was a visible reminder of the grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The prayer of faith shall save the sick..." The "sick" person is defined as exhausted, enfeebled, weak and despondent under an unrelenting emotional strain of his apostasy, and the Lord would not let him go. He had been dealt with as a son, and brought low, even to his death bed.

Hebrews 12:7 "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

He had erred from the truth, and now had confessed his sin of apostasy. The result of anointing and prayer was the restoration of the fallen one to fellowship and to a sound mind, and maybe even to good physical health.

A few centuries later, the problem recurred with the Donatists. The primary disagreement between Donatists and the rest of the early Christian Church was over the treatment of those who renounced their faith during the persecution under the Roman emperor Diocletian (303-305). The Donatists refused to allow the restoration of any who had apostatized during persecution. The Donatists disappeared after the Arab conquest on the 7th and 8th century. They were destroyed by their unforgiving spirit of Phariseeism.

Conclusion: Rather than use our tongue to criticize and condemn those who have departed from the faith, we must pray that they will return to the faith. (1

Timothy 4.) Moreover, we should be quick to forgive those who do show honest repentance of and turning from their sins.

Isaiah 51:1 "Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged."

1 Corinthians 6:11 "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

How quick we are to condemn others when we forget from where the Lord brought us.

We have arrived

Was this guy a prophet or what!!!

H.L. Mencken (born 1880 - died 1956) was a journalist, satirist, critic -- and a Democrat. He wrote this editorial while working for the Baltimore Evening Sun; it appeared in the July 26, 1920, edition:

"As democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be occupied by a downright fool and complete narcissistic moron."

---H.L. Mencken, The Baltimore Evening Sun, July 26, 1920

Judgment Fires

[There are various ideas of conspiracy floating around about Fukushima, but the following is worth serious consideration. What can be done to protect one's self from this unseen killer?]

At The Very Least, Your Days Of Eating Pacific Ocean Fish Are Over

Radiation Opinion by Gary Stamper

The heart-breaking news from Fukushima just keeps getting worse...a LOT worse...it is, quite simply, an out-of-control flow of death and destruction. TEPCO is finally admitting that radiation has been leaking to the Pacific Ocean all along, and it's NOT over...

I find myself moving between the emotions of sorrow and anger.

It now appears that anywhere from 300 to possibly over 450 tons of contaminated water that contains radioactive iodine, cesium, and strontium-89 and 90, is flooding into the Pacific Ocean from the Fukushima Daichi site everyday. To give you an idea of how bad that actually is, Japanese experts estimate Fukushima's

fallout at 20-30 times as high as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings in 1945

There's a lot you're not being told. Oh, the information is out there, but you have to dig pretty deep to find it, and you won't find it on the corporate-owned evening news.

*An MSNBC article in April of 2012 reported that seals and polar bears were found to have "external maladies" that consisted of fur loss and open sores, obvious signs of radiation burns from the Fukushima meltdown, despite the conclusions of the article.

* Fukushima radiation appears to be causing an epidemic of dead and starving Sea Lions in California and the FDA has refused to test for radiation

* Update: Huffington Post reports that the reactors used "dirty fuel," a combination of plutonium and uranium (MOX), which means we can never return to this place again. This comes from a Russian nuclear physicist who is an expert on the kinds of gasses being released at Fukushima.

* Almost a third more US West Coast newborns may face thyroid problems after Fukushima nuclear disaster

* Contaminated water from Fukushima reactors could double radioactivity levels of US coastal waters in 5 years -- "We were surprised at how quickly the tracer spread".

(German Scientists have calculated the dispersion of Cs-137 in the Pacific Ocean VIDEO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=j7UQXfN-J4E0

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE PACIFIC OCEAN FOOD CHAIN? – May 2013 – Researchers from the Japan Agency for Marine Earth Science and Technology reported in early 2012 that they have detected radioactive cesium from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant in plankton collected from all 10 points in the Pacific they checked, with the highest levels at around 25 degrees north latitude and 150 degrees west longitude. Plankton, and the radiation they contain, moves right up the food chain through fish, whales, seals, etc., and when larger fish eat smaller fish. Kyodo: Highest levels of Fukushima contamination in plankton already east of Hawaii?

A WARNING TO SEAFOOD LOVERS EVERYWHERE – Scientists previously reported higher-than-expected concentrations of radiation in fish off Japan. Now there are calls for testing of seafood sold in the U.S. Although contaminated air, rainfall and even radioactive debris from Japan have drifted toward the

U.S. West Coast since the disaster occurred 2 1/2 years ago, scientists are unclear about how the contaminated waters could impact the health of Americans, and while scientists say that 300 tons of contaminate water is diluted in the Pacific, no one knows how long that's been going during those 2 1/2 years as we also now know TEPCO has been lying all along. Nuclear experts are calling on the U.S. government to test West Coast waters and Pacific seafood sold in the U.S. in the wake of Japan's alarming admission about an ongoing radiation leak, something the EPA and the FDA have so far refused to do, as they are only testing imported fish, not wild-caught. WHY? The only way to protect your children and grandchildren is by NOT EATING SEAFOOD from the Pacific Ocean until we have better information. Source. Information posted at the website of the Department (sic.) of Nuclear Engineering at the University of California recommends not buying any fish from the Pacific Ocean or western states, including Baja.

WHAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD ABOUT FISH CONTAMINATION

* Tissue samples taken from 15 bluefin caught in August, five months after the meltdowns at Fukushima Daiichi, all 15 contained reactor byproducts cesium-134 and cesium-137.

* The 15 fish tested were only exposed to radiation for a short time. But bluefin arriving in California now will have been exposed to the Fukushima radiation for much longer.

* Unlike some other compounds, radioactive cesium does not quickly sink to the sea bottom but remains dispersed in the water column, from the surface to the ocean floor. Fish can swim right through it, ingesting it through their gills, by taking in seawater or by eating organisms that have already taken it in. (The son of a friend of ours is on a US Navy ship off the coast of Japan. They are taking core samples to see how much cesium has settled to the ocean floor.)

* The overwhelming scientific consensus is that there is no safe level of radiation ... and radiation consumed and taken into the body is much more dangerous than background radiation.

* The Telegraph notes that scientists tagged a bluefin tuna and found that it crossed between Japan and the West Coast three times in 600 days: All Pacific migratory fish are likely Fukushima contaminated.

* Why have Contaminated Alaskan Halibut been found even though halibut don't migrate? The

cesium-134 contamination from radioactive plumes doesn't just fall on land.

* Study shows Fukushima nuclear pollution becoming more concentrated as it approaches U.S. West Coast — Plume crosses ocean in a nearly straight line toward N. America — Appears to stay together with little dispersion (MODEL, <http://ennews.com/study-shows-fukushima-nuclear-pollution-becoming-more-concentrated-in-pacific-as-it-nears-u-s-west-coast-plume-travels-a-nearly-straight-line-to-america-appears-to-stay-together-with-little-dis>)

* Pacific herring in Canada bleeding from eyeballs, faces, fins, tails – I've never seen fish looking this bad – All 100 examined were bloody – Officials informed of hemorrhaging soon after 3/11 – Gov't ignoring problem.

* Unprecedented: Sockeye salmon at dire historic low on Canada's Pacific coast – “We think something happened in the ocean” – “The elders have never seen anything like this at all” – Alaska and Russia also affected.

* Japan Times: Fukushima Daiichi radioactive water problems seem ‘uncontainable’ – Believed to be wreaking environmental havoc upon Pacific Ocean.

* Reuters: Crisis deepening at Fukushima nuclear plant; Upgraded to ‘Level 3 Serious Incident’ – Represents a 100-fold increase in “severity of a radiological release” – Tepco says highly radioactive leakage continues, but unknown where from.

* It's more than obvious that TEPCO officials have no idea what they're doing, and the big question is why aren't world governments jumping in to contain what's going on? Meanwhile, the Pacific Ocean may very well be dying.

[Australian Physician and anti-nuclear advocate Dr. Helen Caldicott Warns of Contaminated Fish and Ocean. Japan Nuclear Crisis: The Dangers of Radiation VIDEO at, http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=eMmaduq-5bw Also see this video of her speaking in 2012]

Quotes from Dr Caldicott [She is an anti-nuclear advocate, which I am sure colors her ideas, ed.]

“It seems that nearly 1 million people have already died as a result of Chernobyl... Japan by order of magnitude is many times worse than Chernobyl...”
“In Chernobyl, 20,000 people have developed thyroid cancer...”

* “Plumes of radioactivity from Fukushima are migrating in the Pacific towards the U.S. West Coast.”

* “[Chernobyl] (sic) is one of the most monstrous

cover-ups in the history of medicine”

* “Then we extrapolate to Japan. (sic) Japan is – by orders of magnitude – many times worse than Chernobyl.”

* “I knew the three GE engineers who helped design the GE Mark 1 reactors. They resigned because they knew they were dangerous. Japan built them on an earthquake fault.”

* “Diablo and San Onofre are both built on earthquake faults, haven’t you seen enough of an earthquake to see what it does...and in a tsunami area.”

What is the greatest threat to humanity? We are, of course....and our technology. Like a dangerous weapon in the hands of a child, technology has overtaken our capacity to control potential consequences. Oxford University’s Future of Humanity Institute, led by director Nick Bostrom, says we have entered this new kind of technological era that we have no track record of surviving.

Our technological intelligence may have the potential for creating a better world, but so far, in areas of the economy, genetics and biologics, arms and warfare, security and surveillance, as well as the environment and energy, technology is also completely indifferent to the law of unintended consequences.

Fukushima is what happens when we have the moral responsibility of infants and the technology of adults.

There are several updates on his website, with more reference web links. <http://www.collapsingintoconsciousness.com/at-the-very-least-your-days-of-eating-pacific-ocean-fish-are-over/>

Who will dare to deny that Fukushima is God’s Divine Providence of judgment? Failure to recognize the fact that judgment is a call to repentance only results in more judgments. The world is determined to deny that the various serious “natural events” and accidents are God’s call to repent. What is in store from God’s hand of judgment?

Burglary in Florida

(YOU JUST CAN’T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!!)

When southern Florida resident Nathan Radlich’s house was burglarized recently, thieves ignored his wide screen plasma TV, his VCR, and even left his Rolex watch. What they did take, however, was a “generic white cardboard box filled with a grayish-white powder.” (That’s the way the police report described it.)

A spokesman for the Fort Lauderdale police said,

that “it looked similar to high grade cocaine and they’d probably thought they’d hit the big time.”

Later, Nathan stood in front of numerous TV cameras and pleaded with the burglars: “Please return the cremated remains of my sister, Gertrude. She died three years ago.”

The next morning, the bullet-riddled corpse of a local drug dealer known as “Hoochie Pevens” was found on Nathan’s doorstep.

The cardboard box was there too; about half of Gertrude’s ashes remained. Taped to the box was this note which said: “Hoochie sold us the bogus blow, so we wasted Hoochie. Sorry we snorted your sister. No hard feelings. Have a nice day.”

And you thought California was the land of fruits and nuts.

(Copied)

Wal-Mart Same-Sex Benefits Puts Pressure on Hold-Outs

By Renee Dudley & Chris Burritt

“Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMT)’s decision to extend health-care benefits to workers’ same-sex partners removes one of the biggest holdouts and adds pressure on other resistant companies to follow suit.

“You can go to your board, and all of a sudden you’re not swimming against the stream as much as you were yesterday,” said Wallace Hopp, associate dean of faculty and research at the University of Michigan’s Stephen M. Ross School of Business. “You can say, ‘Jeez, Wal-Mart does it.’”...

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-28/wal-mart-same-sex-benefits-puts-pressure-on-hold-outs.html>

Promises

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD’S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.” — Numbers xi. 23.

God had made a positive promise to Moses that for the space of a whole month He would feed the vast host in the wilderness with flesh. Moses, being overtaken by a fit of unbelief, looks to the outward means, and is at a loss to know how the promise can be fulfilled. He looked to the creature instead of the Creator. But doth the Creator expect the creature to fulfil his promise for Him? No; He who makes the promise ever fulfils it by His unaided omnipotence. If He speaks, it is done—done by Himself. His promises do not depend for their

fulfilment upon the co-operation of the puny strength of man. We can at once perceive the mistake which Moses made. And yet how commonly we do the same! God has promised to supply our needs, and we look to the creature to do what God has promised to do; and then, because we perceive the creature to be weak and feeble, we indulge in unbelief. Why look we to that quarter at all? Will you look to the top of the Alps for summer heat? Will you journey to the north pole to gather fruits ripened in the sun? Verily, you would act no more foolishly if ye did this than when you look to the weak for strength, and to the creature to do the Creator's work. Let us, then, put the question on the right footing. The ground of faith is not the sufficiency of the visible means for the performance of the promise, but the all-sufficiency of the invisible God, who will most surely do as He hath said. If after clearly seeing that the onus lies with the Lord and not with the creature, we dare to indulge in mistrust, the question of God comes home mightily to us: "Has the Lord's hand waxed short?" May it happen, too, in His mercy, that with the question there may flash upon our souls that blessed declaration, "Thou shalt see now whether My word shall come to pass unto thee or not."

[This is from C. H. Spurgeon's Morning and Evening. He gives two "devotionals" per day for a year. The one above is for the evening of June 8.]

Bacon Tree

BACK IN THE FRONTIER DAYS.....

Back in the cowboy days, a wagon train is lost and low on food. No other

humans had been seen for days. Suddenly, they see an old Jewish man sitting

beneath a tree. The leader rushes to him and says, "We're lost and running out of

food. Is there someplace ahead where we can get something to eat?"

"Vell," replies the old man, "I wouldn't go up dat hill und down other side. Somevun told me you'll run into a big bacon tree."

"A bacon tree?" the wagon leader asks.

"Yah, ah bacon tree. Trust me. For nuttin vud I lie," says the old man.

The leader returns to his people and tells them that they might be able to find food on the other side of the next ridge. "Then why did the old man say not to go there?" some of the pioneers ask.

"Oh, you know that Jewish people don't eat bacon,"

the leader explains.

So, the wagon train goes up the hill and down the other side. Suddenly, Indians attack and massacre everyone except the leader, who manages to escape and makes it back to the old man.

The near-dead leader starts screaming, "You fool! You sent us to our deaths! We followed your instructions, but there was no bacon tree. Just hundreds of Indians who killed everyone."

The old man holds up his hand and says, "Oy, vait a minute," and gets out an English-Yiddish dictionary and begins thumbing through it.

"Gevalt, I made myself ah big mistake. It vuz not a bacon tree..."

It vuz a ham bush."

From The New American:

* United States to Become the World's Primary Energy Producer in Four Years

The direct and indirect impacts of the United States becoming the world's primary energy producer in the next four years are just coming into view. (<http://thenewamerican.com/economy/markets/item/16605-us-to-become-the-world-s-primary-energy-producer-in-four-years>) High paying jobs are abundant in the energy producing sector.)

* Pres. Obama "Fired Up" and Ready to Repeal Second Amendment

At a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation awards banquet, President Obama promised to renew his efforts to impose stricter gun control. (<http://thenewamerican.com/usnews/item/16604-pres-obama-fired-up-and-ready-to-repeal-second-amendment>)

* Parent Dares Challenge Common Core, Hauled Away in Handcuffs

Robert Small was arrested and charged with assault after questioning the Common Core educational standard during a meeting in suburban Baltimore. (What must take place to motivate Christians to get their children out of the "public" schools? Christian parents are killing the next generation by letting the enemy train them. (<http://thenewamerican.com/usnews/item/16600-parent-dares-challenge-common-core-hauled-away-in-handcuffs>))

* Did Psychiatric Meds Cause Navy Yard Tragedy?

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs is investigating whether psychiatric medications played a role in last week's Washington Navy Yard

shooting. (<http://thenewamerican.com/usnews/crime/item/16595-did-psychiatric-meds-cause-navy-yard-tragedy>)

THE NAVY YARD SHOOTER COULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED WITHIN JUST A FEW MINUTES. BUT “SWAT TEAM TOLD TO ‘STAND DOWN’ DURING NAVY SHOOTING.” [HTTP://WWW.NAVYTIMES.COM/ARTICLE/20130919/NEWS06/309190009/REPORT-CAPITOL-POLICE-SWAT-TEAM-TOLD-STAND-DOWN-DURING-MASSACRE](http://www.navytimes.com/article/20130919/NEWS06/309190009/REPORT-CAPITOL-POLICE-SWAT-TEAM-TOLD-STAND-DOWN-DURING-MASSACRE)

Sweet Memories

PUTTING SUGAR ADDICTION BEHIND YOU

By Nancy Webster

I used to think the best time to go on a diet was May through August, the only months without the temptations of a major, sugar-related holiday. Even then, summer offers apple pie and ice cream on the Fourth and perhaps family birthdays here and there. I also used to think the only reasons I would worry about eating too many treats and desserts were getting fat and getting cavities.

That was years ago, when my youth covered for the regular indulging of my sugar cravings and when I didn't know about the consequences already taking place in my body' and in my present and future children's bodies. Yes, I battled ten or fifteen extra pounds, but compared to most overweight people, I reasoned, that wasn't so bad.

Worse Than I Thought

Sugar-induced weight gain and cavities are only the beginning of problems caused by sugar. Back then, I didn't know:

Sugar lowers immunities for six hours because infection-fighting white blood cells get tied up attacking the inflammation sugar causes and can't protect against strep and other opportunistic germs. (No wonder my family was ravaged by a stomach bug or strep every Christmas season!)

Sugar encourages the development of cancer and feeds cancer cells.

Sugar sets your blood sugar levels on a rollercoaster. First, they must go sky high, forcing the pancreas to secrete copious amounts of insulin. Which then drops levels so low and so fast the adrenals have to serve as a trampoline to bounce the levels back up again. Since this happens over and over, the pancreas wears out, and you get diabetes. The adrenals wear out, and you get

major hormone problems (even men!). And you and your children go back and forth from dragged-out to hyper, anxious, inattentive, sleep-deprived states.

Sugar messes up the acid/alkaline and good/bad bacterial balance in your gut, causing a range of problems from indigestion to Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Sugar makes it hard for your body to absorb the protein you eat.

Sugar is often the culprit behind food allergies.

About tooth decay: You may not know the truth about how sugar really contributes to dental problems. It's not because you didn't brush your teeth well enough. Actually, decay forms because sugar upsets the body's mineral balance, causing important minerals like calcium to be pulled from the teeth (and bones' think "osteoporosis"). As a result, teeth rot from the inside out.

Any sugar causes these problems, but what's worse is that almost every sugary food or drink today contains high fructose corn syrup, which weakens the body even more than regular beet or cane sugar.

Some people, including diabetics who follow a conventional doctor's orders, think they'll get around sugar's detrimental effects by switching to artificial sweeteners like aspartame, sucralose, or sugar alcohols like malitol and xylitol. They chose "smart" foods and drink labeled "sugar-free" or "diet". But research shows that artificial sweeteners not only don't prevent weight gain, but actually induce a set of physiological and hormonal responses that make people gain weight. Even stevia produces this effect and should be avoided until users get their blood sugar under control.

Although I knew enough to be afraid of sugar substitutes, as I became more health-conscious, I started replacing white beet sugar with mineral-rich dehydrated cane crystals, raw honey, molasses, and even date sugar and rice syrup. (I never used agave, which because of processing methods, is as harmful as high fructose corn syrup.) I switched from using white flour (sugar's close cousin that causes many of the same problems) to fresh-ground, whole wheat flour. We cut way back on candy, but we baked as much or more than before. I didn't know those healthier sweeteners were still hitting our bodies as hard as regular sugar. And I still partied hardy at every holiday and birthday party (I couldn't resist!).

Where There's a Will, There's No Way

I had no idea there was anything besides my (very weak) willpower to help me overcome my love for

candy corn, Hershey's kisses, my mother's incredible Christmas Cookies, those colored Valentine hearts with corny sayings (especially the yellow ones), chocolate bunnies and jelly beans, much less the ice cream my husband and I shared late at night after the kids were in bed. How could a fresh apple or orange compete with those delicacies?

I had the "white plague". I was an addict. And no wonder. First of all, everyone has a natural preference for the sweet taste. Second, sugars make us feel good--for a while. As Julia Ross points out in *The Diet Cure*:

"For some of us, certain foods, particularly ones that are sweet and starchy, can have a drug-like effect, altering our brains' mood chemistry and fooling us into a false calm, or a temporary energy surge. We can eventually become dependent on these drug-like foods for continued mood lifts."¹

Third, according to research by the Weston A Price Foundation:

" 'sugar begets more sugar. Eating sugar clearly throws one's body chemistry into a tailspin. Tag on poor sleep habits, adrenal fatigue, and an overload of stress, and intense cravings for sugar (or other substance like alcohol or drugs) can easily develop. Insulin imbalances and a lack of the happy-brain chemical called serotonin are often the underlying culprits. Essentially, the sugar being consumed perpetuates the vicious cycle of more intense sugar cravings."

Except for food memories of special treats and worries about not gratifying my baking friends and family by eating their goodies, I have gotten over my love affair with sugar and white flour. Educating myself on the dangers of sugar addiction was a start, but because I was as physically addicted to sugar as an alcoholic is to alcohol, I needed more help.

Please don't wait as long as I did to get a handle on your sweet tooth'for your own sake and for your family's. There are many pleasures you can enjoy more fully when you are healthy and free from sugar addiction. For your long-term health, the most important holiday you may ever take is the holiday you take from sugar'and that's something to celebrate!

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### Sugar Free Tips

I have detailed below a collection of tips I used to kick the sugar habit.

Tip 1: The 5-Step Program to replace refined sugar with natural sugar:

1) Eliminate all sugar drinks. Replace them with

water, herbal teas, and fermented drinks like kombucha and fermented ginger ale.

2) Next, limit sugar foods to 3x/week. Keep a food journal for accountability and to note how you feel physically.

3) Eat at least three nutrient-dense meals each day, including lots of healthy fats (butter, sour cream, lard, tallow, coconut oil, palm oil, and olive oil). Fats slow the rate at which sugar hits the blood stream and reduce the need for pick-me-up coffee breaks. Fats also satisfy your appetite for a longer time'I eat a spoonful of coconut oil when a craving threatens.

4) Then replace white sugar with natural sugars like maple sugar, dehydrated cane crystals, and raw, unfiltered honey (beware: most grocery store honey is imported from questionable foreign sources and often watered down with sugar and HFCS).

5) Finally, limit the use of natural sugars to 3x,week in moderate amounts. Eat them in conjunction with a whole meal, which lessens the impact on blood sugar levels.

Tip 2: Include fermented foods (like plain yogurt, kefir, lacto-fermented sauerkraut, and fermented drinks) with your meals. Their good bacteria helps offset the sugars you ingest.

Tip 3: Keep tempting foods out of the house.

Tip 4: "Prepare meals with all six tastes: Ayurveda is a six-thousand year old philosophy on life, health, and food preparation. Practitioners of this system believe that when each taste is present in a meal – sweet, sour, salty, bitter, pungent, and astringent – the body becomes more balanced, ultimately minimizing cravings, stabilizing appetite and perfecting digestion."

Tip 5: Eliminate or at least seriously moderate caffeine use. Caffeine aggravates blood sugar regulation and depletes good-mood neurotransmitters.

Tip6: Get plenty of omega-3 fatty acids as found in cod liver oil. Among other benefits, this helps fight carbohydrate cravings and balances blood sugar.

Tip 7: Try taking an anti-candida product like Beeyoutiful's Yeast Assassin. A good probiotic (like Tummy Tune-Up or Gut Guardian) also helps overcome the overgrowth of bad bacteria in the gut which make you crave sugars, too. There are some supplements (for sale online and through health food stores) which can be taken temporarily to help manage sugar cravings as you are transitioning to a nutrient-dense, healthy fat-rich diet. These are self-weaning and normally aren't needed more than three weeks, according to Nora

Gedgaudas in her book *Primal Body Primal Mind*, which recommends dosages and other supplements.

For example:

1) L-glutamine, an amino acid, can stop cravings for sweets, starches, and alcohol immediately, because the brain can use L-glutamine instantly for fuel. (Do not use this if you have cancer!)

2) The herb, *Gymnema sylvestre*, usually eliminates most cravings for sweets.

3) L-tryptophan, another amino acid, helps calm carb cravings and restore serotonin function (“happy mood” hormones), especially when a person is lacking adequate protein.

Tip 8: Get plenty of uninterrupted sleep. Too little sleep affects blood sugar regulation and, when chronic, can lead to diabetes and adrenal fatigue.

Tip 9: Address the emotional reasons you love sugary foods. This is especially important at holiday times, family gatherings, and when you are stressed. Some people wrongly see food as their friend and try to overcome lonely feelings with it. Prayer works wonders here.

Tip 10: Some people overcome cravings and pain by using EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques), a form of self-administered acupressure explained at [www.eft.mercola.com](http://www.eft.mercola.com). This is also called “tapping”.

Tip 11: Before tempting social occasions, be a Boy Scout (even if you are a girl!) and “be prepared”. Prepare your mind by replaying why you want and need to eat better. Prepare your body by eating a healthy-fat filled snack like an avocado drizzled with olive and coconut oil dressing, some cooked veggies or eggs slathered in butter, or a spoonful or two of coconut oil. Those measures will help you choose carrot sticks and cheese over cookies and cake.

Tip 12: Use things other than food to reward yourself and your children: A special game, a bubble bath, a movie, an extra chapter in that good book you’re reading, a nature walk, a trinket, etc.

Footnotes:

1 Julie Ross, *The Diet Cure: The 8-Step Program to Rebalance Your Body Chemistry and End Food Cravings, Weight Problems, and Mood Swings ? Now* (New York, Penguin Books, 1999), 8.

2 Article at <http://www.westonaprice.org/childrens-health/zapping-sugar-cravings>

3 Article at <http://www.westonaprice.org/making-it-practical/replacing-refined-sugars>

4 From <http://www.westonaprice.org/childrens->

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**IS CONSERVATIVE TALK RADIO THE ANSWER FOR THE MESS WE ARE IN?** “My weekly routine involves a fair amount of driving, so when I’m not listening to audio books, I’m sampling talk radio, usually of the conservative variety. What I hear there is indeed the ‘preaching to the choir’ brand of reasoning. It’s human nature. If you’re speaking to an audience of fans, they hold you to a lower standard of proof than they do their ideological opponents. You get lazy sometimes.

“These guys could try harder. I often hear Limbaugh, Beck, Hannity, et. al. make arguments so badly that even I - who am definitely on the conservative side of the great divide - get pretty disgusted and frustrated. Unfairly-construed sound bytes and inaccurate, sweeping generalities are routine, not to mention - in the case of Limbaugh - more than a little crass language, cursing, and sleazy innuendo. It’s sometimes enough to get me turning the dial to - gasp -NPR!” - Pastor Aaron Blumer, Grace Baptist Church, Boyceville, Wisconsin, on “Sharper Iron” web site.

## Free Books

◇ **IDENTIFYING IDENTITY’S GENTILE CORRUPTION BY PASTOR OVID NEED. FORWARD, Dr. Joe Morecraft III.**

◇ ***GOD HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE—THE MYTH OF THE MODERN MESSAGE*, BY RAY COMFORT**  
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