

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

EXAMIMER ON MEDICAL LEAVE.

We keep hearing about the terrible VA health care system. Here is my recent experience. I have had problems with my right shoulder for several years, which continued to worsen.

About the first of the year, I was sent to see the surgeon at the Martinsburg VA hospital. In preparation for surgery, she ordered the required MRI and stress test on the treadmill. But we agreed to put off the surgery with shots and simple pain relievers. My next appointment was in October, but I found I really could not wait that long. I called Monday, 8/25 to see about setting my appointment closer, but was told the surgeon was booked up in Martinsburg WV. But I was told I could see the surgeon the next day, the 26th, at Ft Detrick in MD. (She has 1 day a week at Martinsburg and 2 days at Ft Detrick.) So I met with her at 10:30. We agreed on surgery, and she asked me when I wanted to do it. I said as soon as possible because winter is coming with feeding a wood stove and shoveling snow. She said, "How about tomorrow, 8/27?" She then sent me on to Martinsburg to get the rest of the needed tests, chest x-ray, EKG, blood work, &c., and surgery was on the 28th. And we were home the 29th! Because of the distance, they even provided overnight lodging for my Bettie.

No doubts, there are "bad apples" in the VA system, and as a pastor, I have visited in some of them. But I have found the Martinsburg VA very good. I received the needed surgery within two days of requesting it. What more could one want? (Admittedly, my case was probably unusual.)

Veterans should check this system out. I have found no better healthcare than Martinsburg anywhere. In fact, the VA will even pay for ER at the closest hospital, if they are told the patient is a veteran. When stabilized, the veteran will be transported to the proper VA facility.

Absolutely no movement in my right shoulder other

than what the Occupational Therapist tells me for three months. I am in a very restrictive sling until the doctor takes me out. Please pray that the badly damaged rotator cuff and damaged tendons will heal properly. She said it was 50/50 that the rotator cuff will

heal properly, but she said if it did not, there were still surgery options. I should have had it done the first of the year right after my MRI.

I am in a sling for three months, which makes typing difficult, and driving impossible. I am able to answer e-mails and do my sermons, but that will be about all. It will be pure misery, for I love "the chase", the research, and finding new things to learn. Praise the Lord I had this issue ready except for the corrections, or I would never have gotten this issue together. Winter is about here, and we heat with wood. Snow shovelling will be out, so we will be in. Therapy two or three times a week, and a 45 min drive each way. So the Examiner is on "sick leave" for awhile. I may be able to get something out as we go along. I will keep you posted at biblicalexaminer.org.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL, PART I

In the last Examiner, we mentioned that the name of our God is Jealous and Holy. Exodus 34:14, Isaiah 57:15. This time, let us consider a little of the laws that reflect Holy and Jealous.

Paul applies the Eighth Commandment in "Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour; working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

First, the natural state of fallen man is theft, though

some of the unregenerate are honest and generous. But honesty and generosity do not merit eternal life. That can only be obtained by the merit of Christ.

Second, honest labor is required by the eighth commandment.

Third, work is the cure for poverty.

Fourth, those who gain wealth are required to share with those in need and cannot work. That responsibility begins within the household of faith.

God's word clearly approves of wealth that is gained by godly activity. The warning in Scripture is against ungodly activity that gains wealth. Among other things, wealth is one possible blessing of obedience and serving God, as seen with Job, Abraham, David, Solomon and others.

Throughout Scripture, we are told that the way to gain wealth is through godly labour:

"Proverbs 13:11 Wealth [gotten] by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase."

God's means of gaining wealth is work, inheritance or gifts. The thief desires wealth outside of God's order.

The duty of the State is clearly spelled out in Romans 13:1-6. God gave to the State the responsibility to reward good and punish evil:

* What is the proper amount of punishment for evil?

* Is proper punishment according to the State's "law-makers"?

* The State's duty is justice against the evil doer, but is it the State's responsibility to define good, evil and justice?

God has given to the State the ministry of justice, and He alone defines good, evil and justice. With that ministry of justice comes the authority to tax. When the state corrupts justice, it has lost its legitimate authority to tax. Note that the State has no Godly authority to tax in order to wage unjust wars, provide education, provide public recreation areas, support the sick, lame and lazy, &c. (Gas tax to build and maintain roads is a user tax; one does not have to drive, and many do not.) God's authority of taxation is to provide justice and self-defense. When the State fails to provide justice, it loses its God-given authority to tax.

Having lost its Godly authority, the State uses its physical and unjust power to enforce its unjust laws to oppress its people through every means possible.

The State is to be *"a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil."* God defines what is just revenge in every area of law: murder, theft, false witness as well as true worship. Those who deny the

validity of the Five Books of Moses for our day deny God's laws of justice, and they must define justice by their own human standard. They become no better than the corrupt State that establishes its own corrupt laws, and then they condemn the State for following its own laws.

It seems that even Christian men have lost the ability to think logically. They are unable to connect their own ignorance of or hatred for God's law, antinomianism, with the State's antinomianism. (Hosea 4:9, Isa 24:2.)

An antinomian people must produce an antinomian leadership in both church and State.

God has defined justice for every area of life throughout his word, particularly through Moses. He left nothing to the vain imagination of fallen men.

Recently, two NFL players were disciplined. One for beating up his girlfriend and dragging her off an elevator in Las Vegas, and the other made an anti-sodomite statement. The one who publically beat up his girlfriend got a two game suspension, while the anti-gay statement got a three game suspension, and an order to go to a restraining, or "get your mind right" class. The reason the one only got a two game suspension, according to NBC, was because the NFL does not have a policy in place about beating up your girlfriend. That suspension controlled the sports news for several days, but not one word about the suspension of the man for his anti-sodomite comments, for which he has apologized.

Men have tried to write enough laws to cover everything, even the thoughts and intents of the heart, but it is an impossible task. However, God's law with its broad applications, covers every thought and action of man.

"Psalms 119:96 I have seen an end of all perfection: [but] thy commandment [is] exceeding broad."

Here is one small portion of God's holy laws of justice as found in Exodus 22. This passage defines and explains the evil of theft, and gives His just punishment against evil. A godly State will follow God's definition of justice.

William Blackstone's (1723-1780) commentaries on English law established the law of Moses as the common law for the English speaking nations, particularly in America. His commentaries were commonly quoted in the Supreme Court up to the early 1940, when Humanistic law took over.

The State's proper "terror" against theft is defined by Moses in places such as Exodus 22. In an ideal society, Moses' laws would be enforced by the State, but they

are not in effect anywhere in the world today. No doubt they were in effect in the time of David and Solomon, and in this nation up until the early 1940s.

“This chapter contains various laws concerning theft, Ex 22:1-4, concerning damage done to fields and vineyards by beasts, and to corn in stacks or standing, by fire, Ex 22:5,6, concerning anything or creature deposited in the hands of a neighbour, and they be stolen or lost by one means or another, Ex 22:7-13, concerning anything borrowed, and it comes to any damage, Ex 22:14,15, concerning fornication, Ex 22:16,17 concerning witchcraft, bestiality, and idolatry, Ex 22:18-20 concerning oppression, and affliction of the stranger, fatherless, and widow, Ex 22:21-24 concerning taking usury and pledges, Ex 22:25-27, concerning irreverence to magistrates, Ex 22:28, concerning the offering of firstfruits to God, Ex 22:29,30 and the chapter is concluded with a prohibition of eating anything torn by beasts, #Ex 22:31.” (John Gill)

“*Thou shalt not steal.*” This chapter is as practical as one can get when justly dealing with theft and fraud.

Notice that these practical applications of the law deal with sin. They give God’s plan as to how neighbors are to treat each other. When we read through these laws of just restitution, we might be tempted to say, “I would never do that; steal from my neighbor or lie to him.” But the Lord realizes our sinful nature. He tells us how to make things right when we do slip from our professed love for our neighbor. If every one treated his neighbor as he would like to be treated, there would be no need for these applications on how to make things right.

If everyone had the inborn knowledge of the details of God’s various requirements of justice upon men, there would be no need for the details as given by Moses.

In fact, there would be no need for teachers nor for the commandments.

The Commandments are given in Exodus 20. The Commandments reveal the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man. The Commandments are followed by the clear statement that the only approach to God the Father was and is through the blood sacrifice of an innocent and perfect victim. Throughout the Old Testament, the blood sacrifice is continually held before the people as the only means of forgiveness, redemption and approach to the Thrice-Holy God of Israel.

Exodus 20 defines man’s relationship, duty and **responsibility** to God. Chapter hatred defining man’s relationship of man: master-servant, husband-wife, fighting, death, man-stealing and many other principles of responsibility, accountability and restitution. In chapter 21:12, the Lord starts with the

most violent relationships, “thou shalt not kill”, which the New Testament applies with hatred and wrath, e.g., Ephesians 4:31. Then Moses moves on to something not so violent, theft.

Chapter 22 expands on what has already been established, as well as many applications. The Lord has established what to do about accidents, murders and irresponsible careless action. Now He is going to give detailed instructions concerning theft and what to do with the thief.

These Old Testament applications of the laws given in the New Testament by Christ and the apostles are part of every word as given by God. These laws are profitable to show man how to live. God Himself gave them so His people can know how do all to the glory of God.

We also see throughout Scripture that someone must **always be held accountable** and responsible for evil — responsibility requires restitution. Again, everything points to the Cross of Christ. Man is always responsible, and will give an account of every deed done in this body in that day. He will be held responsible for his sins. He must make restitution for his sin, and that restitution always points to Christ, who paid the debt that man cannot pay.

THE STRONG MAN

“Luke 11:12 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.”

FIRST SECTION, THEFT BY FORCE

“Exodus 22:1 If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. 2 If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him. 3 If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. 4 If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double.”

Observe:

A.) If caught without what he stole in his hand, the thief is to restore:

a.) five-fold (five returned for the one taken) for an ox; b.) four-fold for a sheep.

“But we do not have oxen and sheep, so how does that apply?”

What is established for us?

The ox represents the farmer’s living and would

be difficult to train as a work animal. On the other hand, the sheep would not require the investment and effort to train as the ox did; thus, the different value in restoration.

In other words, the tools of one's trade are worth the greatest amount to the owner, so they require more restitution.

Example: The comparison would be the farmer who has a beef and a tractor stolen. The guilty party is found. If the beef is not recovered, the thief is required to restore 4 times its value. If the tractor is not recovered, it is to be restored at 5 times its value (see also Pro. 6:31). There was a large tractor stolen here in our community.

Second, if what the thief stole is found alive and well in his possession, such as a beef, he restores double to the owner. The law here is much easier on the thief if what he stole remains in his possession because he stole for his own use, not for profit. Furthermore, the owner has his own goods returned to him. His loss is minimized.

Restitution is always to the owner, not to the state. But when the state claims to be god, owner of heaven and earth, it will demand restitution to itself for all crimes with no consideration for the victim.

Third, if the thief is caught and is unable to make the required restitution, he is sold to pay off the debt. The theft must be repaid, if necessary with the person of the thief himself.

Theft of the tractor required no jail time. The state is not the victim, and jail time robs the victim twice. Justice requires replacement of the item at 5 times its value if it is the man's means of livelihood—farmer. But if it is not the means of his livelihood, only double repayment is required.

No money? Then the thief is "sold" into slavery until the amount is paid off. Maybe "slavery" to the victim, or "slavery" to a coal mine or put on a road crew by the state and his wages go to pay off his debt to the victim. Though a "slave", he must still be treated humanely.

God provides no way to avoid lawful restitution; even if the thief had to be sold, he had to pay his debt. The rest of Exodus 22 builds upon this basic law of restitution. Restitution requires returning to the owner what is removed from him by theft or carelessness.

Fourth, if the thief is caught breaking in at night, he can be killed with no guilt on the part of the killer. Such a case did not require the killer to even go to a city of refuge. In the dark, the intruder's intentions are unknown. He may be armed with murder in his heart, so

the Lord doesn't require the one protecting his property to check first. But if the thief is killed in the light, then the killer is guilty of murder because in the light, his intentions can be more plainly seen. But whatever force necessary can be used for self-protection.

A search for "Sheriff tells citizens to buy guns" will turn up more articles than you will have time to read. Example:

[Milwaukee-area] Wisconsin sheriff urges residents to arm themselves

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/01/26/wis-sheriff-urges-residents-to-get-gun-training/>

Sheriff Tells Citizens to Buy Guns

"A South Carolina sheriff said it's time for citizens to start carrying concealed weapons as a way to fight back against crime."

<http://radio.foxnews.com/toddstarnes/top-stories/sheriff-tells-citizens-to-buy-guns.html>

Sheriff: Time For Citizens To Arm Themselves

SPARTANBURG COUNTY, S.C "Sheriff Chuck Wright opened his news conference by saying, "Our form of justice is not making it."

He said, "Carry a concealed weapon. That'll fix it."
<http://www.wyff4.com/Sheriff-Time-For-Citizens-To-Arm-Themselves/6132894#ixzz37Re8qSo8>

DETROIT POLICE CHIEF TO CITIZENS: ARM YOURSELVES

Former gun-control advocate changes tune in combating crime

"Craig, (who is black) the chief of police in Detroit, Mich., has a message for the law-abiding folks in his crime-ridden city: Arm yourselves, and criminals will think twice about attacking you."

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/01/detroit-police-chief-to-citizens-arm-yourselves/#DXCr6uM3q7A72bRV.99>

As times get harder, we are seeing more and more thefts, and the thieves being shot. Thus far, the law is not holding the homeowner guilty. But of course, without being armed, the intended victim will be at the mercy of the thief, and of the state for his protection. As I have followed the mass killings and those who are armed against their victims, not a one "bad guy" had conceal a carry permit. However, open carry is generally legal in all states, but open carry will draw unwanted attention.

(Over the shooting in Ferguson, a US congressman called for marshal law. Marshal law could result in gun confiscation, leaving individuals in total dependence upon the state, and at the mercy of the lawless.)

The Lord Jesus clearly placed His approval upon this law when He said in Luke 11:12 "*When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace.*" The

next verse is interesting: *“But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.”* (See also Matt 12:29, Mk 3:27.)

A) The strong man, the devil:

“Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:”

“Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].”

The head of the house, the father, must be strong in the Lord, or his family will be victims of the enemy, and the father will be held accountable.

B) The strong man cannot be restricted to a spiritual strong man protecting his household against his spiritual enemies. The reference by the Lord in three of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, is clearly to the law of Moses in Exodus 22:1-4. It speaks of an individual’s right to use whatever force necessary to protect his family and his goods from a physical intruder.

Furthermore, the implication is that the stronger the “intruder,” the stronger the householder must be. We are not required to meet a gun with a ball bat.

1 Timothy 5:8, tells us that if the householder does not provide for those within his responsibility, he is worse than infidel.. without faith or trust in God.

James said, *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves,”* 1:22 and he said, *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also,”* 2:26.

Our Lord’s every thought and deed was based upon the law of Moses. If we follow the implications of what the Lord Jesus said, we see that God requires the godly householder to use whatever force is needed to protect his house and those under his authority. Furthermore, those who do not take every precaution necessary to protect their homes from both the spiritual and physical intruder from any source, are worse than those who have denied faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Biblical faith will provide physical protection for one’s family

Exodus 22:1-4, conclusion:

First, someone is always responsible.

Second, restitution to the owner by the thief is required for a godly society to exist.

Third, part of faithfulness to the law-word of God is the requirement for that the householder do all that is humanly possible to protect those under his authority from the intended evil of the wicked men or spirits. And the need for strong protection is growing every day.

These three points are very basic to a godly society.

The time has come

TO DEPEND ON GOD

President Obama signed an executive order on July 21 forbidding both federal agencies and companies that contract with the federal government from discriminating against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or “gender identity.” Officials said the change for federal contracting will impact some 30,000 companies with 28 million workers, or one-fifth of the U.S. workforce.

One fifth of the US **workforce** depends on the government. “[T]he 109,631,000 living in households taking federal welfare benefits as of the end of 2012, according to the Census Bureau, equaled 35.4 percent of all 309,467,000 people living in the United States at that time. Then a very large percentage depends on government handouts.” Counting other Government pay-out programs, e.g., SS, which is now considered a government benefit,

48.5 percent of the population is on the government payroll. This does not count public housing, &c. No doubt the rioters and looters are on the government payroll in one way or another. **Perspective:** “Well, the CIA World Factbook says there are 142,470,272 people in Russia. So, the 150,026,000 people getting non-veterans federal benefits in the United States at the end of 2012 outnumbered all the people in Russia.” <http://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/terence-p-jeffrey/354-percent-109631000-welfare>. Welfare recipients have time to riot, protest and loot. Those who must work for a living do not have time to travel the country and join the latest protest.

“I firmly believe that it’s time to address this injustice for every American,” Obama told a group of LGBT activists gathered in the East Room of the White House. “We’re on the right side of history,” he added.

The order will protect employees who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, described by the New York Times as a “crucial Democratic constituency.” In the wake of the June Supreme Court ruling upholding on

religious grounds the right of privately held companies to exemptions from ObamaCare's "contraceptive mandate," the president appears to be inviting further litigation, since the new executive order will not make exceptions for religious organizations that contract with the federal government....

However, faith-based groups that are not denomination-specific will have no such recourse. "And so Christian and other religious groups that receive federal money to do things like feed the poor will have to decide between Christ and Caesar," wrote the American Conservative's Rod Dreher in a July 18 article entitled "Obama to Religious 'Bigots': Drop Dead."

Editor's note. Christian groups say they are doing God's work, now prove it.

NEW RESEARCH

PASTORS DELIBERATELY KEEPING FLOCK IN THE DARK

By Chuck Baldwin

George Barna is the foremost researcher of modern Christianity in the country. He recently spoke about a two-year research project studying why modern-day pastors and churches are so silent regarding political issues. The result of his research only confirms what I have been trying to tell people for years. But there was one thing his research uncovered that did somewhat surprise me. OneNewsNow.com covered the story:

"On Thursday, George Barna--research expert and founder of The Barna Group--shared with American Family Radio's 'Today's Issues' about new information he's compiling at American Culture and Faith Institute over the last two years, gauging where theologically conservative pastors are at politically.

"'hat we're finding is that when we ask them about all the key issues of the day, [90 percent of them are] telling us, Yes, the Bible speaks to every one of these issues. Then we ask them: Well, are you teaching your people what the Bible says about those issues?--and the numbers drop...to less than 10 percent of pastors who say they will speak to it.'

"When researchers ask those pastors what else they are willing to do to get their people active in the political process, Barna said 'it's almost nothing.'

"'So the thing that struck me has been that when we talk about the separation of church and state, it's that

churches have separated themselves from the activities of the state--and that's to the detriment of the state and its people,' stated the researcher."

That 90% of America's pastors are not addressing any of the salient issues affecting Christian people's political or societal lives should surprise no one--especially the readers of this column. It has been decades since even a sizeable minority of pastors have bothered to educate and inform their congregations as to the Biblical principles relating to America's political, cultural, and societal lives. But the part of the research that did somewhat surprise me was this statement by Barna: "What we're finding is that when we ask them about all the key issues of the day, [90 percent of them are] telling us, Yes, the Bible speaks to every one of these issues. Then we ask them: Well, are you teaching your people what the Bible says about those issues?--and the numbers drop...to less than 10 percent of pastors who say they will speak to it."

Did you get that? Ninety-percent of America's pastors say they KNOW that the Bible speaks to all of these issues, but they are deliberately determined to NOT teach these Biblical principles. That is an amazing admission!

It would have been one thing if the pastors had said that these political issues were not relevant to scripture, and, therefore, they didn't feel called to address them. But the pastors are admitting that, yes, they KNOW that the scriptures DO relate to our current political issues, but they are deliberately choosing to NOT teach those scriptural principles. Holy heads-in-the-sand, Batman!

I confess: this statistic caught me off-guard. So, we can forever dismiss ignorance as justification for pastors remaining silent.

Now, all of the church members out there who have been forgiving of their ministers for not speaking out on the issues by saying things like, "He really doesn't understand what's going on," need to reevaluate their leniency--if they are intellectually honest, that is--and if they truly care about the future of their country.

Church member, admit it: that pastor of yours who refuses to speak out on the issues KNOWS the Bible speaks to these issues, and he is DELIBERATELY refusing to teach those Biblical principles to you and your family.

So, we are not dealing with IGNORANT pastors; we are dealing with DELIBERATELY DISOBEDIENT pastors. They are PURPOSELY CHOOSING to remain silent. Will that make any difference to the Christians in

the pews who say they want their pastor to take a stand but are willing to overlook his “ignorance”? Probably not. But, at least, we now know what the real issue is, don’t we?

The report goes on: “Why the disconnect? According to Barna, the answer is simple. He suggests asking pastors how someone would know if their church is ‘successful’--which he did.”

“ ‘There are five factors that the vast majority of pastors turn to [when asked that question],’ he explained. ‘Attendance, giving, number of programs, number of staff, and square footage.’ ”

There you have it: pastors are more concerned about being “successful” than they are being truthful. They believe if they tell their congregations the truth, their churches will not be “successful.” And it is so refreshing to see Barna directly ask pastors what “success” means to them. So, now we know (as if we didn’t know before; but, at least now there is definitive research to back it up). The vast majority of pastors believe church success lies in:

- * Attendance
- * Giving (money)
- * Number of programs
- * Number of staff
- * Square footage (of facilities)

Shazam! Where did pastors come up with this definition of “success?” You know where: from men such as Joel Osteen, Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, et al.

The megachurch phenomenon of the last several decades transformed how pastors think and behave. Pastors read the “successful church” books and publications; they attend the “successful church” conferences; they watch the “successful church” videos, etc. They, then, try to mimic the tactics and strategies they have been taught. And if there is one constant theme promulgated by the likes of Osteen, Warren, and Hybels, it is pastors must avoid controversy like the plague. Again, one must realize that the goal is NOT being faithful to Biblical principles; the goal is building a “successful” church as noted above.

It is time for Christians to acknowledge that these ministers are not pastors; they are CEOs. They are not Bible teachers; they are performers. They are not shepherds; they are hirelings. It is also time for Christians to be honest with themselves: do they want a pastor who desires to be faithful to the scriptures, or do they want a pastor who is simply trying to be “successful”? BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF,

CHRISTIAN FRIEND.

Barna’s research blows the “ignorance” excuse out of the water. Again, it is not ignorance; it is deliberate disobedience.

Barna goes on to say, “Now all of those things [the five points of success listed above] are good measures, except for one tiny fact: Jesus didn’t die for any of them.” Wow! You nailed it, George!

Where do you find anything in the New Testament that measures a pastor’s success by the number of people attending his church? Or by how large his offerings are? Or by how many programs his church has? Or by how many staff members he has? Or by how large his facilities are? In fact, the early New Testament church didn’t even own property or buildings.

When the Apostle Paul listed his ministerial pedigree, here is what it looked like (II Cor. 11):

- *Stripes above measure
- *In prisons frequently
- *In deaths often
- *Beaten with rods
- *Stoned
- *Perils
- *Weariness
- *Painfulness
- *Hunger and thirst
- *Cold and nakedness

I don’t see attendance, offerings, programs, staff, or square footage in that list at all, do you?

When Paul wrote his own epitaph, it read, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” (II Timothy 4:7). He didn’t say, “I had a large congregation, we had big offerings, we had a lot of programs, I had a large staff, and we had large facilities.”

In the world of Osteen, Warren, and Hybels (and 90% of America’s pastors), the Apostle Paul’s ministry must have been a dismal failure. And how many church pulpit committees would even consider the pastoral résumé such as the Apostle Paul wrote above?

Please understand this: America’s malaise is directly due to the deliberate disobedience of America’s pastors--and the willingness of the Christians in the pews to tolerate the disobedience of their pastor. Nothing more! Nothing less!

Oh, and get this: according to the survey conducted by Barna, guess what the number one reason is why pastors choose to be “successful” and not “controversial”? You guessed it: fear of the IRS 501c3 tax-exempt status.

Who would have thought it? (Yes, that question is deliberately facetious.) (Request a copy of our book, "Church Inc." sent free of charge. Ed.)

I want to commend George Barna for his research. I suspect that the vast majority of pastors and churches will ignore it, but, at least now we know the painful truth of the matter: by in large, pastors are deliberately choosing to not teach Biblical truth to their congregations for the selfish goal of being "successful." But as we come to grips with this reality, we must also acknowledge that pastors are simply (and shamelessly) putting their fingers to the wind and finding that the people in the pews are more interested in their churches being "successful" than faithful to the teaching of Holy Scripture. As Barna noted, it is the churches, themselves, that have chosen to separate from the political affairs of their country.

In the end, it always comes down to We the People, doesn't it? If you want a church where the pastor is willing to teach the Biblical principles that relate to our everyday lives--including our political lives--you might have to vote with your feet (and with your money, ed.) and go find one. That is, if that kind of thing is truly important to you.

<http://chuckbaldwinlive.com/Articles/tabid/109/ID/1213/New-Research-Pastors-Deliberately-Keeping-Flock-In-The-Dark.aspx>

Google, "Barna: Many Pastors Wary Of Raising 'Controversy'"

"Christianity's Central Doctrine being Twisted? Biblical scholars warn preachers leading public astray ... A hyper-grace approach to ministry typically emphasizes the love and forgiveness of God at the expense of His holiness and justice..."

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/08/christianitys-central-doctrine-being-twisted/#ZbcAMO4LIH7cMFmg.99>

CORRUPT COMMUNICATION

Ephesians 4:29, 30

This passage starts in v. 17, and Paul's exhortation to Christian purity and holiness of heart and life.

In vv. 25-32, he gives practical and particular instances of what holiness of heart looks like in action and speech.

Though the converted live among the unconverted, they must not live like the unconverted.

Paul describes the wickedness of the unconverted world out of which His people have been snatched as brands out of the burning.

* Their understanding is darkened, and they follow their vain imagination.

* Their conscience is seared, and they are past

feeling. Being past feeling, they gave themselves over unto lasciviousness. (Jude 1:8)

They willingly and happily submit to bondage to their most filthy dreams. Whatever filth they can imagine, they do.

In Romans 1:24 (*"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:"*), God gave them up to the unclean lusts of their own hearts.

In Ephesians 4:19, because of the darkened understanding, they gave themselves up to the unclean lusts of their own hearts.

We see therefore, that in Ephesians 4:19, those hardened in sin desire to walk down the path to self-destruction. Then in Romans 1:24, **God removes His restraining grace**, letting them continue on their happy and merry way to destruction in their greed and filth. His restraining grace has been removed from once Christian west that came from the Reformation. We have been turned over to the filthy dreamers because the watchmen have been compromised, and no longer preach God's holiness and judgment against sin.

Sin has its deceitful lusts. Sin promises happiness in money and joy in fulfilling the lusts of the flesh, but its end is shame and destruction. It has been proved many time over that neither the god of the belly nor money can provide lasting happiness. Philippians 3:18.

It is a documented fact that without morality and self-control a society descends into the darkness of ignorance within a couple generations. We are in the second generation of that descent that started in the 40s. We see the truth of that study as public education produces college graduates who cannot read, but they are very well educated in corruption and filth. Morality and self-control are the result of clear teaching against sin from the pulpits.

For reasons known only to Himself and before the foundations of the world, God saw fit to *"command his light to shine"* into the hearts of a particular people who were happily on their way to destruction. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

An old term used by Spurgeon was "Particular Baptist", which is dramatically different from regular Baptist. We believe in foreordination and election. Rather than "Calvinistic Baptist", we are better identified as "Particular Baptist."

God's light opens the understanding, and makes those particular people unhappy on the road to self-

destruction. It shines the truth of Jesus Christ into the heart; it gives understanding, and gives the desire to depart from the road to self-destruction.

Those particular people become a new creation, a new man with a new heart that loves and desires to please their Redeemer. They are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus. Growing in Christ, their mind is renewed into the image of Christ, as Adam's mind was before the Fall. The renewed mind is a mind set free of the bondage to the filth that once controlled it.

The renewed mind will produce a new man, who desires to put away the old manner of life, and follow in "his steps." 1 Peter 2:21

Starting with Ephesians 4:25, Paul develops how the law of Moses is to work itself out in the context of the New Covenant:

V. 19, "*lasciviousness*," Exodus 20:14. "*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*" V. 25, Exodus 20:16 "*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*" V. 26, Exodus 20:13 "*Thou shalt not kill.*" V. 28, Exodus 20:15 "*Thou shalt not steal.*"

In v. 29, he applies Exodus 20:7 "*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.*" as he says "*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*"

Here Paul defines the speech of the new man.

He does not apply the law in detail. He brings the commandments forward, showing us that they are very much part of the Christian's responsibility before God in Christ.

To develop each commandment into its New Covenant understanding would require a very lengthy study. Such a study would certainly be profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness.

But we will only quickly look at one aspect of the Third Commandment, "corrupt communication."

Generally, "corrupt communication" is understood as obscene and filthy conversation which prevails everywhere, including among professed Christians. In earlier days, filthy conversation was pretty well confined to the "lower class" of people, particularly among young men. The media has helped make obscene and filthy conversation accepted in all circles, both men and women, professed Christians, and at times even in the pulpits.

The media is not to blame, as it provides what the

fallen man will pay for. The blame rests on man's natural love for sin. Paul tells the Ephesians that the vain, darkened mind is wide open, and it welcomes and enjoys filthiness of all kinds.

As the "Christian" mind from the Reformation has been removed from the public because of "corrupt communication" from the pulpit, it has been replaced with a vain, corrupt and filthy mind which is so common today. The filthy, corrupt mind is revealed in filthy, corrupt conversation.

"Romans 3:13 Their throat [is] an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps [is] under their lips: 14 Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness:"

"1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil (of a bad nature, a mode of thinking, feeling, acting, troublesome, injurious, pernicious, destructive, baneful) communications corrupt good manners."

Rather than building up in faith and knowledge of Christ, "Corrupt Communication" appeals to and inflames the lusts of the flesh.

Corrupt words reveal a corrupt heart. Being around corruption and not becoming corrupt requires great caution and strength of Christian character. We are clearly warned to avoid close friendship with corrupt individuals.

The Christian should never pollute the air with filth. He is to be pure as his Master is pure. He should never indulge in impure stories, nor should he even smile when he is in a captive audience where corrupt allusions are given. He should avoid conversations that have impure double meanings. He should avoid songs with filthy character.

From what I understand, much of the popular modern music can only be described as corrupt in the worse way. It is extremely obscene and filthy, as is the vast majority of tv and movies. Words that would never be used in a public setting are very common when set to modern "music".

However, "*corrupt communication*" does not have to be obscene and filthy. Corrupt communication can be very pleasant, smooth and inviting. Remember the evil woman in Proverbs?

"Proverbs 5:3 For the lips of a strange woman drop [as] an honeycomb, and her mouth [is] smoother than oil: 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword."

"Proverbs 7:21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter,

or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;”

Her pleasant yet corrupt communication to the young man was not obscene language, but sweet and appealing words, inviting him to fulfill his every desire with no consequences.

Her pleasant words were not words to strengthen, but to appeal to fleshly desires. Wisdom tells us that those pleasant words lead to destruction.

- **“CHRISTIAN MUSIC SENSATION COMES OUT OF CLOSET**
‘I feel certain God loves me just the way I am’

Christian music star Vicky Beeching is creating shockwaves this week, not for proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God in her music, but for coming out of the closet to proclaim she’s a lesbian.

“I’m gay,” says the 35-year-old Brit, who has soared to popularity in America’s Bible Belt. “What Jesus taught was a radical message of welcome and inclusion and love. I feel certain God loves me just the way I am.” ...”

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/08/christian-music-sensation-comes-out-of-closet/#ac1mjfJxYkm5ioUX.99>

Tracing the meaning of the word “corrupt”, I found this application.

“corrupt communication”: “corrupt” in v. 29 means “unserviceable”, or worthless. (TDNT)

The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament gives only 4 other places where Paul’s word is used:

“Matthew 13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

The fish were not rotten; rather, they were no good for food.

“Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

“Matthew 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by [his] fruit. 34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

“Luke 6:43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they

grapes.”

As with the discarded fish, the trees are not rotten. Rather, if one is looking for good, edible fruit, their fruit is useless.

I suppose the Hedge Apple tree best fits this description. The wood is one of the strongest woods available and the Indians liked the wood because it made strong bows. But the fruit has no known uses.

The trees make excellent fence rows when properly trimmed into a hedge, which is where it got its name. Growing up in Indiana where the trees were common, my brother and I used to throw the apples at each other.

Though the tree bears fruit, neither man nor beast can eat the fruit. Not even the deer eat the fruit, and they are known for eating anything that does not eat them first. Our yard proves it.

If one’s goal is good fruit trees, the hedge apple fruit is useless.

V. 28, **“corrupt communication”** can be pleasant words that appeal to the natural man as the evil woman used in Proverbs. The logical conclusion is that the pleasant words of the prophets or religious leaders that do not present the fullness of Christ are useless. Their pleasant words from the pulpit do not build people up in the Truth as revealed in Christ, the written Word of God. Their pleasant words do not urge their hearers in Christian faith and duty to stand against evil. Their words are non-offensive to men, but are very offensive to God.

Their pleasant words are **“corrupt communication”**. Their communication holds no value to society. Their pleasant words do not instruct their people in the fullness that is found only in Christ, the Written Word of God. Their Christ issues no command to stand against wickedness in high places. Their Christ has no answer for society’s rush toward death. The results of Ebola are bad, but not near as devastating as the result of a society with no lawful, Godly foundation.

“2 Timothy 4:1 I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

“corrupt communication” The ear pleasing words that

are spoken to appeal to the hearer are like the woman's words in Proverbs, "Follow me, and the desires of your flesh will be safely fulfilled."

We sometimes listen to Rush Limbaugh on a station out of Cumberland MD. There are several churches that advertise during the Limbaugh program. One of them advertise for people to come and find God's plan for their life. In other words, their advertisements and services are "consumer oriented."

Under Divine inspiration, David wrote many songs and hymns for worship in the temple at Jerusalem. Psalm 139 was written to the chief Musician, and was to be sung in worship to the King of kings. Christ quoted from the Psalms many times, showing us that they are just as much for doctrine and instruction in righteousness as any other portion of Scripture.

"Psalms 139:19 Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. 20 For they speak against thee wickedly, [and] thine enemies take [thy name] in vain."

Accordingly, any denial of the Lord God, His character, His nature or His attributes as revealed in His Word, takes God's name in vain. Pleasant and appealing words and actions that do not reflect the nature and character of the God of Holy Scripture are worthless and useless communication, which applies particularly to words from supposed Christian religious leaders. Worthless and useless words in the name of Christianity means Anti-Christ "*corrupt communication*". The speakers take the Lord's name in vain.

Words that do not address the evils of our day and that hold no instruction as to how to confront those evils are corrupt communication; they take the Lord's name in vain.

All, Christians and non-Christians who partake in corrupt communication, including actions, take the Lord's name in vain.

Also included in corrupt communication are written words that do not faithfully present the true God as revealed to man. Corrupt communication includes any Bible translation that does not remain faithful to the character, nature and attributes of God.

Religious teachers and writers who fail to present the Truth as found in Christ are enemies of Christ. They are enemies of society. They are traitors to the Christian order of a society.

The Christian religious leaders are to be the watchmen on the wall who sound the alarm against overwhelming sin. But rather than sounding the alarm,

they are issuing forth "corrupt communication". They have been silenced by their own greed.

"Isaiah 56:10 His watchmen [are] blind: they are all ignorant, they [are] all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber."

It is the spirit of the Anti-Christ at work as they take the Lord's name in vain, and turn society over to the wickedness in high places, both spiritual and physical places.

"Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them. (See also, Rom 9:1, 10:2, 2 Cor 8:12, 11:10, Eph 4:15, 1 Tim 2:7, 6:3, &c.)"

In Philippians 3:16ff., Paul calls those who take the name of the Lord in vain, "*the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction...*".

"V. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

For edifying as the need may be. "For the build-up of the need," "for supplying help when there is need." Let no other words come out. (Robertson's NT Word Pictures.)

That is, when speaking to the need of the hour, let only Biblical based words come out that will help with that particular need.

"Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"

When speaking that need, our speech must always convey the truth that is in Christ. Men's vain ideas and philosophies are only vain deceit. They offer no help.

"Here is what God says", not "Here is what I think". We certainly do not have to quote scripture, but what we say must be based in what God has said. We must know Christ, the written Word of God, well enough to be able to apply Christ to that particular need.

"Colossians 4:6 Let your speech [be] always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Answer in a way fitting with God's character.

All communication in v. 29 must conform to the truth that is in Christ, but especially communication with those in need.

"That it may minister grace] This may be understood thus: 1. Let your conversation be pure, wise, and holy, that

it may be the means of conveying grace, or Divine influences, to them that hear. 2. Let it be such as to be grateful or acceptable to the hearers. ... Never wound modesty, truth, or religion with your discourse; endeavour to edify those with whom you converse; and if possible, speak so as to please them.” (Adam Clarke)

Grace, that is, salvation, knowledge of Christ, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

“Romans 15:13 ¶ Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” (Also, Acts 13:15, Rom 14:7, 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 2 Peter 3:38.)

A few ways that proper speech can administer Grace:

1) Teaching the whole Truth. The lack of the whole truth from Christian leaders has delivered Christians into “the snare of the devil”, leaving him to be the “god of this world”. He is their god because God’s people do not know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as revealed in the entire law-word of God. (John 17:17, Eph 4:14, 15, 2 Tim 2:22-26, 2 Cor 4:4.)

2) Teach the word of God to the next generation. (Deut 6:7-9.)

3) Knowing the proper words to say in each situation. (Prov 10:32.)

4) Using the tongue to promote life though its wise use. (Pro 15:2-4, 12.)

5) Learning God’s word so we can speak the right word to the one in need. (Isa 50:4.)

6) Letting the words of Christ dwell in us so we can teach and admonish each other properly. (Col 3:16, 17.9)

7) Using the words of Christ which dwell richly in our own heart, to encourage each other:

“1 Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

7) Using our words of Christ to encourage the body of Christ. (Eph 4:12.)

There are numerous other ways that speech can be a ministry of grace.

V. 29, put on pleasant speech, which is not necessarily speech that is pleasant to the human ear. It is speech that good and acceptable to our Holy God. We must have speech that gives proper information, needed counsel, appropriate and pertinent reproof, and instruction in right action in our evil age. Speech that is a call to battle as was the speech at the foundation of this country.

The “Post-Christian” era is upon us, and will continue to worsen. The destruction can be traced directly to “corrupt communication” that has come from the compromised pulpits over the past many years.

Sadly, the people have become so accustomed to the pleasant, soothing and non-confrontational words that the truth now from Christian teachers would result in the people stopping their ears and running upon the teacher with one accord to cast him out of his place of leadership. (Acts 7:57.)

The foundation of this “Christian” nation was built by fearless preachers who boldly spoke truth as they confronted the social issues of the day. And, thank God, the people listened and learned of Christ in the context of what was taking place around them.

Various

• **IRS WILL ‘MONITOR’ 99 CHURCHES ON BEHALF OF ATHEIST ORGANIZATION TO AVOID ANOTHER LAWSUIT”**
<http://whatdidyousay.org/2014/08/05/irs-will-monitor-99-churches-on-behalf-of-atheist-organization-to-avoid-another-lawsuit/>

501(c)3 churches receive funding (tax breaks) from the state. Therefore, they have no grounds for complaining about the requirements of the state.

• **CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES PROTEST OVER EXECUTIVE ORDER BANNING RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM HIRING LBGT: “EXTREME AND UNPRECEDENTED”**

http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=14237

How sad that we have reached the day when “Christian Ministries” cannot operate or survive without a government handout. They are servants to the master who pays them.

First, the IRS 501(c)3 and Incorporation go hand in hand. In Incorporation, the organization asked the State to create a person. That State-created person now belongs to the State. That person had to agree to abide by his creator’s rules. Read the agreement made by the representatives of the religious organization and the state. (See my book, “The Non-Church”, sent upon request. It includes the Indiana requirement which religious organizations must sign with the state to get the (c)3 status. No doubt Indiana is typical of all 501(c)3 requirements.)

The corporations (pastors) are afraid to speak out because of fear of losing their 501(c)3 status or of losing tax-payer money—tax exempt status. (The organization does not have to be incorporated to be “tax exempt”.)

It has only been about 10 years ago that the incorporation of churches was forbidden in the Virginia constitution. It was Jerry Falwell who sued the state so he could incorporate and get on the gravy train to take funds from the U.S taxpayers to build his empire. The egg he laid is hatching some very unpleasant vultures.

Second, any religious organization which agrees to receive State funds must operate by whatever the State may require.

As a pastor friend has so often said, “With Shekels come Shackles”, and how true it is. Those who receive favor and/or money from the State have no Biblical right to complain about the onerous rules placed on them by their master. They have chosen the State as the master; let us not think for a moment the State does not realize the hold they have on those religious organizations through Incorporation and through money. As expected, the State is starting to tighten the noose that they have had available for many years.

Sadly, even the best pastors are unwilling or unable to connect cause with effect. Any deal with the State allows the State to control the sanctuary.

THE TRIAL OF OUR FAITH

The following IS NOT newspaper exegesis, as many articles today are. Rather, the following is to show how God has abandoned this nation to the unclean mind, as he said he would do in Romans 1.

“1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

It is depressing to consider the following, and you do not want to pursue any of the links mentioned, or it will be even more depressing. It is obvious that the Lord’s heavy hand of judgment is upon America, and upon the once “Christian West”. There is no “political” solution in November, nor in the next presidential election. Outside of a clear miracle which results in mass “conversions” or changing of the hearts of the religious leaders and of the people, America is finished. I will see its complete demise within the short time I have left. (73, 8/14/14.) Changing one set of unregenerate men for another set of unregenerate men will not change the hearts of the people.

God gave civil government the authority to control the actions of sinful men, but when the lawless are in authority, there will be no justice from civil authority.

The demise of America is not a pleasant thing to even consider, but it is upon us. However, our allegiance is to the Kingdom of God, not to the kingdom of men.

“Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient

unto the day [is] the evil thereof.”

Most of our churches fly the Christian flag. Our undying allegiance is to the King and the Kingdom for which it stands. Being Americans, we owe a limited allegiance to the corruptible kingdom for which the American flag stands, but we are sworn to the One Who sits on the right hand of the Father, and rules all things according to His sovereign will. (Eph 1:11-14.)

Do we really believe that He “*worketh all things after the counsel of his own will*” and for His own glory? Living in the Post-Christian world, and experiencing the demise of the once “Christian West”, can we live what we profess to believe?

The Christian faith which we profess is going to be tried as at no other time in this nation’s history. Will it “*be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ*”?

The law of God is a two-edged sword, and cuts both ways. The positive edge, blessings, described this nation up to the early 1900s:

“Deuteronomy 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe [and] to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. 13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do [them]:”

The negative edge, curses, have taken over as the efforts of the apostates have gained control of the hearts and minds of His people:

“Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: 68 And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy [you].”

Here are just a few fulfillments of the curses promised in vv. 15-68.

“V.16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.”

* **“Famine in America**

Now it appears that GMO crop failures are growing.

Do we face the risk of famine as well?

In 2009 the South African Corn Crop Failure was linked to GMO seeds(1). “On January 17 [2010], internationally recognized plant pathologist Dr. Don Huber, wrote a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack warning of the discovery of a new pathogen and a possible link between Roundup Ready® (GMO) corn and soybeans and severe reproductive problems in livestock as well as widespread crop failure.”(2) This past March, scientists with the Natural Society called for immediate action to stop the GMO crop failure threat(3). The USDA did nothing. Just recently, the widespread failure of the GMO corn crop in middle America has been blamed on everything except the fake corn itself; even Alex Jones reported today, “All over America the corn is dying. If drought conditions persist in the middle part of the country, wheat and soybeans will be next.”(4)...”

<http://drrimatruthreports.com/gmo-corn-crops-failing-in-the-usa-famine-to-follow/>

* **“GMO pushers horrified** at idea of being held responsible for their role in farmer suicides, crop failures and environmental devastation”

http://www.naturalnews.com/046195_GMO_pushers_legal_liability_whistleblowers.html#ixzz38zJE5FMj

The devastating health problems caused by GMOs are too numerous to mention. A simple search for GMO health problems, including birth defects in men and animals will give far more information than you want.

“V. 23 And thine heaven that is over thine head, shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee, iron. 24 The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.”

* **“California breaks drought** record as 58% of state hits driest level”

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-california-drought-worsens-record-20140731-story.html>

* **“California wake-up call:** Extreme drought will lead to migration exit and real estate collapse”

http://www.naturalnews.com/046289_California_extreme_drought_human_migration.html#ixzz39JxnKS1n

“V. 25 The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.”

* **Even the weakest nations** of the world are now mocking us.

“V. 27 The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. 28 The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of

heart:”

* **“On the sales side,** the antipsychotic drug Abilify (aripiprazole) racked up the highest sales with nearly \$6.4 billion. Abilify is prescribed to treat schizophrenia, depression, and bipolar disorder, plus other things.”

<http://www.rxlist.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=174988>

The use of antidepressants shows that the “right mind”, “the mind of Christ” has been replaced with the “diseased mind” of the world. (Luke 8:35, Ps 51:10, Dan 4:34-37, Luke 15:16.)

* **“Over the past two decades,** the use of antidepressants has skyrocketed. One in 10 Americans now takes an antidepressant medication; among women in their 40s and 50s, the figure is one in four...”

http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/08/12/a-glut-of-antidepressants/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0

The reports about mass shootings fail to mention that the shooters are on some kind of antidepressant.

“V. 32 Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand.”

* **“Will your children believe** in Jesus when they graduate from high school?

Homeschooled: 94%

Public Schooled: 15%

94% of homeschoolers keep the faith and 93% continue to attend church after the high school years. But a shocking 75% to 85% of Christian children sent to public school drop out of church, and do not hold a Christian worldview after high school graduation.

By grade eight, the average homeschooled student performs four grade levels above their public and private school counterparts...”

<http://www.christianhomeeducation.org/publicschools.html>

We expect the non-Christian student to have a pagan worldview. The blame for the vast departure of Christian students from the faith rests on the Christian parents who send their children to be trained in the pagan worldview, not to mention the damage by studying “the classics”.

“V. 36 The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.”

* **Our nation has been turned** over to the worst possible pagan ruler: Obama is a self professed Muslim. His pro-Muslim statements were made publically before the election, but people ignored his own profession of being a Muslim. His inner circle is made up of Muslims.

We are being ruled by Muslims.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCAffMSWSzY>

Again, a search for Muslims in Obama's cabinet will quickly show the many Muslims who are in control of public policy.

"V.43 The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. 44 He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail."

* **"Fed Owns 64% More U.S. Government Debt than China**

(CNSNews.com) - The Federal Reserve owned 64 percent more U.S. government debt than entities in the People's Republic of China did as of the end of November, which is the latest period for which the Treasury has reported on the foreign ownership of U.S. government debt..."

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/fed-owns-64-more-us-government-debt-china>

China is investing very heavily, with the help of our Government, in valuable wealth-producing properties, and real-estate, even purchasing homes here. Just after we moved to WV, we read that the Federal Government upgraded a steel mill to the latest high-tech standards. It was then sold to China. The employees had to dismantled it and ship it to China.

The Fed produces fiat money with computer entries representing US dollars, (\$85 billion a month). That \$85 billion produces nothing but profits for the big banks.

"It all got bottled up in the banks, and essentially none of it ... lent out," Blinder says.

He says the banks are the key to making quantitative easing work. It would work by the Fed announcing it wants to buy \$85 billion each month in government bonds and mortgage-backed securities. Blinder says banks would then line up to sell them, and the Fed pays the banks by putting money in their reserve accounts at the Federal Reserve...."

<http://www.npr.org/2013/12/17/251796694/year-in-numbers-the-federal-reserves-85-billion-question>

Banks leave "their" money which was created by the Fed with the Fed. The Fed then pays the banks 00.25% interest to add to the bottom line of the banks. The onlookers are then lost in the maze of confusion.

"V. 45 Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: 49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not

understand;"

* **"The Illegal Immigration INVASION"**

The unrestrained allowing of illegals is being called an "Invasion", which it is.

Obama has opened our borders to invasion by a foreign power without firing a shot.

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/reviews/opinion/item/18524-the-illegal-immigration-invasion>

Obama is housing them in rooms with large flat screen TVs and is even sending plane loads nationwide, even to Hawaii. No doubt, Obama's amnesty will come, and our elected representatives will let him do it. It will transform America.

For many years and under several presidents, the goal has been to unite all of North America into one nation, the North American Union. NAFTA was the first step in uniting all of North America. As usual, NAFTA was promoted as bringing prosperity to the US. NAU holds the same lies. Obama is the chosen leader to bring the NAU to pass, as the southern border is removed under his "watch". Then the one who has tried to enforce the border, Rick Perry, has the wrath of those powers down upon him.

"V. 53 And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:"

* **"Companies That Might Use Aborted Human Fetuses in Their Food Products"**

Burger King, General Mills, Kraft, Coca-Cola.

<http://gawker.com/5879254/which-companies-are-using-aborted-human-fetuses-in-their-food>

* **"Comprehensive List Of Companies That Uses Aborted Fetal Cells As Flavor"** which includes PepsiCo, Campbell Soup.

<http://beforeitsnews.com/conspiracy-theories/2013/07/comprehensive-list-of-companies-that-uses-aborted-fetal-cells-as-flavor-2452716.html>

• **NOTE: A SIGN OF GOD'S CURSE AGAINST A PEOPLE IS THAT THEY EAT THEIR YOUNG, AS WE ARE DOING TODAY.**

"V. 58 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; 59 Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. 60 Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. 61 Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed."

*** EBOLA—WHO WILL BENEFIT?**

*** “Ebola Outbreak Can Lead to Gun Confiscations, Martial Law**

The Obama administration is perpetrating the conditions required for a government-declared crisis”
<http://www.infowars.com/ebola-outbreak-can-lead-to-gun-confiscations-martial-law/>

*** “Ebola vaccine pioneer** joked about use of genetically engineered virus to cull human population”
http://www.naturalnews.com/046347_Ebola_vaccine_genetically_engineered_virus_depotation.html#ixzz39iFY7OkM

*** “Ebola outbreak may already** be uncontrollable; Monsanto invests in Ebola treatment drug company as pandemic spreads

(NaturalNews) A global outbreak of deadly Ebola is underway and has crossed national borders. One infected victim of the horrifying disease flew on international flights, vomiting on board and exposing hundreds of people to the deadly virus which can be transmitted through airborne particles. Ebola has an 8-10 day incubation period, meaning thousands of people could be carrying it right now and spreading it across the cities of the world without even knowing it....”

http://www.naturalnews.com/046259_Ebola_outbreak_drug_treatments_Monsanto.html#ixzz392dPzJvF

*** “The U.S. government** is desperately preparing for a massive Ebola pandemic outbreak across the USA.

Ebola detection equipment has been deployed to all 50 states, and the U.S. Dept. of Defense has awarded a \$140m contract to a little-known pharma company conducting clinical trials on an Ebola treatment drug.

Ebola outbreak may already be uncontrollable; Monsanto invests in Ebola treatment drug company as pandemic spreads

Passengers in Hong Kong and the UK have already shown symptoms of the disease and are being tested, reports USA Today. (2) The Peace Corps has evacuated its volunteers from the region after two were exposed to Ebola. (3)...”

http://www.naturalnews.com/046259_Ebola_outbreak_drug_treatments_Monsanto.html#ixzz393iapq3U

*** “Liberia warns** of ‘Global Pandemic’” Drudge, July 31, 2014

*** “Health Officials** Issue Warning After Eagle County Man Dies From Hantavirus

EAGLE COUNTY, Colo. (CBS4) – A man in Eagle County has died from hantavirus, a disease that kills nearly half of the people who get infected.”

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2014/08/05/health-officials-issue-warning-after-eagle-county-man-dies-from-hantavirus/>

*** Interesting note:** “Obama Signs Executive Order to Allow Detention of Americans With “Respiratory Illnesses”

“As the Ebola outbreak continues to cause concern, President Barack Obama has signed an amendment to an executive order [by George Bush which listed Ebola in the original executive order] that would allow him to mandate the apprehension and detention of Americans who merely show signs of “respiratory illness...”
<http://www.infowars.com/obama-signs-executive-order-to-detain-americans-with-respiratory-illnesses/>

There is NO known prevention nor cure for Ebola. It has a 50% mortality. It has the most horrible death imaginable. There are untold riches to be made from easily spread plagues such as Ebola and Lyme Disease. “Follow the money.”

*** “Ebola Patient** Dr. Kent Brantly to Be Released From Hospital.” (Now released.)

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/ebola-virus-outbreak/ebola-patient-dr-kent-brantly-be-released-hospital-n185626>

Fear-Mongering Is a Lucrative Business

The Ebola panic is very reminiscent of the 2005 bird flu hoax, and the 2009 H1N1 (swine flu) scare—another Level 1 “emergency” that turned out to be grossly hyped to promote the sales of unnecessary vaccines that turned out to be riddled with horrible side effects, including the devastating sleeping disorder, narcolepsy.

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/08/19/ebola-outbreak.aspx?e_cid=20140819Z1_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140819Z1&et_cid=DM54142&et_rid=627480202isorder; narcolepsy

*** BTW, “CDC** refuses to turn over documents to Congress: Evidence linking MMR vaccines to autism intentionally withheld from investigators”

http://www.naturalnews.com/046553_MMR_vaccines_scientific_fraud_criminal_corruption.html

CDC whistleblower’s secret letter to CDC head released.

http://www.naturalnews.com/046597_CDC_whistleblower_secret_letter_Julie_Gerberding.html

• WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

Why is Ebola being allowed to run wild, if Dr. Brantly has recovered? Ebola monkeys have been in Maryland labs for many years. Ebola seems to fit very well into “population control”.

*** 1 Dead, 1 Sickened** From Flesh-Eating Bacteria

“SARASOTA (CBSMiami/AP)— One person has died and another person fell ill when they contracted a flesh-eating bacteria which can be found in warm salt water.

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2014/07/30/1-dead-1-sickened-from-flesh-eating-bacteria/>

*** Strange, unheard** of diseases now here.

Dengue Fever now here. http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/dep_us_human.html

West Nile Virus. http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wny_us_human.html

Saint Lewis Encephalitis. http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/sle_us_human.html

La Crosse Encephalitis. http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/lac_us_human.html

* LYME DISEASE

“These “Ear Crawlers” Will Spit Deadly Bacteria Into Your Bloodstream

They love the crevices behind your ear, but don't let them get near it - or you could be one of the 300,000 people each year who are exposed to this bacteria that escapes your immune system, evades antibiotics, and even hides from detection by blood tests. ...”

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/07/26/under-our-skin-lyme-disease.aspx?e_cid=20140726Z1_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140726Z1&et_cid=DM52540&et rid=599988190

* “Long Island Boy Diagnosed With Rare Strain of Lyme Disease”

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Lyme-Disease-Increase-Long-Island-269142921.html>

* “Why the government will not allow treatment for Chronic Lyme disease”

<http://videopoleta.ru/watch/OrLJLgoNgA4/why-the-government-wont-allow-treatment-for-chronic-lyme-disease.html>

See also, <http://www.envita.com/lyme-disease/finally-critical-obstacles-in-lyme-disease-treatment-and-diagnosis-mastered>

POINTS TO PONDER

Lyme Disease is incurable at this point. Though it may not kill, it debilitates, and makes life very miserable. It can also be passed from mother to her unborn child. (We personally know more than ten people with the disease

Lyme Disease is endemic, yet very few doctors will recognize the problem as Lyme Disease, nor will the insurance industry nor the Government, the CDC, admit Lyme Disease. The infection is extremely difficult to diagnose; rather, they diagnose the evidences of Lyme as anything from mental disorder to MS, to one's imagination. The documentary, “Under Our Skin – A Shocking Film Exposes the Hidden Reality of Lyme Disease” is an eye opener.

<http://www.viewster.com/movie/1193-15367-000/under-our-skin>

After WWII, the US smuggled a top German scientist out of Germany to keep the Russians from getting him to work for them. This German had been a top scientist for Hitler developing a bio-weapon that could be transmitted by ticks. This scientist told the US Government that we needed bio-weapons, so a lab was established. Lab 257 was established on Plum Island

just a few hundred yards off the coast of Old Lyme, Connecticut, and very close to Long Island. Financed by the US government, several highly infectious diseases were imported, developed and perfected, including what is now known as Lyme Disease, Hoof and Mouth Disease (to attack domestic meat animals), West Nile Virus and Dengue Fever. Plum Island is close enough to Old Lyme that deer commonly swim to the island to graze.

1957 was the first reported case in Old Lyme, Connecticut. It now covers much of the US and Canada. Ebola first discovered in Democratic Republic of Congo in 1976 near the Ebola river.

Lyme Disease is a political hot potato, probably because the US Government financed its development. Doctors will lose their license if they try to treat it in any way not approved by the “Lyme Disease Board”. Several good doctors who have successfully treated many patients have lost their license. The medical profession, in bed with the large insurance companies, deny there is any Lyme Disease because of the horrendous cost of treating it. (Note the truck loads of money to treat “AIDS”, yet even the existence of Lyme Disease is denied by the government, the medical and the insurance community. There is big money in the medical-industrial complex.)

Michael Christopher Carroll spent 7 years researching and writing his book, “Lab 257”. Here is a quote from the book, “Even more disturbing are the records of the Nazi germ warfare scientists who came to America. They experimented with poison ticks dropped from planes to spread rare diseases. I have received some information suggesting that the U.S. tested some of these poison ticks on the Plum Island artillery range off the coast of [Lyme] Connecticut during the early 1950s...” Plum Island contains a badly run, insecure and just downright dangerous laboratory full of horrific bio-hazards, located just a few hundred yards from the Connecticut coast.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1315L9iCHro>

These Plum Island diseases are easily spread by birds and by the wind. Plum Island is a stopover for migrating birds, which give wings to these infectious diseases, all courtesy of the US Government.

Whether intentional or unintentional, the US Government financed infected ticks rode the deer to the mainland, and the spread of Lyme Disease was on. For some years now, Lab 257 has been unprotected, and even open to the elements.

PRECAUTIONS:

If near a woods frequented by deer, keep the grass cut short in your yard, especially in the kids play area. Wear shoes and WHITE socks and long pants in grass that might harbor ticks, and in the woods. Spray the clothing, shoes and socks with some kind of bug-off. Closely examine yourself and others after being in tall grass or woods. Watch your pets that might get around tick habitations. Don't be afraid of the "great outdoors", but do use common sense.

Bettie has been bitten three times from just hanging up clothes in our back yard. As soon as she saw the tick, it was removed. If there was a red spot, she went to the doctor. We treat every tick as though it carries Lyme Disease, though the disease is not near as prevalent as it is a few miles north of us. Thus far, the Lyme Disease has not maintained a hold on her. She now wears my long white socks when she goes outside. The deer often bed down in our back yard and around the garden.

Finally,

"V. 68 And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you."

Consumer spending and debt, upon which this nation now depends, has placed us into terrible bondage to the bankers and to China.

Though Fukushima has "dropped off the map", it is still very much alive and speewing death at 300 tons of radioactive water every day into the Pacific Ocean, not to mention the huge amount of trash from Japan now washing up on our West coast.

<http://healthydebates.com/28-signs-fried-nuclear-radiation/>

Note: 1) the points above fit well within the desires of those promoting population control. 2) the points above fit well within the desire of those who hope to destroy what is left of "Christian" American, and the WASP influence. 3) the obvious beneficiaries of the unimaginable profits for new drugs and vaccines. The pharmaceutical industry has a "golden goose" at hand with these "new" diseases. Money speaks loudly suspicious here, as we follow the money. 4) as these various diseases descend upon the population of the world, our only hope is in our Redeemer God.

"Obadiah 1:2 Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised. 3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation [is] high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? 4 Though thou

exalt [thyself] as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD." (2 Chron 7:13, 14.)

The sins of His people have sold this nation into bondage to the pagans, a bondage that can only be broken by the One who came to set His people free.

"But that is under the Old Testament, and we are under the New Testament!"

Are "we" better than Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar of old whose dominion extended "to the end of the earth"? Was not he cast down so he would "*know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.*"? (Dan 4.)

Will we dare to say that this nation has not lifted itself up with pride as we have sought to be the nation builder of the world? As an eagle that was once in the high places, our nest is being thrown down to be mocked by the nations of the world, and trod under the foot of men.

The judgment of God falls "on the just and on the unjust", as does His blessings. (Matt 5:45.)

As the wicked and corrupt Old Jerusalem was destroyed so the New Jerusalem could prosper, so also the wicked and corrupt Old Order is being destroyed so the New Order established by and ruled by Christ Jesus can prosper.

"1 Corinthians 15:19 *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*" But the resurrection assures that Christ shall "*put down all rule and all authority and power*", and that His kingdom shall prevail.

"Hebrews 12:25 - 29 For our God is a consuming fire" against those who ignore His word.

Through all of the modern events, our individual hope is in the mercy of Lord God toward His faithful people.:

"Psalms 61:1 « To the chief Musician upon Neginah, [A Psalm] of David. » Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock [that] is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, [and] a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah."

"Psalms 27:13 [I had fainted], unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."

"Lamentations 3:24 The LORD [is] my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

"Psalms 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and [why] art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him [for] the help of his countenance."

The Christian faith which we profess to have in *“him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”* is going to be tried as at no other time in this nation’s history. Will it *“be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ”*?

BOOK REVIEW

“APOSTATE: THE MEN WHO DESTROYED THE CHRISTIAN WEST”

By Kevin Swanson. Review by Thomas Williamson, 3131 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60608

“Apostate” is a new book, published in 2013. This book is an intellectual history of the influences that have, over a period of centuries, led to the dramatic turning away from the Christian faith that we are witnessing in Western society today.

The author provides brief, concise biographies of pivotal figures in the history of Western thought, along with analyses of their errors.

Thomas Aquinas, 13th Century, was a Roman Catholic scholar who proposed that there are two systems of knowledge, one sacred and the other secular. This is in contrast to Augustine who insisted on a unified theory of knowledge, in which all knowledge comes from God and is based on the Bible. Aquinas also attempted to synthesize the teachings of Christianity with the pagan teachings of Aristotle.

Rene Descartes taught that the foundation of knowledge was one’s self rather than God, saying “I think, therefore I am.” Rather than starting from the certainty of God’s Word, he relied on human reason to move from doubt to certainty.

John Locke taught that the basis for all our knowledge must be experience, not revelation. He regarded such doctrines as the Trinity, Atonement and Resurrection as nonessential to true Christian faith.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau regarded children as being born into a state of natural goodness, thus denying original sin, and taught that children belonged to and should be taught by the State, not their parents. He rejected the sanctity of private property, thus helping to bring on the French Revolution.

Jeremy Bentham taught Utilitarianism, which meant that men should decide what to do based on what causes pleasure or pain, not on God’s law. He promoted man-based ethics and homosexuality.

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a leader of Transcendentalism, which promoted a Hindu-style

world-view in which all men and all creation are seen as part of God, thus eliminating any responsibility to a Higher Power.

Karl Marx advocated abolition of private property and the family, and total government control of all means of production, including manufacturing, agriculture, transportation and communications. He produced writings that were dedicated to Satan and were in some cases anti-Semitic, advocating the elimination of the Jews.

Charles Darwin was a sadist who enjoyed torturing animals. He eliminated the distinction between the human and animal kingdoms, rejected Christianity and monotheism, and proposed a theory of evolution for which scientific support has not been found.

Friedrich Nietzsche denied God’s existence and taught the “will to power,” which means “might makes right,” thus justifying the crimes of Hitler and modern Communist dictators. He spent the last 11 years of his life totally insane.

John Dewey was a founder of Humanism, which teaches that the universe always existed and was uncreated, that man is in control of his own destiny, and that there are no moral absolutes (except for the teachings of John Dewey and his fellow humanists). Dewey said that public schools should be devoted not to academic excellence but rather to teach “social consciousness” to the children.

Jean-Paul Sartre was an atheist who promoted existentialism, the sexual revolution, and terrorism, and who joined the Communist Party late in life.

William Shakespeare, in his play “Macbeth,” portrayed a defective view of reality, in which events are controlled by the “fates” rather than by a sovereign God, and characters attempt to rid themselves of guilt without any reference to Christ’s blood atonement.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, in his influential and defective book “The Scarlet Letter,” depicts a twisted and inaccurate view of Puritan society, and characters who believe they can deal with their guilt by suffering for it themselves rather than by Christ’s atonement. The heroine, Hester Prynne, is a 19th-Century feminist who feels no guilt for committing adultery and proposes living among the Indians where all restraints of morality can be disregarded.

Mark Twain, in “Huckleberry Finn,” also presents an unfair caricature of Christian society, and a hero who cheerfully rejects Christian morality. Twain himself was a notorious rejecter of God whose pro-Satanic

writings were not published until long after his death. The author also briefly analyzes the influence of Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, and various more recent pop icons such as John Lennon.

What is the purpose of reading a book like this, other than to become depressed over modern trends of apostasy? Actually, this book is valuable on many levels.

The author believes that it is necessary for us to be aware of the dangers posed by the literature being taught to our young people in high school and college, sometimes even in Christian schools.

He wishes to enlist us in the battle against dangerous ideas and on behalf of Christian ideas. To be effective in this battle, we need some knowledge of the enemy and the false ideas that we are up against.

The author believes that Christians should provide leadership that will lead our culture out of the morass of apostasy, rather than attempting to be relevant by accommodating falsehood.

Swanson sees Christianity as in a state of serious decline, numerical and otherwise, which has been developing for centuries. However, he is not one of those who would spin this bleak realization into a book saying “These are the end times, things are getting worse and worse and there’s nothing we can do about it except wait for the Rapture, and all this bad stuff that is happening is a sign that the Rapture is coming really soon now.”

Swanson’s emphasis is totally different. He takes a long view of history, noting that Christianity, as well as apostasy, have advanced over the years through a process of “ebb and flow.” The apostasy may have over-extended itself and the time may be ripe for a resurgence of Biblical Christianity. He emphasized that Christ is on the throne and rules over a Kingdom that will never fail.

Swanson notes that while control of information and influence over the masses has been centralized in recent times, we are now seeing a process of decentralization. The flow of information is no longer controlled by a few TV networks or Hollywood firms—now, almost anyone can produce a movie or set up a web site. He notes the growth of homeschooling as an evidence of healthy decentralization in the field of education.

Noting the disappointing results of the 2012 elections in America, Swanson believes that we cannot win in the political arena until we have won the battle in the schools, the culture and the family.

Some of Swanson’s recommendations for those who want to be part of a victorious battle against apostasy are these: Christians should get out of debt, older men should help to mentor younger men, churches should develop charitable programs free of government control and seek to provide medical care and insurance outside of the socialistic government system.

This is not a book of doom and gloom. Swanson believes that the defective nature of apostate ideas will become more and more evident in the near future, and that this is a time for committed Christians to devote themselves to building for the future on new foundations.

Kevin Swanson is the pastor of an Orthodox Presbyterian church in Colorado, and has been affiliated with the Family Integrated Church movement. However, this book does not promote or discuss any of the distinctive tenets of these movements. It is a book with broad general appeal to evangelical Christians of all denominations and backgrounds. It is a significant book that is well worth reading, placing in church libraries, and giving to young people who are planning to attend college.

The book is hardback, has 312 pages and is fully indexed. The list price is \$26.95 but it can be obtained for \$15 postpaid from Ovid Need, 2141 N. River Rd., Baker, West Virginia 26801. (tbe@biblicalexaminer.org)

• **COMMENT:**

Matthew 7:18 “A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

James 3:11 “Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet [water] and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so [can] no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.”

Why do Christians expect to find “sweet water” when the fountain is producing “bitter” water? Why do Christians expect to find life giving fruit from thorn bushes? We were in Louisiana for 7 years. Thorn bushes were extremely common; they would start from the ground, grow straight up to the tree branches several feet above the ground. Then they would take over the biggest of trees. They had very nasty thorns on them. These well known men produced bitter water and thorns, yet Christians exalt their writings as having something of value in their service of the Lord. “There is death in the pot,” but Christians insist on eating it anyway.

The Christian foundation must be rebuilt by

condemning the bitter waters, and exalting authors who have exhibited a Biblical, Godly lifestyle and motive, and have produced sweet waters.

PERSONAL

July was quit busy. We started by going to a Brazilian Presbyterian mission reunion in Black Mountain NC. That is, the Presbyterian Missionary Kids who grew up in Brazil. Bettie met two of her sisters there, one who currently lives in Brazil, (Becky) and another who lives in NC. That was a day down, two days there, and a day back. We were able to stay with one of her nieces who lives in Bettie's parent's old home in Black Mountain.

We brought her Brazilian sister back with us, and then her other sister and husband came up a couple days later, and then we all went up to see Bettie's son's family, 2.5 hours north. Then the day they left, my brother and his wife stopped by. They have been with Wycliffe in Brazil for 48 years. They are back in the Sates, living in CA. However, he was asked to go to Waxhall, NC, to install a radio in a plane going to Brazil. To do so, they drove to Waxhall from CA to spend several weeks installing that radio. He could not finish the project, for he had to get back to CA for a hip replacement, which he has put off for 4 years. (He is with the V.A., which has also treated him very well.) So they stopped by for a few days. His last 5 years in Brazil, he was assigned to the same town in which Becky lives, so my brother and his wife became very close friends with Bettie's sister and her family.

So we had three sisters here in our home for a few days, Becky, Julia and her husband, Will, and Bettie; and then my brother Richard and his wife, Darlene, came in the day before the sisters left. It was a pleasant "mad house" for that one day when all four sisters were together. Then a couple days later, my brother and sister-in-law left.

The evening before my brother returned to NC to pick up a "new" car which the Lord provided, and then to head for CA, our well pump quit. We had to pull the pump, and the problem was the wiring. Whoever put in the pump some years ago did not put a vibration damper in with the pump, and the wiring insulation rubbed off in several places. Hence, no pump and no water.

Becky, who teaches English in Brazil, came to the States for a month for the reunion and with the intention of visiting all her sisters (4 live in the States) and all her nephews and nieces.

The end of July we went down to SC for a "family"

reunion with 4 of the 5 sisters. The missing one lives in Northern Indiana. Becky went back to Brazil July 31. Our trip to Black Mountain NC and then to Clinton SC ate up a lot of time, miles and gas.

The garden is producing abundantly, so it is canning time. However, the cold weather prevents the tomatoes from ripening. July 30, 2014, am. Low of 47 deg. We had another cold night of 45.5 degrees.

**You think you have deer problems. We know a young man who is trying to get his life together after bouts with drugs and various things. He got a job washing dishes, but has no drivers license nor car. He was riding his bicycle home from work, and a deer hit him. She knocked him down, of course, and fractured his skull.

** Robin Williams, the funny man, had such deep depression that he hung himself.

POLITICAL

Over a year ago, I started writing letters to the editor concerning the corruption that was taking place by the Commissioners. As people contacted me, I told them to contact the attorney general. Many did, and a lawyer in the AGs office contacted me, but that came to nothing.

Went to a local attorney who is known for not fearing God nor man. His language certainly proves he fears not God. I asked for help to bring the Commissioners into line with the law, making it clear to him that my goal was, as a pastor, to see law prevail in our county, and protect those being stepped on by the Commissioners. He told me he had no dog in that fight, and had no desire to take on the Commissioners. He did agree something needed to be done, but not him. After some more contact, he admitted he saw no way to remove the Commissioners. So I gave up.

However, a lady on the other side of the county was also concerned, and had contacted the one good Commissioner for help. We met in his office, and he gave us a WV statute that provided for the removal of a commissioner. We took the law to the lawyer, and he was on it like a duck on a June bug.

He told us to get a committee together, and circulate a petition. One name was required to file with the state to remove the Commissioners, to void the \$1.13 million purchase of an unneeded building and stop an "Emergency Ambulance" fee.

We got over 1,000 signatures in just a couple of weeks out of 5,000 voters in the last election. We filed our petition with the Circuit Court, who sent it to the state Supreme Court. Three judges were appointed to

hear our petition. The first thing they did was separate the removal of the Commissioners from voiding the building purchase and the fee. The three judges left the Commissioners in office.

Our lawyer put in many hundreds of hours building the case presented on the petition, knowing that he would need the information for the second part of the petition.

The basic defense was that the violations of the law were so minor that they did not merit unseating the two Commissioners. And the judges agreed. One commissioner is the assistant Agriculture Commissioner, and we found out that his boss is very good friends with one of the three judges. Politics prevailed over righteousness.

Next, the hearing about the building and the fee went before the local Circuit Judge. Of course, our local judge recused himself. We rejected the next one over legal concerns, and the next one refused to take the case.

The third judge was a retired judge from a neighboring county. Our lawyer feared him because he had forced an easement through his property some time back. We were sure our goose was cooked. At that hearing, we resubmitted everything from the first hearing, and the judge seemed very unconcerned about our case.

The judge said he was going to the beach, and would not even look at it until he returned. We were even more sure it was a lost cause.

The ruling came Friday evening, August 8. It was the most thorough ruling our lawyer had ever seen, giving us more than we could have dreamed of. In his 31 page ruling which quoted many violations of the law by the Commissioners, the judge ended by voiding every action taken by the Commissioners that violated the WV OGPA, "Open Governmental Proceedings Act".

Among the many things, it voided the \$1.13 million building purchase and the fee, and required immediate repayment of those who had already paid the fee. The ruling reaches back to all actions taken outside of the OGPA over the past several years. It permitted anyone adversely affected by those actions to take their case to the Circuit Court to have it overturned.

It will be months before we know how this astounding and just ruling will "shake out". The Judge stepped all over the first ruling by the three judges, and our lawyer is going after the Commissioners again.

Judge Frye is a very good and honest man, but not a Christian. The son-in-law of one of our men, a state policeman, is from that county. He said that Judge Frye

kept a bundle of switches close at hand, and would give one to a parent telling them they needed that for their child who was acting up in his courtroom.

The situation with the first three judges had discouraged us from seeing any justice, but Judge Frye gave a just and honest ruling, despite the fact that our lawyer had forced an easement through his property.

The Commissioners are continuing to act as though nothing happened. Our web site at www.facebook.com/hardycountyinformed is updated regularly.

The president of the Commission is a good church member of one of the largest churches in the community. Yet, he is the one who led the way in getting the \$1.13 million for the bank.

Again, politics is not the answer, but we cannot stand back and let the wicked move ahead unchallenged. We must speak up. No professed Christians would get involved with us.

As with everything, our lawyer followed the money trail, and he found collusion between the two Commissioners and the bank. The three judges ignored the trail and did their best to keep the bank out of the issue. But Judge Frye did not. He "fried" both the bank and the Commissioners.

When the poll worker list was up for review, one of the three Commissioners saw my name on it. He became very angry and told the County Attorney to check my tax status. He did, and found a new law passed at the end of 2013, that said a church parsonage had to be owned by the trustees of the church, trustees which we don't have. So our property though listed as a church and a parsonage went on the property tax rolls. This is a risk one takes when he speaks against the powers that be.

EXCITING DAYS AHEAD.

***Gay Leaders Upset by Low CDC Population Numbers: 'Political Influence Matters'

Gay leaders are expressing alarm at the just-released numbers from the Center for Disease Control that place the percentage of Americans identifying as homosexual at only 1.6% of the adult population.

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/08/02/Gays-Upset-About-Being-Only-1-6>

PASTORS: Don't miss this; "**Churches Warned: Tidal Wave of Gay Theology Looming.**" The Sodomites have conquered every area of society, especially the education system. Now they are after YOUR church, using the IRS and the 501(c)3

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/08/churches-warned-tidal-wave-of-gay-theology-looming/#oaF3ljy0kM0IoTBC.99>

See further comments at <http://biblicalexaminer.blogspot.com/>

PEW research: Counting all major religious Traditions in the US, Christians, 78.4%

<http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>

So 1.6 % of the population controls the 98.4%, while 78.4% claim Christianity. What is wrong with this picture?

Everything is being intentionally set up for marshal law, gun confiscation, and maybe even suspending Congress, and leaving the President as king. Many presidents, both Democrat and Republican, have worked for this day over many years. Are they about to see the fruit of their dreams come true? We do not know what the Lord has for us in the future, but **if evil men have their way**, We could be under marshal law by this November, and certainly no later than the next presidential election.

** "In U.S. and Canada, 'Smart Meter' Fires Spark Alarm"

Smart Meters exploding and catching fire.

http://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/energy/item/18904-in-u-s-and-canada-smart-meter-fires-spark-alarm?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=7e4645d2dd-The_Editors_Top_Picks_3_12_143_12_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8ca494f2d2-7e4645d2dd-288838389

Books

APOSTATE: The Men who Destroyed the Christian West. An Exposé of the Men Responsible for the Decline and Fall of Western Civilization

"Whatever happened to Western civilization? Somehow, Christians have lost ground in every cultural area of leadership and influence in Europe and America since 1700. This is an indubitable fact. The remaining Christians search for an explanation. They want to know how it happened.

This is the story of the decline and fall of Western civilization. It is the story of uncommonly powerful men, unfathomably evil men. . . apostates.

• READER BEWARE!

This book faces head-on the spiritual forces that leveled a full out attack on the Christian faith in the Western world. On the one hand, it is a story of demonic possession, insanity, suicide, mass-murder, adultery, homosexuality, cultural and social revolutions, and unbridled, maniacal apostasy. It is the story of apostasy on a massive scale. But it is also a story of hope and victory for the last men standing in the ashes of Western civilization. It will be a testimony to the inevitable triumph of Jesus Christ over the great men of renown

who picked the wrong fight in the history of the West."

This book exposes the unbelievable evils of "Classical Education".

Kevin Swanson, Hardcover, 320 pages. Retail, \$26.95 + postage. From *The Biblical Examiner*, \$15 ea post paid.

What Does The Bible Say About That?

This is an introduction to the "big picture" for young children ages 9-13. At some point, every child needs to see the "forest from the trees." This introduction to a biblical worldview will help kids to make sense of the world around them.

Sociologists are telling us that between 60% and 80% of children raised in Christian homes end up leaving the faith. Over the last 25 years, the Nehemiah Institute has done extensive research on Christian families who send their children to Christian schools and public schools. What they have found is that these students have become increasingly "secular humanist" and much less biblical in their thinking with each successive year of testing.

In this virulently humanist age, parents must give their children a biblical perspective of the world around them. People everywhere are tossed to and fro by many false philosophies in a raging hurricane of post-modern, post-Christian humanism. Now more than ever, we must bolt our children down to the deck of biblical truth!

This simple yet comprehensive study guide and workbook provides a basic introduction to truth, ethics, origins, causality, anthropology, sociology, family, church, civil government, education, economics, defense, crime, and charity.

Kevin Swanson. Paperback, 168 pages. Retail \$21.95+postage. From us \$15 post paid. "Apostate" and "What..." are the same price from us. Difference: The number we ordered determined the discount we received. We ordered more of "Apostate" so got a better discount. *Generations with Vision*, 10461 S. Parker Rd, Parker Colorado 80134. 888.839.6132. www.generationswithvision.com

"The Incredible Schofield and His Book," Joseph Canfield. Paper, 394 pgs. Ross House Books. \$17, post paid.

"Death of the Church Victorious" tracing the roots and fruits of modern millennialism. Foreword by R.J. Rushdoony.

Pastor Need. 506 pages, index and 1000+ documenting footnotes. Sovereign Grace Publishers. \$25.95 post paid. \$20 post paid from *The Biblical Examiner*.

"Identifying Identity's Gentile Corruption" Foreward Joe Morecraft III.

Pastor Need. Saddle stitched, 50 pages. Indexed and documented. Free upon request.

“God Has a Wonderful Plan For Your Life. The Myth of the Modern Message.” Ray Comfort. Free upon request.

The Triumph of Titus. A Biblical View of Matthew 21-24.

Pastor Need. 149 spiral bound 8 1/2 x 11 pages, with index. \$10 post paid.

For other books by Pastor Need, go to <http://www.biblicalexaminer.org/Book%20store.html>

• **VARIOUS NOTES.**

* Postage costs 70 cents each which we gladly pay to mail hard copies of *The Biblical Examiner* to those who appreciate them.

* Our Sunday morning messages are available as Microsoft file to be emailed to those who request to be on that list. Contact me at tbe@biblicalexaminer.org to be added to that list to receive the message as an attachment on Sunday or Monday. They are a series in Ephesians, and are also on dropbox. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8g549gw6oqvovsxg/AAB8H1JwOd0KGy34TsYpVMRja>

Past PDF issues of *The Biblical Examiner* from the first of the year are here. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u7s71aa9fwj21p0/AADryPu6R6a0PsXkCuNoShxea>

FROM RON RUMBURG

I am often blessed in reading the pithy remarks of Richard Cecil and have shared some of these with you before. On this Lord's Day morning I share another printed in my copy of *Remains of the Rev. Richard Cecil, 1830*. May our Lord be pleased to bless and use us this His Day.

ON PREACHING CHRIST.

“We preach Christ Crucified.” 1 Cor. 1:23.

There are many weighty reasons for rendering Christ prominent in our ministry:

1. *Christ cheers the prospect. Everything connected with Him has light and gladness thrown round it.* I look out of my window—the scene is scowling—dark—frigid—forbidding: I shudder, my heart is chilled. But, let the sun break forth from the cloud—I can feel—I can act—I can spring.

2. *God descending and dwelling with man is a truth so infinitely grand, that it must absorb all other;* “You are his attendants! Well! but the KING! There he is! the KING!”

3. *Out of Christ God is not intelligible.* A sick woman said to me, “Sir, I have no notion of God. I can form no notion of Him. You talk to me about Him, but I cannot get a single idea that seems to contain any thing.” “But

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TO

you know how to conceive of Jesus Christ as a man! God comes down to you in Him, full of kindness and condescension.” “Ah! Sir, that gives me something to lay hold on. There I can rest. I understand God in his Son.” But if God is not intelligible out of Christ, much less is He amiable, though I ought to feel Him so. He is an object of horror and aversion to me, corrupted as I am! I fear—I tremble—I resist—I hate—I rebel.

4. *A preacher may pursue his topic, without being led by it to Christ.* A man who is accustomed to investigate topics is in danger. He takes up his topic and pursues it. He takes up another and pursues it. At length Jesus Christ becomes his topic, and then he pursues that. If he cannot so feel and think as to bend all subjects gracefully to Christ, he must seek his remedy in selecting such as are more evangelical.

5. *God puts peculiar honor on the preaching of Christ crucified.* A philosopher may philosophize his hearers, but the preaching of Christ must convert them. John the Baptist will make his hearers tremble; but, if the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he, let him exhibit that particular feature of his superiority—Jesus Christ. Men may preach Christ ignorantly—blunderingly—absurdly: yet God will give it efficacy, because He is determined to magnify his own ordinance.

6. *God seems, in the doctrine of the Cross, to design the destruction of man's pride.* Even the murderer and the adulterer sometimes become subjects of the grace of the Gospel, because the murderer and the adulterer are more easily convinced and humbled: but the man of virtue is seldom reached, because the man of virtue disdains to descend. Remember me, said a dying malefactor! God, I thank Thee, condemned a proud Pharisee!

His mailings are worth reading. hrrumburg41@gmail.com

(All articles by Bro Need, unless otherwise noted.)