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The Biblical Examiner. 5130 Danville Rd, Lynchburg, OH 45142

540.255.2243 facebook.com/ovid.need

tbe@biblicalexaminer.org, ovid.need@biblicalexaminer.org

Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

THE UNTEACHABLES

“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.” (Heb 5:11, 12)

The author is developing the mediational work of Christ, with a call to obedience as exemplified by Christ to the Father.

V. 9 tells us that Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Hebrews has a continuous strong emphasis upon obedience. If the Captain of our Salvation had to learn obedience through suffering, then we His followers also must learn obedience—obedience to the Lord, and obedience to all God-given authorities over us—through suffering. However, our suffering is nothing like He suffered. (2 Thess 1:5-10)

Faith does not replace obedience, but rather requires obedience. In fact, James is very clear that without the works of faith, there is no saving faith. There is no virtue in disobedience.

V. 10 The author of Hebrews then reminds the reader that it was God the Father who called Jesus Christ to be the High Priest according to the order of Melchisedec in Psalms 110. The author had many more “hard” things to say about “the order of Melchisedec”, but the readers are told it is hard to explain these “deep” things to them, for they are dull of hearing. They have ears to hear, but rebellion against the command word of God prevents hearing the word of God.

“Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.” (Deut. 29:4) “Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.” (Eze 12:2. See also Mt 11:15, 13:9, 13:43, Mr 4:9, 4:23, 7:16, Lu 8:8, 14:35.)

Vv. 10-14

V. 11, *“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to*

be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.”

This was a sharp rebuke to all who are addressed by this letter.

“many things to say...”

The R. V. is again preferable here; ye are become dull of hearing.” They were not always so. Time was when these Hebrews had listened to the Word with eagerness, and had made diligent application thereof. “When the Gospel was preached to them, it aroused their attention, it exercised their thoughts; but now with many of them it had become a common thing. They flattered themselves that they knew all about it. It had become to them like a sound to which the ear had been long accustomed--the person is not conscious of it, pays no attention to it” (Dr. J. Brown. OLB).

The Greek word for “dull” is translated “slothful” in #6:12. It signifies a state of heaviness or inertia. These Hebrews had become mentally and spiritually what loafers are in the natural world — too indolent to bestir themselves, too lazy to make any effort at improvement. They were spiritual sluggards; slothful. Let the reader

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turn to #Pr 12:27, 19:24, 21:25, 24:30-34, 26:13-16, and remember these passages all have a spiritual application. To become, “dull of hearing” or “slothful,” is the reverse of “giving diligence” in #2Pe 1:5, 10. In such a condition of soul, the apostle found it difficult to lead the Hebrews on to the apprehension of higher truth.

He had many things to say unto them, but their coldness, lethargy, prejudice, restrained him. And this is recorded for our learning; it has a voice for us; may the Spirit grant us an hearing ear. (Pink on Hebrews.

OLB)

They had “heard it all”, and maybe had even been around Christ as he walked among men and trusted him as their Redeemer. Believing they had arrived in full understanding of the gospel, they were closed to the wonderful truths pertaining to the priest-king, Melchisedec. Thus they were unwilling or unable to make the connection with Christ and Psalms 110, though that connection is made not only by Christ, but by all the authors of the New Testament.

They saw themselves as wise and mature believers, unlike the Gentile congregations; their pride had made them dull witted. In their human, natural wisdom, their minds were made up, so they refused to hear the truth involved in the Mediation work of Jesus Christ, and his current kingly office where his enemies are being made his footstool through his people’s obedience and Divine Providence.

“*Dull of hearing*” was an insulting statement to the Hebrews, or Jews. Their moral and religious superiority over the general population made them less willing to learn. Their superior attitude made this highly intelligent people dull witted.

Editor’s note on Calvin, v. 11:

{1} The literal rendering is “Of whom we have many a word to say, and hardly explainable,” or hard to be explained. This hardness of explanation was however owing to their dullness of comprehension, as Calvin justly observes. “Hard to be uttered” of our version is not correct; nor is “hard to be understood” of Doddridge right. Macknight gives the true meaning, “difficult to be explained.” Beza’s is the same. The reason is added “Since dull (or sluggish) ye are become in ears,” or in hearings. To be dull in ears is to be inattentive; but to be sluggish in ears seems to mean stupidity, slowness of comprehension. The latter is evidently meant here; that is, a tardiness or slowness in understanding. To hear with the ear is in the language of Scripture to understand. (#Mt 11:15; Joh 8:43; 1Co 14:2). Hence to be sluggish in ears is to be slow or tardy in understanding the Word of God. Stuart therefore gives the sense, “Since ye are dull of apprehension.” — Ed.” (OLB)

Their comprehension had been compromised by their superior attitude, so the author tells them that it is very difficult to explain the Prophet, Priest and King offices of Christ in a manner where these spiritual babies can understand it. Note that many who have gone to college feel they have obtained superior knowledge.

V. 12. Their condition was to be deplored from three considerations. **First**, they had been converted long enough to be of help to others. **Second**, instead of being useful,

they were useless, needing to be grounded afresh in the ABCs of the Truth of God. **Third**, so far from having the capacity to masticate strong food, their condition called for that which was suited only to a stunted babyhood. *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers*. This, it seems to us, is only another way of saying, Consider how long you have been Christians, how long you have known the Truth, and what improvement of it ought to have been made! It was a rebuke for their having failed to “redeem the time” (#Eph 5:16). (Ibid.)

Which be the first principles of the oracles of God. Because of their unresponsiveness of heart, they had gone back so far that they were only fit to be placed in the lowest form of learners; they needed to be retaught their A. B. C. Clear proof was this of their dullness and lack of proficiency. The “first principles of the oracles of God” signify the rudiments of our faith, the first lessons presented to our learning, the elementary truths of Scripture. Until these are grasped by faith, and the heart and life are influenced by them, the disciple is not ready for further instructions in the things of God. (Pink on v. 11)

These Hebrews are told: “You should be teachers of others, but instead you need to be taught again the first principles of Gods word.”

All of the ministers I have “sat under” have emphasized only the ABCs of the word of God while avoiding the implication of Psalms 110:4. Are they are fearful of offending the congregation by teaching responsibility to subdue all things under the footstool of King Jesus through the application of the Law-Word of God?

In Psalms 110, God declares to His messiah: “*For Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedec.*” The author’s use of v. 4 would have caused great consternation among the Hebrews, for they believed that Abraham was their mediator with God.

Charles Hodge on Romans 2:24ff.:

The Jews regarded circumcision as in some way securing their salvation. That they did so regard it, may be proved not only from such passages of the New Testament where the sentiment is implied, but also by the direct assertion of their own writers. Such assertions have been gathered in abundance from their works by Eisenmenger, Schoettgen, and others. For example, the Rabbi Menachem, in his Commentary on the Books of Moses, Fol. 43, col. 3, says, “Our Rabbins have said, that no circumcised man will see hell.” In the Jalkut Rubeni, num. 1. it is taught, “Circumcision saves from hell.” In the Medrasch Tilleim, fol. 7, col 2, it is said, “God swore to Abraham, that no one who was circumcised should be sent to hell.” In the book Akedath Jizehak, fol. 54, col. 2, it is taught that “Abraham sits before the gate of hell, and does not allow that any circumcised Israelite should enter there.” The apostle considers circumcision under two different

aspects. First, as a rite supposed to possess some inherent virtue or merit of its own; and secondly, as a sign and seal of God's covenant.

(A Commentary on Romans, p 63. 1853. 1973 reprint by Banner of Truth Trust, PO Box 652, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. This writer has dealt thoroughly with circumcision in his book, "Padobaptism and the Word of God.")

The Hebrews believed that Abraham was made their mediator, high priest by God, leaving no need for another to come, yet here the author is applying this verse to Jesus Christ. Normally a high priest's effectiveness before God ended with death, but the Hebrews believed that Abraham's works were of such great merit that they were sufficient to atone for the Hebrews to the end of time. (The Jews of Christ's day were very vocal about their relationship to Abraham. Abraham was not a Jew, but a Hebrew. Gen 14:13.)

Those who believed that Abraham was their great high priest were unable to see the meaning and application of Psalm 110. On the other hand, Gentiles with no preconceived ideas about the Psalm could be taught its application to Christ. The preconceptions of the Hebrew believers made them unfit for strong meat. Like babies, they are only capable of milk, "*the first principles of God's word.*"

(I have found it much easier to deal with those who have not really heard the true gospel than with those who have heard a corrupted gospel. See my booklet, "The Other Jesus".)

The New Testament was not written in a vacuum, as we are inclined to understand it. Rather, it was written in the context of the strong Hebrew, Jewish influence of the day, and the author spoke very plainly to the issues at hand. The vast majority of the New Israel of God, the Gospel Church, was made up of converted Jews, and remained so until well after the destruction of the Jewish religion in 70AD. Thus, the call to the Jew and Gentiles was that they have teachable humility. That call is common throughout the New Testament, e.g.:

James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." (1 Peter 2:1, 2, Acts 17:11, Philippians 3:15.)

Observe: If one will grown in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, he must have humility, a willingness or "readiness of mind" to be taught, and the willingness to "search the scriptures" and do what is found there,

2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

Growth depends on being able to depart from the unscriptural teachings of the "fathers", which the Hebrews were being urged to do. The unscriptural teachings of the Hebrew fathers was a problem that hindered these Hebrews from maturing past the milk stage in their knowledge of Christ. (1 Peter 1:18)

"...The life of a Christian is a growth; he is at first born of God, and is a little child; becomes a young man, and a father in Christ. Every father was once an infant; and had he not grown, he would have never been a man. Those who content themselves with the grace they received when converted to God, are, at best, in a continual state of infancy: but we find, in the order of nature, that the infant that does not grow, and grow daily, too, is sickly and soon dies; so, in the order of grace, those who do not grow up into Jesus Christ are sickly, and will soon die, die to all sense and influence of heavenly things.

There are many who boast of the grace of their conversion; persons who were never more than babes, and have long since lost even that grace, because they did not grow in it. Let him that readeth understand." (Adam Clarke)

V. 13, "*For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*"

Those who see themselves as mature Christians cannot go past the beginning "principles of the doctrine of Christ". They must remain a theological baby, and unskilled at seeing the implications of God's word:

First, they are easy prey to false doctrine. (Eph 4:14)

Second, they will follow their human reasoning rather than the Word of God, and get lost in the dark. (Jn 7:24, Ps 119:105)

V. 13 was a sharp rebuke to those who saw themselves as superior to other believers, especially the new Gentile believers, in the knowledge of the things of God. The Gentile believers may have been deficient in many ways, yet the New Testament commends the Gentile believers over the Hebrew believers because of their humility and willingness to examine Scripture, and for their desire to learn.

Note that we are seeing Biblical Christianity moving from the West (Europeans and Americans), to "Third World" countries. Though the West has an advanced knowledge of God, it does not have an advanced understanding of what Christianity means. The West hears the Law-Word of God, but refuses to apply it to life, and do its requirements.

No doubt, the "Third World" peoples have a strange, and maybe even a bizzar understanding of Christianity, but they have a simple trust in what they do know about the faith. Theirs is a living and uncomplicated faith in God and his word, a faith for which they are willingly,

even gladly dying. When asked by the Muslims, they will admit they are Christians, though they know it means sure death or a life of sexual slavery.

Such faith is now almost unknown in the West. However, those who see and understand the times assure us that “dying for the faith” is coming to the West, and, without God’s intervention, will be experienced by our children and grandchildren within 50 years. (Michigan now has a city with a majority of Muslim council members. They promise equal rights under the law, as no doubt the Muslims promised in France.)

V. 13, Christian maturity is a result of the willingness to grow and to learn.

Over the years, pastors have been discouraged to meet so many people, even religious leaders, who are convinced they have arrived. They know about faith in Christ as their Saviour, but are closed to any further knowledge of the Law-Word of God, particularly from the Old Testament. They feel that because they have been a “Christian” for many years, they are mature, and at times even more mature than their teachers. They are quite content thinking they are mature, yet they are baby Christians, insisting on milk as they resist any strong meat of God’s Word.

Those people want their teachers to continually emphasize the basic doctrines of faith and repentance; they do not want law and applications that require personal growth--that is, sanctification in “all things.”

Some years ago, I spoke at Brother Sprinkle’s church in Harrisonburg, VA. (By the way, after 54 years as pastor of the church he started, Pastor Sprinkle had to retire because of heart problems.) On the way out the door, a lady (who had 5 children and had gone to Bible college) started to rebuke me and correct me about a word meaning. It was obvious she was not there to learn, but to exhibit her own “learning.” Bro. Sprinkle immediately rebuked her. They soon left the church.

The “Western Church” is overrun with self-satisfied people who believe they know enough about God, the Bible and Jesus Christ to get them into heaven, and therefore they do not need to know more—let the children learn, let the Third World natives learn, and they may even finance that learning. But they are confident that they are okay, so they do not need more than their basic knowledge of salvation.

Maturity is not measured in the amount of time one has been a believer. Rather, maturity comes with a humble willingness to grow, study and to learn. So the au-

thor tells the Hebrew believers that they must cultivate maturity.

We had closed in our back porch in WV, and Bettie had it overflowing with plants, which all had to be left behind. When we would be away for any length of time, she arranged for someone to care for the plants, and they prospered. Folks say they cannot get anything to grow when the problem might actually be that they do not have the motive to carefully cultivate the plants so they will continue to mature.

When a grape vine grows to maturity, it starts producing a small amount of fruit. However, the vine does not stop growing at that point. As it matures and under proper care, it produces more fruit. If a person thinks they are mature and do not need to grow any more, they are immature babes, and will remain in that stunted state.

The key point of Hebrews is made many times over: *You must grow. You must continue to learn. Maturity cannot mean an end to growing. It means the ability to learn and to continue to discern more and more. It means an increasing ability to grasp implications and meanings of God’s word, and acting on them.* (Heb 5:14)

“Where have all the adults gone? Where are they? We are surrounded by a world of children. They cannot wait to play. They turn from life, and “retire” into playtime. They do not want maturity. Our culture is anti-maturity. Where have all the adults gone?” (“The difference between a man and a boy is the price of their toy”. I, and other pastors I know, cannot understand pastors who count the days until they can retire and play with their toys, and maybe do the things they had always wanted to do. However, some had to retire for health reasons.)

When I first got into the ministry in 1970, I remember college students who even mocked those teachers who tried to lead them past the basic Christian doctrines, and into the “deeper” things of God’s word. “Dry as cracker dust” was the estimate of one teacher who tried to lead into the meatier things of Scripture.

There was an older student who had been in college several years. He refused to graduate. He was afraid to face the challenges of being an adult. He was rightly known as a “professional student”.

We have a relative who remained a student as long as possible, letting his wife work his way through many degrees, including Phds. His life proved that his “ministry” (pastor) was simply an occupation, and totally

apart from any Godly calling; retirement age means “playtime” to him.

Without mature people, the West is dead. There is no place in the world for perpetual babies.

The anti-maturity attitude has overwhelmed the church, and has made it absolutely powerless in the modern world. The attitude is that conversion completes sanctification, and conversion makes one perfect in Christ. So there is no need to increase in the “deeper and more advanced” knowledge of Him as revealed in the total of the Word of God. The attitude seems to be: “Why study the law and its applications? We are now sanctified and perfect in Christ. He freed us from the law, so we will not be brought back under the commandments again.” (That law from which He freed the elect was the mediation ordinances given by Moses, for he nailed them to his cross. Col 2:14.)

Of course, that attitude is practicing Antinomian Armenianism.

Such beliefs, and there are many varieties to them, tell us why the churches have become useless in our modern world. Even churches that do not follow strict Armenian professionism, have no spiritual growth, or maturity attitude. They are converted, they attend morning and evening service and maybe a mid-week service, and they give. “Well, what more do you want of us?” And they resist challenging preaching that goes past the basic doctrines.

Many of us know from experience that most churches believe that “growth” means growth in numbers, so they do everything possible to grow in numbers. That increase makes them feel they have accomplished a great deal for the Lord. However, the Lord is not in the “numbers” game. He defines Christian growth as increase in the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ and His law-word, and increased ability to understand and to implement it into our lives and into society.

Most of the churches I have visited have one message: faith and repentance as though the congregation is made up of unsaved people, and then they give an altar call for salvation. Certainly, that is a good and needed message, but that message is primarily “preached to the choir”.

The public assembly is to gather to hear the law-word of God expounded and applied to daily responsibility and activity. The public assembly is to be a training ground for the army of God, equipping the saints to wage war against the very gates of hell. It is teaching all things as commanded by our Risen Mediator-King. As those things are applied, His kingdom is advanced,

and his enemies are made his footstool as promised in Psalms 110, and throughout the New Testament.

The Hebrew believers were ready to return to the temple. They were ready to trust Jesus as the Messiah, but as the High Priest? Knowing that they needed a High Priest, they were ready to return to Judaism, and continue with the temple sacrifices, and depend on the merit of Abraham.

They were ready to separate themselves from the rest of the church and go into churches that said: “We are Christian, but we are still tied to the priesthood as practiced in the temple.” Some groups did return to the temple, so there were two sects of such Jewish believers. The temple sect died out in time, particularly after 70 AD. At the end of the first century, the overwhelming majority of Christians were Jews. For centuries afterwards and well into the medieval era, many Christian leaders were from Jewish families.” (RJR)

The purpose of Hebrews was to deal with the Hebrew Christians who desired to return to and follow the old Aaronic priesthood. The letter served its purpose.

Hebrews is God’s call to responsibility and duty. It is a call for “Western” believers to grow up, to mature and fulfill their responsibility in their task of dominion and victory through Christ. He loved us and gave himself for us in order to equip us to fulfill our responsibility.

(Has the “Western” Christianity’s refusal to mature caused God to turn us over to the Muslims?)

Even among the most stringent Bible Believing individuals and churches, there is little evidence of a calling to earthly “Victory in Jesus”. Accordingly, the Hebrew believers then had and the evangelicals now have a self-defined and unscriptural definition of maturity. Hebrews tells us that they were not mature men, but babies. And as the prophet Isaiah tells us, “Where immature men, children and babes in men’s bodies, rule, disaster follows.”

Isaiah 3:4 “And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. 5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable. V. 12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.”

The fulfillment of Isaiah is quite evident in our day. Today’s young “man” is undependable. Women rule in the churches, and dominate the work place. Look at the older people working at WalMart, and the percentage of women who are managers. Where are the mature, responsible young men who will exercise dominion over

their spirit, over their families and over every area that God places under their authority? Where is the conquering spirit of Christianity? Who will lead the church on to the victory that is promised through the mediation work of King Jesus?

I read of, hear of and receive invitations to conferences to study various "Confessions". I have yet to have the opportunity to attend any of those conferences, but once we get settled in our new home, I hope to attend some. I certainly hope they are developing the everyday practical implications of the various points of the confession they might be studying. How can we apply what we are learning to subdue the world to Christ?

- **END NOTE:**

Every righteous man is lord over the whole sensible world.

http://www.searchquotes.com/search/John_Wycliffe/2/

Paul's Bithynian Detour; or, the

PRINCIPLE OF UNAVOIDABLE UNCERTAINTY

By Thomas Williamson

"In the morning sow thy seed. and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." - Ecclesiastes 11:6

And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." - Matthew 10:13-14.

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not." - Acts 16:6-7.

In all of the work we do for the Lord, there is the possibility that our efforts, whether in the form of Christian giving, or of missionary church planting efforts, will fail to yield the hoped-for success. There is no way to get around that and to avoid the possibility of failure, except by not giving or doing anything at all.

In Ecclesiastes 11:6, which appears to deal either with charitable giving or financial support of ministry, we are plainly faced with the possibility that the gift will not bring about the fruitful and prosperous result that we hoped for. Yet we are encouraged to give anyway. God recognizes that we are limited in knowledge as to what will happen (see Ecclesiastes 11:2 and 11:5) but we have to use our best judgment and be generous.

In Matthew 10:13-14, Christ, in His instructions to the 12 Apostles, recognizes in advance that they will not have perfect knowledge as to what are the best families or towns to which they should direct their church-planting efforts. Some of their efforts will be a failure. In such cases, they will have to recognize that they are on an unfruitful field, and then cut their losses, shake the dust off their feet and move on to a more receptive audience somewhere else.

If even the 12 Apostles were allowed to "fail" in their missions and experience some wasted effort, and if Christ recognized this in advance and told them to be prepared to accept that, then do you suppose that we are also allowed to experience a few missteps and failed mission outreaches, without having to hang our heads in shame about it?

LEARNING BY DOING. In Acts 16, we see the Apostle Paul going forth to look for some promising mission stations where new churches could be planted. He didn't really know for sure where he was going.

Had he just stayed in Antioch, praying for divine guidance as to where to go, he may have never made it to Philippi. Sometimes we just have to go forth, taking the Christian life one step at a time, trying out the various possibilities and opportunities for Christian service, to see which ones are fruitful and which are not. As we step forth, little by little, the divine plan, which could not have been foreseen from the beginning, will unfold before us.

Even though Paul lived in the New Testament age when God was giving direct, inspired revelations of His will (which He is no longer doing today), God did not always give a revelation to resolve every question and to direct every step of His servants.

There was no revelation from God to resolve the contention between Paul and Barnabas as to whether to take John Mark with them on their next missionary journey. They ended up "agreeing to disagree" on a point of practice which was not specifically addressed by any revelation from God's Word.

In 1 Corinthians 16:12, Paul and Apollos had a difference of opinion on the question of whether or not Apollos should immediately go on a mission to Corinth. Here again, there was no direct revelation from God to settle the matter. Apollos used his best judgment and his Christian liberty, he decided not to go to Corinth, and Paul respected his decision rather than pulling rank and forcing Apollos to go.

DON'T JUST TRAVEL - TRAVEL RIGHT! Even in apostolic times, God's men sometimes had to feel their

way along, attempting this or that missionary outreach to see if it resulted in an open door of fruitful ministry. If things did not work out, they would sometimes have to retrace their steps, change their plans and try something different.

In Romans 1:13 we see that Paul made definite travel plans to go to Rome, but as it turned out, he was unable to go and had to cancel the trip. We don't know how big a deposit he made with his travel agent or whether he was able to get all the deposit back. Possibly some time or money was wasted on this mission to Rome that had to be canceled. But the only way to avoid such waste, or the appearance of failure in the Lord's work, is to never attempt to do anything for the Lord at all.

In Acts 16:6 we see Paul traveling through Asia Minor, looking for open doors of opportunity and fruitful ministry. First he attempted to go to the province of Asia (the area around Ephesus in SW Asia Minor) but at some point the Holy Spirit revealed to him that this was not the time to go to Asia. (Paul did have a fruitful ministry there some years later, as recorded in Acts 19).

DON'T GO THERE. Then Paul assayed (or tried, or attempted) to go into Bithynia. By some means not explained to us, the Holy Spirit let it be known that he was not to go to Bithynia.

We are not told how much money or travel time was wasted on this side trip to Bithynia. We don't know why the Holy Spirit had not let it be known earlier that Paul was not to go there.

The most fruitful and prosperous mission for Paul at that particular time was to cross over into Macedonia and Achaia, where he planted churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea and Corinth. Paul did not know this in advance, and the plan did not become clear to him until he arrived on the coast at Troas, just across the narrow sea from Philippi.

Paul came to understand and fulfill God's plan for him by moving forward, taking one logical step at a time, using his best judgment and testing his opportunities along the way. Had he stayed at the home base in Antioch, waiting for God's will to become perfectly clear to him, he probably never would have accomplished anything.

In some way that we cannot fully understand, Paul's seemingly mistaken and wasted mission to Bithynia was part of the process by which a sovereign God brought him to the place of best possible usefulness in the work of the Kingdom.

It may have been a case of 2 steps forward, one step back, but that is a lot better than what is accomplished

by some men and ladies who never take the first step forward in God's work, because they are afraid to "fail" and be laughed at by the judgmental hyenas who lie in wait to condemn anyone who is less than 100% successful in every project and every step of the ministry.

Can you imagine the abuse that would have been piled upon Paul, if he had to deal with the peanut gallery of censorious, sanctimonious fault-finders and accusers of the brethren that haunt all too many of our churches and church associations nowadays?

I can hear it now: "What happened, Paul? How come that mission to Bithynia was such a big failure? God must be punishing you for your secret sins!" Some of these false comforters take no action, with regard to scriptural church discipline, against their own church members who are living in open, notorious sin - but they have plenty of insight with which to condemn their brother for some "secret sin" that is probably just a figment of their own imagination.

Then there are those who say, "What's the matter, Paul, don't you know the Lord doesn't love a quitter? Once you start something, you have to see it through. If God called you to Bithynia, you have to stay there until the job is done. You knocked on 10,000 doors and didn't get anyone - well, you just have to knock on 10,000 more doors!"

FIELD OF DREAMS. Maybe the Lord doesn't love a quitter, but the Lord definitely does not care for the folks who never had to quit or give up on a dream they had for the ministry, because they never stepped out on faith and tried to do anything for the Lord, so all they do is sit around and stomp all over the other guy who tried to do something and failed.

There are some times when we have to be willing to quit. If we attempt a certain type of ministry in a certain location, and find that it is not bearing fruit, then there comes a time to quit, to shake the dust off our feet, redirect our resources somewhere else, learn from our mistakes and thereby do a better job next time.

Some of the finest church plants have been accomplished by men who previously failed somewhere else - their first attempt to plant a church was a miserable, wretched failure, but they learned from their mistakes, learned how not to do it, thus making their second attempt a success since they made use of their experiences from the first attempt and avoided repeating the mistakes they made before.

Some of the fastest growing denominations in America are constantly starting large numbers of churches and missions that last only a few years and then fold

up. They are willing to accept a seemingly high rate of failure because they know that if they want a net gain of 5 churches, they may have to plant 10 churches and see half of them fail.

There will be some money and effort wasted, some wild goose chases pursued, some heartbreaking failures. But the only way to avoid that is to sit back and do nothing, and that will be the death of any movement.

We must count the cost of any project, Luke 14:28. Money and talent should not be thrown away on impractical projects that have little chance of success.

But the possibility of failure must be accepted. The sower in the parable of Matthew 13:3-8 sowed his seed in 4 fields, and in 3 of those fields his effort was wasted — there was no harvest. In the fourth field, he had a generous harvest of thirtyfold or more. It would be wonderful if we had perfect advance knowledge of which fields will be fruitful, so we will not waste any effort on the hard ground. But we don't have that knowledge, and our Lord understands that, even if some harsh, judgmental Christians do not understand.

DON'T JUST STAND THERE – DO SOMETHING!

The only way to find out if your effort and outreach for the Lord will be fruitful is to get out and try something. Be like Paul – move forward, sensing and discerning where the opportunities lie. If we find ourselves on the road to Bithynia and realize that this is not the place of God's fruitful ministry for us, be willing to back up and try something else.

No man can do everything. Paul never made it to Bithynia, but he had a very fruitful ministry in other places. He didn't waste any time kicking himself for not planting a church in Bithynia, and the Lord sent other servants to Bithynia to get the job done (1 Peter 1:1).

Whatever the nature of Paul's "failure" in Bithynia, he didn't let it hold him back from a lifetime of tremendous success in the ministry. Sometimes, like Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho, we have to be willing to go around in circles for a while, before we are ready to make a direct attack on the enemy and find ourselves in the center of God's will. Just ignore the peanut gallery, the critics, the soreheads, the sourpusses, the wreckers and fault-finders who try to discourage you, and just keep on marching, brother!

POTUS says Islam is a "peaceful religion." Here are some of its fruits!

WHAT RELIGION DID THE BILL OF RIGHTS

RECOGNIZE?

Not Islam!

Pastor H. Rondel Rumburg

It was not the religions of the world that the first article of the Bill of Rights recognized. It was the religion of the founding people. It was not "religions" plural but the Christian faith which they came to establish. They founded a country where they could practice Christianity. They were in different denominations but they were not seeking to provide for religions outside the Bible.

The incorporation of false religions such as Islam, Buddhism, and others were foreign to the Founding Fathers. Who and what were these founders? Dr. M. E. Bradford pointed out: Generally speaking the Framers were ordinary Christians in good standing with their various Christian denominations and this is supported by "the recorded patterns of their lives" (M. E. Bradford, *Original Intentions*, 88-89). They were with the exception of possibly five or perhaps three members of orthodox Christian communions. The Protestant denominations of that era were believers in an inspired and inerrant Bible.

"Approximately twenty-nine Anglicans, sixteen to eighteen Calvinists, two Methodists, two Lutherans, two Roman Catholics, one lapsed Quaker who was a onetime Anglican and one open Deist—Dr. Franklin, who attended every kind of Christian worship..." made up the Framers of the Constitution [M. E. Bradford, *A Worthy Company*, viii].

What did the people understand regarding the matter of religion? Dr. John Henry Hopkins a minister and theologian wrote in *The American Citizen* in 1857. He pointed out what was understood as the norm:

The Constitution first confers the rights of the citizen, and then claims the performance of his duties.

1. The religious rights of the citizen of the United States consist in the enjoyment of his own conscientious choice, amongst all the forms of our common Christianity which were in existence at the time when the Constitution was established. This must be taken as the full limit of fair and legal presumption.... Therefore I hold it preposterous to suppose that a band of Hindus could settle in any part of our territories, and claim a right under the Constitution to set up the public worship of Brahma, Vishnu, or Juggernaut. Equally unconstitutional would it be for the Chinese to introduce the worship of Fo or Buddha in California. Neither could a company of Turks assert a right to establish a Mosque for the religion of Mahomet. But there is one case, namely, that of the Jews, which forms an apparent exception,

although it is in fact supported by the same legal principle. For, the meaning of the Constitution can only be derived from the reasonable intention of the people of the United States. Their language, religion, customs, laws, and modes of thought were all transplanted from the mother country; and we are bound to believe that whatever was tolerated publicly in England was doubtless meant to be protected here. On this ground, there is no question about the constitutional right of our Jewish fellow-citizens, whose synagogues had long before been established in London. But with this single exception, I can find no right for the public exercise of any religious faith, under our great Federal Charter, which does not acknowledge the divine authority of the Christian Bible.

2. And here, I take the opportunity to express my own deep veneration towards the posterity of Israel. I cannot forget their high privileges, as the chosen people of God—that to them the oracles of divine truth were committed—that they were appointed to hold the light of heaven, while all the rest were in heathen darkness—that to them were the inspired prophets sent—that “salvation” in the words of Christ “is of the Jews,” since the divine Redeemer Himself was a Jew according to the flesh, and the Apostles were Jews, and the first Church was gathered in Jerusalem, from which the Gospel was sounded forth, through all the earth—that their history is a series of the most wonderful and sublime manifestations of celestial power which the world has ever witnessed—that their present state, scattered for seventeen centuries over the habitable globe, without home, or country, or government, and yet preserved in their marvelous individuality by the mighty hand of God, is not only an invincible proof of the prophecies, but is a continual miracle—that the highest examples of genius, talent, energy, indomitable perseverance and moral purity have been exhibited amongst them; and that the time is rapidly approaching when, as I trust, their long period of bitter calamity will cease, and they shall shine forth in more than their ancient glory—when they shall acknowledge the divine Messiah whom their fathers pierced, and be gathered into His fold, and Zion shall “rejoice and be glad,” and shall “reign as a queen among the nations.”

The honor in which I hold the Jews, therefore, is most genuine and sincere, for it is a part of my religion. Yet I cannot, for all that, change my views of the constitutional oath of office, which I have proved at large to be a Christian oath, and therefore an oath which cannot be consistently taken by any who deny the Christian faith. I have shown why the practice of England is the safest

general guide to the great rule of construction, which must determine our interpretation; namely, the intention of the people. The Jews had never been admitted to office in the mother country, and we have no ground for supposing that they were intended to be admitted here. They were allowed to give evidence, however, and so, on the principle of necessity, were the Turks and heathen.

See *Omichund vs. Barker*, Atkyn's Rep.) They were also allowed to establish their synagogues in England, and a few were even existing in the United States, before the Constitution was adopted, whose rights were questioned by no one. Thus far, then, the point may be settled, without difficulty, on the legal basis, so as to bear the test of thorough examination.

3. But under this aspect of constitutional construction, there is no allowance for any new invention of religion, unknown to the sovereign people, and which they could not possibly have anticipated. And, therefore, I hold that Mormonism is entirely excluded from any right to the free exercise of its religion, which, though it call itself Christian, rests upon the assumed authority of another Bible, and arrogates to itself the power of opposing the universal sense of all the Churches in the world, by the debasing and monstrous claims of its polygamy. The rise and rapid growth of this alarming evil show clearly the absolute necessity of adopting some definite and legal rule of sound constitutional interpretation; and that rule, according to the fixed and established maxim which seeks for the true meaning of every law in the reasonable intent of the authority enacting it, protects the country at once from all the invasions of reckless infidelity, of revolting heathenism, and of every foul and disgusting innovation.

Oh, how our Constitution has been trampled underfoot and twisted by the evil political figures since 1861. Now the Christian faith is systematically undermined, falsely represented and marginalized as much as a godless leadership can get by with, at the same time protecting illegitimate religions in the name of diversity and giving preference to Islam. Only wholesale Muslim immigration is allowed. They are thumbing their noses at the only true and living God of the Bible. The system that worked so well, for so long enjoys true freedom no longer. Liberty for true Christianity is not acceptable except behind closed doors. Real freedom has all but vanished. If God allows Biblical Christianity to be removed the chaos that people have flooded this country to escape will be rampant! We know God will win in the end, but rebellious America may disappear as we know it.

PERSONAL

There are so many things happening so quickly it is hard to determine what issues to examine. Lord willing, when we get settled in better, I will be able to “publish” more often. It has not been an easy task to move into Ohio.

We are trying to get settled into our new home, and it seems like we are trapped in “The Never Ending Story.” I have my bookshelves and books up. Though I should probably pass my library on to a younger man, I am not yet ready to “throw in the towel”.

We have been visiting various churches around, including the local Presbyterian Church. It is a big beautiful building, which is the only thing it has going for it. The building is a reminder of times gone past when the gospel was preached and the people willingly gave to the support of the gospel. All they have now is a lot of liturgy, and a short Bible story.

We visited another church which has a morning service 8 AM-9 AM. It is a traditional service, and lets out on time because the second “contemporary” service must start on time. However, they do take a stand on current social issues.

We visited another church not far from our daughter’s home in Loveland Ohio. It is a new church plant, about three years old. It was started by an elder of a Baptist church. It is a “community church”. Its order of worship is patterned after Presbyterian, and they preach the doctrines of the Reformation. They do not practice infant baptism, and they require “conversion” in order to partake of the Lord’s table. The pastor is in his mid 30s.

About the most impressive church we have visited is where our youngest daughter goes in Ft. Thomas, Kentucky. It is an hour from us on Sunday morning. It is very informal, with the preachers wearing blue jeans. They have music I would not necessarily support. (It seems that every church “band” must have drums, and the drummer feels everything revolves around him. The drums drown out whatever else might be going on. We notice that people tend to “dance” to the beat of the drums.) However, it is a church made up of young couples. It is a satellite church of a larger group, and the main pastor is often “piped in” on a screen. They are in a former shopping mall, and have pretty well taken it over. The Ft Thomas campus probably runs about 300-400. The room has been full every time we have been there.

(They do not take baptism lightly. Those desiring baptism must attend a “class”. Obviously, we did not go

to it, so we do not know what they discussed there. They do communion as would be done in a smaller group; passing the bread and wine.)

Between the two campuses. the church runs about 1500. (The two offerings listed in the “bulletin” were \$40,000 and \$69,000.)

The elders also preach. We have heard both the main pastor and the local elder preach. The main pastor started the ministry a good number of years ago. We met him (head shaved bald, wearing new jeans and nice shirt), at the satellite church. He said that he faced the reality that he would not always be there, and he needed good men to take over, so the ministry would not die with him. They are very strong on the reformed doctrine, and the local elder preached on Romans chapter 11. He was right down the line with the reformed doctrine. He dealt very well with the passage, particularly with “all Israel shall be saved”, giving the two options, but emphasizing Israel as the Elect in Christ. They also encourage Christian involvement in social issues.

The church has a ministry to the Muslims on a college campus.

All of that to say this: We are being told how young people are fleeing from the church, but here we see a hunger among the 20-40 year olds for sound, reformed doctrine. God is working as leaven in a loaf of bread. It is hidden, but it is there working to leaven the whole loaf.

We moved here to be close to three of our children and 15 of our grandchildren. Our son-in-law provides meat for his family through hunting. On the first day of youth hunting, their 14-year-old daughter got a six-point buck.

• GOOD NEWS ON THE CHOLESTEROL FRONT:

I recently had my first doctor’s appointment in order to get into the Chillicothe VA health care system. As required before a doctor’s visit, I had my blood work done. My cholesterol showed up at about 190, a level that previous doctors have really fussed about, and stressed a statin drug to lower the cholesterol. This doctor was very pleased with my level, so I commented that previous doctors had pushed statins. He told me that he had gone to a conference of VA doctors, and the common consensus was that statins were doing more harm than good, and he started listing the damage being done by those drugs. Evidently, the VA is getting away from pushing statin drugs.

IN MY OPINION

A friend from England included the following in an e-mail I received from him:

“Just the day before the vote to see if we should wage war in Syria, there are bomb alerts all over England. Sad times we live in!

May his wisdom and light prevail toward more diplomatic solutions to peace.”

• PSALMS 2 IN ACTION

God must be unseated in order for man fulfill his dream to be as god. The mighty men of the earth are counseling together in secret conspiracies to determine how to best overthrow the Lord and his anointed, so they can be the gods of the nations. I do not like to use the word “conspiracies”, for conspirators do not control history. However, we can legitimately use “conspirators” to describe those of Psalms 2:2.

Syria... We have known for years that nothing goes on in the national nor international scene that has not been planned behind closed doors. We can be assured that the situations on both the national and international scenes are going according to the secret counsels against the Lord.

“We” are simply the ones who must pay the bill and die for their empty dream of overthrowing God. As Bible believing Christians, we know that everything is working together for the Glory of God and for the good of those who are the called according to his purpose. God’s good purpose is to form the image of Christ in the elect. Furthermore, we know that the Lord sits in the heavens and laughs at their foolish efforts, as the ungodly fulfill His purpose. They shall fail, *e.g.*, the Tower of Babel!

Obama is importing a “radical Muslim” army from Syria, and is financing them both here and in Syria. All good Muslims are radical, for their religion demands that they seek the death of all who will not confess that “Allah” is god, particularly the death of Christians. When the Muslim population of a nation reaches 40%, they will start their violent overthrow of that nation.

Their system has worked through the centuries, so there is no need to doubt their plans today. The Muslims, “Black Lives Matter” and other radical groups over the world are simply tools in the hands of those who are counseling together against the Lord; they are being abundantly financed by those intent on overthrowing God. The rulers must create chaos, so they, as gods, can create their new order with military might out of that chaos they create.

The war now raging in Europe is coming to American soil. The differences being that Americans are armed, and are being encouraged to use their arms to protect themselves, their property and their families. Remember, all the shooting attacks are in “gun free zones”.

When we moved here, we had to go on to county water, so I went to the water company to put the water in our name. On the door, there was a sign “no guns allowed”. I asked the young lady if that sign made her feel safer. She said “No”. How stupid can men be to think a sign will stop those who are intent on murder! As our lawyer in Moorefield says, “They are idiots”.

Washington Times: “Legally armed citizens urged to act as deterrents against mass shootings, terrorism”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/dec/3/armed-citizenry-seen-as-mass-shooting-terrorism-de/>

There is a “Civil War” coming to our land as Obama tries to turn this nation over to the Muslims. Or that war may be between “the whites and blacks”, as is being promoted by the media. There are unbelievable sums of money being invested in the US to see that a “Civil War” takes place, which will give more power to the conspirators who are intent on overthrowing the Lord.

“Honest Abe Lincoln”

Honest, maybe like the misnomer, “Landslide Johnson”.

Lincoln’s war was financed by the Northern Banks which sought to enslave the Nation as a debtor:

See “Blood Money: The Civil War and the Federal Reserve” by John Graham.

“The author chronicles how the divisive antagonisms between the North and South, finally erupting in the spring of 1861, were deliberately agitated by great international banking houses with the goal of provoking secession. According to Graham, these private interests fully succeeded and set up a huge financial empire centered on Wall Street, using public debt as the source of their wealth. This watershed book explores the economic causes of the Civil War, revealing how the Civil War would not have happened had it not been planned and fomented by Northern capitalists.” (A worthy read.)

Lincoln changed the American Republic to a Democracy

“Think about the most famous apologia for democracy ever uttered. On November 19, 1863, at the Soldiers’ National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, President Abraham Lincoln, weak and lightheaded with an oncoming case of smallpox, made a speech that lasted for just over two minutes, and ended with his hope ‘that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the

people, shall not perish from the earth.'

"Those words have been quoted ever since, as the supreme vindication of representative government. Indeed, they are often quoted as proof of American exceptionalism. But the words were not Lincoln's. Most of his hearers would have recognized their source, as our generation does not. They came from the prologue to what was probably the earliest translation of the Holy Scriptures into the English language: **'This Bible is for the government of the people, for the people and by the people.'** The author was the theologian John Wycliffe, sometimes called 'the Morning Star of the Reformation.' Astonishingly, the words had first appeared in 1384."

Inventing Freedom: How the English-Speaking Peoples Made the Modern World. Pp 32, 33. From <https://hbdchick.wordpress.com/2014/01/01/of-the-people-by-the-people-for-the-people/>

"Government of the people, by the people and for the people" means mob-rule, Democracy, and a mob is easily controlled and directed. **"The Bible is..."** means rule of law, "Common Law" from Scripture with which everyone was familiar. Among other reasons, the northern War of Aggression was fought to change the civil government from the rule of law, a Republic, to mob rule, "Democracy". WWII was fought to make the "world safe for Democracy". That is, to further the change from rule of law to rule by an easily controlled mob. We saw in the Ferguson Riots that a few well placed dollars paid to imported and professional rioters moved the mob to burn down a city.

The sum of it all is that Christian law, or Common Law, must be replaced with pagan, humanistic law by whatever means necessary, including deceptions of the worse kind, lies, organized and controlled riots, physical war and outright murder.

The war is between two radically different law-orders: Humanistic vs Christian. (A change in the law means a change in the civil government.) Lincoln's war was against Calvinism, and its Biblical law order.

The great influx of refugees who have refused to fight for their homeland is not an unplanned event. The goal of the conspirators has always been to destroy any law-order that would undermine their plans, which includes not only Christian law, but laws as found in the Biblically based Constitution. Thus, any who operate outside of the conspirators' all-inclusive and odorous laws must be considered "outlaws", and dealt with as such.

Christian law is at war with humanistic law in whatever form that humanistic law takes. So every society that has been built on Christian law must be overthrown, so the law-order of man can be fully instituted. Any means of overthrowing "Common Law" is acceptable. (It is

all in God's predetermined plan for his own glory and for the benefit of the elect: Ps 76:10 *"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain."* Also, 2 Tim 3:9. The wrath of men will bring glory to God, and what wrath that does not bring glory to him will be restrained.)

One of the more exciting books you will ever read is *"The Great Siege, Malta 1565. Clash Of Cultures. Christian knights defend Western civilization against the Muslim tide."*

By Ernle Bradford. Open Road Integrated Media, Inc. 1961.

The back page reads:

"Suleiman the Magnificent, the most powerful ruler in the world, was determined to conquer Europe. Only one thing stood in his way: a dot of an island in the Mediterranean called Malta, occupied by the Knights of St. John, the cream of the warriors of the Holy Roman Empire. A clash of civilizations the likes of which had not been since Persia invaded Greece was shaping up. Determined to capture Malta and use its port to launch operations against Europe, Suleiman sent an armada and an overwhelming army. A few thousand defenders at Fort St. Elmo fought to the last man, enduring cruel hardship. When they captured the fort, the Turks took no prisoners and mutilated the defenders bodies. Grand Master La Vallette of the Knights reciprocated by decapitating his Turkish prisoners and using their heads to cannonade the enemy. Then the battle for Malta began in earnest: no quarter was asked, none given."

The author tells how the European monarchs failed to help the Knights, yet the Knights prevailed. Not counting the ships and men lost at sea, the Turks lost about 30,000 men. The Knights lost about 7000. If the Knights had lost the battle, Europe would have been Muslim, and there would have been no America.

The Turks, Muslims, attempted to conquer Europe with force of arms, and failed. They are now conquering Europe, and the US, with subterfuge, which is considered a legitimate tool of warfare, and with their high birth rate. Muslim men are allowed four wives, and families with 20 children are not unusual. Sadly, many of those wives over the centuries have been Christian women captured at the point of a sword. Their children are then trained in hatred and bloody warfare against Christians as soon as they can hold a gun.

Christian law has been overthrown in the church, replaced with humanistic law. The humanists' messages will make one feel good about himself as the messages proclaim an all-loving, non-judgmental god. The god being offered today is not the Tri-une God of creation. Now with support and financing from the US, the

“radical” Muslims are behind the great influx of pagan Muslim refugees into the “Western Christian nations”. Christian law is being overthrown in society.

(Russia is forcing the radicals in Syria out of Syria and into Turkey in order to force them into Germany. <http://www.infowars.com/donald-trump-tells-all-on-the-alex-jones-show/>)

It is obvious to me, that those in political power in the West want anti-Christian Muslims, or any anti-Christians for that matter, in their nations in order to secure their stranglehold on the nations. The logical conclusion is that the citizens of the various once Christian “Western” nations will demand more military force from their central governments in order to contain the Muslim riots in their communities, which will transfer more power to the political state.

The efforts toward all power being centralized in the select few elite in the North, which started with Lincoln, has strengthened greatly since WWII, as they continue to finance and reach for their desired “New World Order”. It may take another war to convince the people who must finance the war and die in it to accept that “order”. Sadly, when even good men get within that small circle of power, they become infested with the desire to increase and retain that power, “Potomac Fever”.

An all-powerful state requires the destruction of every vestige of opposition laws, particularly Christian law. The logical conclusion is that any who retain any opposition to the desires of the few elite, all-powerful state must be considered a terrorists, for they are a terror to the state that is seeking to enforce man’s tyrannical law. Military force will be used if necessary to bring the “terrorists” into compliance, and conditions will be formulated to cause the population to accept that force. Follow what is going on: Those who desire to follow the constitution, particularly the freedom to “carry”, and Christians who desire to follow Biblical Law are considered the worse terrorists in the nation.

We see that any new order must overturn the old order, even if it must be accomplished by military force. Obama is doing all he can to turn this once “Christian” nation into a Muslim nation, and Congress refuses to stop him.

• **EUROPE: ‘ISLAM IS COMING TO TAKE OVER’**

Exclusive: Pamela Geller warns Western nations of ‘full-blown invasion’

America, take heed.

A Muslim in Germany was caught on video last week saying this to a German man:

Islam is coming to take over Germany whether you want

it or not ... not through war but by the fact that Germans don’t reproduce and Muslims have seven to eight children each ... but not only that, your daughters will marry bearded Muslims and wear the hijab; their sons will wear a beard! The Muslims will have four wives and 27 children, and what does the German man have? One child and maybe a little pet dog! The German has taken advantage of the Muslim for too long, just so he can drive his Mercedes. ... Now Islam is coming and your daughters will wear the hijab! Ha! I can see the look of hate in your eyes! ...

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/11/europe-islam-is-coming-to-take-over/>

• **HE SPOKE THE TRUTH.**

City in Michigan First to Fully Implement Sharia Law

<NationalReport>In a surprise weekend vote, the city council of Dearborn, Michigan voted 4-3 to become the first US city to officially implement all aspects of Sharia Law. The tough new law, slated to go into effect January 1st, addresses secular law including crime, politics and economics as well as personal matters such as sexual intercourse, fasting, prayer, diet and hygiene.

The new law could see citizens stoned for adultery or having a limb amputated for theft. Lesser offenses, such as drinking alcohol or abortion, could result in flogging and/or caning. In addition, the law imposes harsh laws with regards to women and allows for child marriage....

<http://nationalreport.net/city-michigan-first-fully-implement-sharia-law/>

For two generations now, the West has been controlled by covetousness and greed. The American “establishment” promotes and finances a million murders a year. The result is a dearth of children, and what few are coming along are being trained in anti-Christ Humanism, as well as in the Muslim religion through the “public” education system. (Space prohibits listing all that the “public” schools are doing to force education in Mohamedism, while prohibiting education in Christianity and “Americanism”.) The spirit of the antichrist reigns in the West with no resistance from the “church”. The Old Testament shows that we can fully expect God to deliver us to the pagans.

MARSHAL LAW

First Time Since Nazi-Era: Germany Considers Deploying Military to Main Streets

Or will fear of being labeled a “racist” stop them from making this decision?

Here’s irony for you. Rather than deal with the problem properly from the beginning for fear of being labeled “racist,” Germany, overrun by terror-threats, now must resort to Nazi-era measures in order to keep its citizenry safe. ...

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/first-time-nazi-era-germany-considers-deploying-military-man-streets>

“P.C. witness ignored Middle Eastern men at Farook home—Feared being accused of ‘racially profiling those people’” <http://www.wnd.com/2015/12/p-c-witness-ignored-middle-eastern-men-at-farook-home/>

The facts must force this conclusion. There is purpose behind the West, particularly the US, financing “radical Muslims” to push Muslim, not Christian, “refugees” into the Western Nations, including into the US.

“Terrorism” means the all-powerful state will offer protection, but the state will not offer to stop the massive resettlement and occupation of the Muslims in the West. People will accept military “protection”, because the Muslims terrorists are being forced upon them.

We must pray for the Lord to raise up godly men with the courage to stand against the conspiracies of the ungodly rulers of this world to overthrow the Lord and his anointed.

We need to pray for stouthearted men, missionaries to go into the many Muslim colonization settlements now in the US.

REMEMBER

In 732 AD the Muslim Army which was moving on Paris was defeated and turned back at Tours, France, by Charles Martell.

...in 1571 AD the Muslim Army/ Navy was defeated by the Italians and Austrians as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to attack southern Europe in the Battle of Lepanto.

...in 1683 AD the Turkish Muslim Army, attacking Eastern Europe, was finally defeated in the Battle of Vienna by German and Polish Christian Armies.

...this has been going on for 1,400 years and half of these politicians don't even know it !!! [They do know it!]

...if these battles had not been won we might be speaking Arabic and Christianity could be non-existent; Judaism certainly would be... And let us not forget that Hitler was an admirer of Islam and that the Mufti of Jerusalem was Hitler's guest in Berlin and raised Bosnian Muslim SS Divisions: the 13th and 21st Waffen SS Divisions who killed Jews, Russians, Gypsies, and any other “subhumans”.

...in 1783 AD when the British Colonies that would become the United States of America gained independence from Great Britain, 5 Muslim countries of North Africa declared war on the newly independent country, hijacking and kidnapping merchant sailors and sell-

ing them for ransom, or into slavery. When the United States of America was established, we were forced to pay extortion fees amounting to 20 – 25% of our federal budget to those Muslim countries to keep them from their hijacking and kidnapping. It took two administrations, Washington and Adams, to build a sufficient Navy so that President Jefferson, in 1805, could send the Navy and Marines to conquer Tripoli and end the piracy. Islam has been at war with the USA since our founding.

• REFLECTING

A lot of Americans have become so insulated from reality that they imagine that America can suffer defeat without any inconvenience to themselves.

Pause a moment, reflect back. These events are actual events from history. They really happened!!

Do you remember?

1. In 1968, Bobby Kennedy was shot and killed by a Muslim male.

2. In 1972 at the Munich Olympics, athletes were kidnapped and massacred by Muslim males.

3. In 1972 a Pan Am 747 was hijacked and eventually diverted to Cairo where a fuse was lit on final approach, it was blown up shortly after landing by Muslim males.

4. In 1973 a Pan Am 707 was destroyed in Rome, with 33 people killed, when it was attacked with grenades by Muslim males.

5. In 1979, the US embassy in Iran was taken over by Muslim males.

6. During the 1980's a number of Americans were kidnapped in Lebanon by Muslim males.

7. In 1983, the US Marine barracks in Beirut was blown up by Muslim males.

8. In 1985, the cruise ship Achille Lauro was hijacked and a 70 year old American passenger was murdered and thrown overboard in his wheelchair by Muslim males.

9. In 1985, TWA flight 847 was hijacked at Athens, and a US Navy diver trying to rescue passengers was murdered by Muslim males.

10. In 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 was bombed by Muslim males.

11. In 1993, the World Trade Center was bombed the first time by Muslim males.

12. In 1998, the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed by Muslim males.

13. On 9/11/01, four airliners were hijacked; two were used as missiles to take down the World Trade Centers and of the remaining two, one crashed into the US Pentagon and the other was diverted and crashed by the

passengers. Thousands of people were killed by Muslim males.

14. In 2002, the United States fought a war in Afghanistan against Muslim males.

15. In 2002, reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and beheaded by---you guessed it was a--- Muslim male.

16. In 2013, Boston Marathon Bombing 4 Innocent people including a child killed, 264 injured by Muslim males.

17. In 2014, thousands of Christian men, women, and children are slaughtered, defiled, and beheaded by Muslim males.

No, I really don't see a pattern here to justify profiling, do you?

So, to ensure we Americans never offend anyone, particularly fanatics intent on killing us, airport security screeners will no longer be allowed to profile certain people.

Absolutely No Profiling! They must conduct random searches of 80-year-old women, little kids, airline pilots with proper identification, secret agents who are members of the President's security detail, 85-year old, Congressmen with metal hips, and Medal of Honor winner and former Governor Joe Foss, but leave Muslim Males, alone lest they be guilty of profiling.

Have the American people completely lost their Minds, or just their Power of Reason???

(copied)

ELECTION 2016

Did you see that Ted Cruz's citizenship is being challenged?

Now Ted Cruz faces eligibility challenge

Democrat pitbull says he'll 'absolutely' sue if Texan is nominee

Cheryl Chumley

"... Colmes' reply: "Well, his mother was born here so I guess like Obama, though it's interesting to me the people who had a problem with ... Obama's birth certificate don't have a problem with Ted Cruz, who literally was born in another country and renounced his Canadian citizenry..."

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/11/alan-grayson-dem-pitbull-ill-sue-ted-cruz/>

Cruz: Climate Change is Not Science - it's a Religion

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/cruz-climate-change-not-science-its-religion>

The Republican establishment did not challenge Obama, showing that they wanted him there. On the other hand, we can safely assume the same estab-

lishment will not defend Cruz, nor Trump, nor Carson, because they do not want them there.

Why the GOP establishment hates Donald Trump:
<http://www.newswithviews.com/Nelson/kelleigh252.htm>.

Nelson Hultberg - Donald Trump: Patriots' Choice: [newswithviews.com](http://www.newswithviews.com)

Secretive GOP Group Targets Trump for Destruction

Top Republican establishment forces are joining up to eliminate Donald Trump from the presidential race through a "guerrilla campaign," backed by secret donors, The Wall Street Journal reports Saturday.

http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/secret-gop-group-dump/2015/11/21/id/703109/?ns_mail_uid=81002676&ns_mail_job=1644031_11212015&s=al&dkt_nbr=oesjppqc
See also, <http://www.horsesenseblog.com/2015/07/with-all-criticism-what-do-we-really.html>

Drudge: Establishment will 'support Clinton' if Trump ...

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/261227-gop-donors-wrestle-with-possibility-of-trump-nomination>

There is an all out war by the GOP Establishment against Trump, and the weapons are deceit and outright lies.

(<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/noonan-gop-establishment-will-try-to-kill-trump/article/2573769>, <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/panicked-establishment-readies-for-war-against-trump/article/2574454>, <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/08/22/gop-consultant-lays-out-new-genius-plan-to-take-down-trump-how-brutus-killed-caesar-get-close-then-shiv-him-in-the-ribs/>.)

The "establishment" hates Trump because he is beyond their control. Trump even stopped the only "Super Pac" that was supporting him, and made them return the money to the donors. I do not know that I trust him, but he has forced the Establishment to acknowledge him: **"Speaker Paul Ryan vows to restore Americans' 'confidence,' promises conservative agenda"**.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/dec/3/ryan-promise-conservative-agenda-confront-obama/>

It seems the Establishment's man, Paul Ryan sees the "writing on the wall," as he tries to connect with the "average" man by telling the base what it wants to hear. He would have us believe he is an average man, even growing a beard!!

Ben Carson Backs White House's TPP Trade Deal:
<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/11/06/ben-carson-backs-white-houses-tpp-trade-deal/>

Dr. Ben Carson Condemns Pro-Lifers, Pro-Lifers Return the Favor

On CBS's Face the Nation Sunday morning, Carson said, "Hateful rhetoric exacerbates the situation... You don't ever solve them [problems] with hateful rhetoric.

Both sides should tone down the rhetoric and engage in civil discussion.” ...

Bryan Kemper of Stand True Ministries and founder of Rock for Life, says:

“We can never tone down calling the killing of innocent children what it is. Abortion is nothing short of an act of homicide and until we can bring it to an end pro-lifers must not tone down anything but actually stand stronger than ever before. ...”

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/11/30/dr-ben-carson-condemns-pro-lifers-pro-lifers-return-favor/>

“STATIST EDUCATION” SELF-DESTRUCTS

By JENNIFER C. KERR

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Results from national math and reading tests show slipping or stagnant scores for the nation's schoolkids.... The falling mathematics scores for fourth and eighth graders mark the first declines in math since 1990. ...

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_NATIONS_REPORT_CARD?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2015-10-28-04-16-08

- **‘COMPLETE ANARCHY’ AS OBAMA INVADES GIRLS’ SHOWERS**

Feds force school to comply with ‘profoundly stupid’ rule. The Department of Education is demanding that an Illinois school district allow a boy who identifies as a girl and plays sports on a girl’s team to have full access to the locker room and showers with the girls on the team. ...

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/11/complete-anarchy-transgender-boy-hits-girls-showers/>

- **STUDENTS FORCED TO DENY GOD OR FAIL ASSIGNMENT**

“A kid was literally graded against her faith in God in a classroom.”

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/students-forced-deny-god-or-fail-assignment>

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/tx-district-sides-god-myth-teacher-says-student-lying>

- **DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: 93% NOT PROFICIENT IN READING; 96% NOT PROFICIENT IN MATH**

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/detroit-public-schools-93-not-proficient-reading-96-not-proficient>

Note: “total expenditures” of \$18,361 per student. “Nationwide, only 33% of public school eighth-graders scored proficient or better in reading in 2015 and only 32% scored proficient or better in mathematics.” (How can it take 12 years to fail to teach the “3Rs”?)

- **DETROIT REPORT CARD: STUDENTS FAILING BUT TEACHERS “HIGHLY EFFECTIVE”**

The teachers in Detroit public school system are rated “highly effective.” But academically, it’s the nation’s worst-performing urban school district.

http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/education/item/21870-detroit-report-card-students-failing-but-teachers-highly-effective?utm_content=ovid&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=&utm_campaign=Across%20Africa%252C%20Obama%20Expands%20Secret%20Wars%252C%20Assassinationscontent

- **NUMBER OF AMERICANS ‘CERTAIN’ ABOUT GOD FALLS TO 63 PERCENT**

The proportion of Americans who say they are “absolutely certain” God exists has dropped sharply from 71 percent to less than two thirds, the Pew Research Center said Tuesday.

The “public schools have done their job well, with Christian support.

http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/US-religion/2015/11/03/id/700336/?ns_mail_uid=81002676&ns_mail_job=1641745_11032015&s=al&dkt_nbr=huwehoqs

- **PEW POLL: YOUNG ADULTS LOSING THEIR RELIGION, POLITICS COINCIDES**

You can guess which political group is keeping the faith.

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/pew-poll-young-adults-losing-their-religion-politics-coincides>

- **EXCELENT UTUBE: WHY MEN ARE GIVING UP ON MARRIAGE**

<http://www.infowars.com/report-why-men-are-giving-up-on-marriage/>

DISCERNING THE TIMES

By Larry Lilly

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: “2 Tim 3:1

That we live in perilous times is a given. Just how perilous are the times seems to mystify most people who admit to worrying about them. Some, unaware of history or the Bible honestly believe there “has never been a time like this.” Of course this is not true. Times very much like this was the norm in the days of Noah and according to Jesus, those days are to return in what is known as the “last days.” Note Luke 17:26 “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:” To get the full impact note the context as revealed in the following three verses:

Lu 17:27 “They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted,

they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.”

A glance as well as a thorough word study, reveals the face of the scriptures that in each “time” something involving a breach of marriage protocol is going on, along with several other planks of civilization being thrown overboard, no one doubts that violence filled the land.

The history of those past times reads much like our daily news. Recent decisions by the United States Supreme Court have set those who are throwing away all restraint and attempting to relegate the scripture to fantasy land, are celebrating, though blood is running in the streets due to lawlessness in high places.

A few weeks ago I pointed out to the congregation I pastor that 15 of the 26 books of the New Testament were written while Nero was the Roman Emperor. Many have never been told of the debauched nature of this Roman who mainly know of him for fiddling while Rome burned. (Actually he played the Lyre as the Violin wasn't invented until much later).

During the reign of this mad man, who for a while traveled the Empire as the female/wife of a male Sodomite.

Later he took Sporus, a 12 year old boy as his wife, married him in grand ceremony and the boy traveled as Nero's wife. The boy was castrated, wore a wig, and was introduced as the Empress.

When Nero passed, the next Emperor took Sporus to wife. Sporus committed suicide at age 20. So, there is nothing new in this, except the approval/celebrating such by some facets of the professing church.

The scripture is replete with the destructive nature of Sodomy and in O.T. times when revival broke out the temple was cleansed of the Sodomites who had crept in! In 1Corinthians 5 Paul records the sordid account of a professing Christian indulging in an affair with his own mother. Paul deals with this by insisting on the expulsion of the man. (In 2Corinthians, after the man repented Paul insists on the church forgiving/restoring the man. Immediately following the expulsion of the man from the church Paul writes in 1Co 5:9,

“I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extor-

tioner--not even to eat with such a person. 12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?”

As a flag waving American I was saddened to see the gay flag colors lighting the White House. But not any more so than when some years ago it was revealed that seances were being conducted there. Yet as a Christian Pastor, a Bible believing one at that, I must line up with Paul and state simply, emphatically, that the Lord's people must stand firm, as Paul instructs in 1Corinthians 5 among numerous other passages.

Ralph Emerson wrote concerning the times, “This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.”

Dr. Francis Schaeffer asked concerning the times, “How Should We Then Live?” the defining book of recent times concerning the demise of Western Culture. I note in passing that his book was on the same page as the Apostles 2000 years ago. The Bible and Dr. Schaeffer's book point out a forgotten truth encapsulated in this statement: “The way a person lives is based on how they view the world. Ideas are not without consequences.” [Gothard said “A man's morality will dictate his theology!” Ed.]

The Apostle Paul aided in understanding Emerson's statement as he wrote, in essence that Christians are to live life in the power of the Spirit, submitting our life to biblical instruction concerning righteousness.

The current rage is to cry loud and spare not concerning the portending Sodomite invasion of the church, worrying about “loss of special State treatment if we resist.” Yet, the problem with truly effective resistance is clearly visible in the compromise of cultural evil listed along with the sin of Sodomy. A partial list is found in 1Corinthians 5 notes; sexual sins, covetous, extortioners, idolaters, revilers and drunkards.

Moderns have changed the names of a few of the above sins. However, changing the name of a drunkard to alcoholic, or Sodomite to Gay, does not change the heart of the beneficiary of the name change.

To clear any confusion I add that God can and will save lost Sodomites and forgive and restore repentant ones as is laid out so beautifully here:

1Co 6:9, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but

you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

Note Peter’s take on the challenge of his time and ours: 1Pe 4:17, “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

The New Testament Temple is the body of believers where The Holy Spirit dwells and revival begins in our heart by surrendering spaces that have been held tightly for our own use. I Surrender All is a good song now for Christians.

Against the dark backdrop of corrupt culture, Christians are given clear plans to counter and conquer the culture, regardless of its denigration. Here’s a few thoughts:

“Christians who understand biblical truth and have the courage to live it out can indeed redeem a culture, or even create one. This is the challenge facing all of us in the new millennium.” Charles Colson How Now Shall We Live.

2Co 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Php 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

The power of the early church on fire for God changed hearts and the culture. They had the same cultural problems facing us. They also had fire of the spirit we lack. Now you know the times and how we must live to prevail.

So what will you do?

“As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.” Joshua.

(Larry Lilly’s Journal, 8/15. PO Box 5212, Terre Haute, IN 47805. larrylilly@larrylilly.net)

OBAMA’S PILGRIMS

By Bradford Richardson

This Thanksgiving, President Obama is calling for Americans to lend a helping hand to another group of pilgrims fleeing persecution.

“Nearly four centuries after the Mayflower set sail, the world is still full of pilgrims – men and women who want nothing more than the chance for a safer, better future for themselves and their families,” Obama said in his weekly address Thursday. “What makes America

America is that we offer that chance.”...

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/261368-obama-syrian-refugees-are-like-pilgrims-on-the-mayflower>
(Gallup: Syrians Don’t want to come to America. They would chose Europe or stay in Middle East. <http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/gallup-syrians-dont-want-come-america>)

I must agree with Obama this time. The Pilgrims came over to colonize and claim this land for King Jesus through the proclaiming of the gospel of peace. Obama is bringing the Syrian refugees here with the same purpose: colonize and clam this land for their demon god, “Allah”, as they have claimed lands through the centuries; that is, through the gospel of war. Their weapons are not only carnal weapons that kill the body, but weapons that conquer the mind. They use lies and deceits to gain entrance into a nation, and when they get up around 30% to 40% of the population, then they start using carnal weapons to gain total control of that nation. Thus, Obama is bringing the Muslims in by the tens of thousands, which will obviously consist of a great number of the followers of “Allah” who will willingly sacrifice their lives to take control of this land in the name of “Allah”. They have claimed their first city, with many more to come.

Does not this murdering, covetous adulterous nation deserve what is coming upon it? Was not the first covenant made upon landing here an agreement that if the people departed from the God of the Pilgrims, that he would judge? (Mayflower Compact.) Evil runs through the streets as blood up to the horses’ bridle, while the “church” sits unconcerned in the pews hoping for a good feeling.

Jeremiah 32:19 *“Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:”*

Ephesians 1:11 *“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”*

Isaiah 46:10 *“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”*

Daniel 4:35 *“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”*

His will is being done. Who will come forth as fine gold through the refining fires that are coming?

American Freedoms: From Shelves “guns, flags, Bibles simply disappear... And we do not care!”

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/11/american-freedoms-gone-from-shelves/>

Amozon bans non-pc book, "Nobody Died at Sandy Hook". <http://americanfreepress.net/podcast/JimFetzerNobodyDiedAtSandyHookBanned.mp3>

KILLING AN OCEAN

By: Devvy, November 29, 2015

It's heart breaking. It's devastating. How do you clean up a dying ocean?

The predictable tragedy at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011, continues to destroy fish, mammals and critically important ecosystems in the Pacific Ocean. TEPCO and the Japanese government have allowed one of the greatest crimes against humanity to spread devastation and destruction not only to the Japanese people in the area who have suffered massive cancer rates, illnesses and loss of their livelihoods, but an ocean now affecting us whether you live on the East coast or San Francisco.... [You will have to read this article and its documentation to believe it. Ed.]

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Devvy/kidd696.htm>

AMERICA'S FIRST MUSLIM CITY

Earlier this month, a blue-collar city in Michigan that has been home to Polish Catholic immigrants and their descendants for more than a century became what demographers think is the first jurisdiction in the nation to elect a majority-Muslim council, as the Washington Post reports.

However, that simply caps a population shift that has been going on over the last decade. In 2013, Hamtramck became the first majority-Muslim city in the nation after thousands of immigrants from Yemen, Bangladesh and Bosnia moved in. ...

The Polish people think we were invading them," said Masud Khan, one of the mosque's leaders, recalling that time in an interview earlier this month. **"We were a big threat to their religion and culture. Now their days are gone."** ... ("Christian" America's days are gone. Ed.)

Last week during one of his appearances on Fox News, Col. West mentioned the Muslim Brotherhood's Explanatory Memorandum which details the group's plans to bring about a "civilization jihad in North America, specifically:

"Enablement of Islam in North America, meaning: establishing an effective and a stable Islamic Movement led by the Muslim Brotherhood which adopts Muslims' causes domestically and globally, and which works to expand the observant Muslim base, aims at unifying and directing Muslims' efforts, presents Islam as a civilization

alternative, and supports the global Islamic State wherever it is."

You may want to pretend this isn't happening before your eyes. You may want to believe this can't possibly be true. You may want to call Allen West Islamophobic. Fair enough. But don't do any of that read this document.

Then make up your mind.

<http://www.allenbwest.com/2015/11/already-here-meet-americas-first-muslim-majority-city/>

A LAMENTATION

2 Samuel 1:19 "... *how are the mighty fallen!* 20 *Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.*"

Here we have David's lamentation over the death of Saul and his son Jonathan. Saul had departed from God's way many years previous, and had spent his years in his foolish endeavor of chasing a flea. Saul's death was not a victorious death, yet David laments over him as though he had followed God's will all of his life.

September 10, 2015, I received word that the pastor under whom I served (1974-1982) in Louisiana had passed away. (He was a year younger than I.) The church was close to Barksdale AFB, and a large percentage of families were AF. I was saved there in 1977 shortly before I was to be ordained there. About 60% of the church was saved at that time. (See my booklet "The Other Jesus".)

A friend of mine from Indianapolis who had attended the Bible Institute at the first church where I served "full-time" had ended up in Louisiana with this pastor. The pastor had asked him if he knew anyone who could come down and take over the visitation ministry. He suggested me, and we moved down from Maryland to Louisiana.

The pastor was a very charismatic man and an excellent preacher. He had gone to Hyles-Anderson College, but did not finish, for he wanted to get out and preach. Though he had just started college, he quit. I do not remember how he ended up in Louisiana. Counting the bus routes, the church ran about 600 when we went down. I first became involved in politics while I was there, as we helped get the county prosecutor elected.

Starting in 1970 at Indianapolis, I was steeped in the Hyles' "soul-winning" mentality. With that mentality, I went to Louisiana to be in charge of their "visitation, soul-willing ministry". (I spent many days in "door to door" visitation, particularly bus route follow-up.) It was not until 1977 and my salvation that I started to be delivered from that destructive theory. At that time,

1977, the pastor started to realize the serious problems of people continually coming to the altar for “assurance”. We started dealing with them as lost sinners, and that solved the problem. (See my “tract”, “The Other Jesus.”)

He introduced me to the practical side of pastoring that certainly is not taught in “college”: working with people in community involvement, weddings, funerals, &c. (Every young man who desires to be a pastor should serve an apprenticeship under a Godly pastor.)

His personality gave him open doors into any area he wanted involvement, including the political arena. (He talked me into running for a council seat as a Republican. Of course, the Republican party welcomed me just to have a Republican on the ticket in an overwhelming Democrat area. They financed me.) I remember going with him to a local city official who had high aspirations, which he later obtained. The man told us that politics is seeing which way the herd is moving, then running out front and saying, “Follow me”. How right he was. It was also in Louisiana where we learned the danger of local zoning laws.

The pastor started having sciatic nerve pain. He found relief in pain pills, so he could continue to preach. The doctors warned him that he needed to rest to get relief from the pain. He admitted that because of the great work “he was doing”, he believed that the Lord would not lay him aside. He found several doctors to provide the pills. He finally realized his desperate situation, but by then he felt he could do nothing about it. Rather than seek help for drug addiction, he continued with the pills. After some time, he knew he could not pastor the church in such a condition, so one Sunday night, he admitted the pride which kept him from seeking help, and resigned.

There was great “weeping and wailing” that night. He then quickly deserted his family and community, and disappeared. No one knew where he went.

With his high recommendation to the church that night, he “appointed” his brother-in-law, who was the youth pastor, to take his place. The church took his advice. The brother-in-law was also a Hyles-Anderson graduate. Within a short time, the church disintegrated. That man is not in the ministry now.

I remained under the new pastor until another friend from the time I was in Indianapolis and had recommended me to the work in Maryland, recommended me to the church at Linden, Indiana. I remained there until a year after Carol died. I remarried a widow, and moved to Bettie’s house in Virginia.

A short time after we moved to Linden, the former

Louisiana pastor and his friend from Indiana showed up needing money. At that time, he sold me what he had left of his library. He had moved to Indianapolis where his friend lived, and tried to start a church. I spoke for him one time there, not knowing that he had remarried. He had married a widow who had some money. After he spent all her money, they were divorced and he remarried again, and moved to Tennessee where he continued to preach. I kept up with his addresses on my mailing list, but he refused to speak with me on the phone.

After his death, I learned from one of his daughters that he had completely divorced his family, and had absolutely no contact with any of his 5 children.

His viewing was 11/11/15, and his funeral was the 12th. His funeral was only a graveside service. I wanted to go down to honor the man he was when I knew him, and to empathize with those I knew then. Bad traffic conditions prevented our arrival on time for the viewing, and I could not wait for the “graveside”.

He admitted his pride to the congregation when he resigned.

Pride is a destructive beast that we must face. Let’s review a few things about pride:

1828 Webster, **PRIDE**, *noun*

Webster gives several definitions, but we will only refer to the two that apply here.

“1. Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one’s own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.”

Having the same father, Adam, we have his fallen nature. So we all must deal with pride in our heart, even contempt, or looking down on others when they do not meet our standards. (1 Jn 1:8) We must work to keep it contained, but it does break out, and invade our minds. However, we have a Great High Priest in the heavens who “ever liveth to make intercession for” the elect of God. (Heb 7:25)

“**PRIDE**, *verb transitive*. With the reciprocal pronoun, to *pride* one’s self, to indulge pride; to take pride; to value one’s self; to gratify self-esteem. They *pride* themselves in their wealth, dress or equipage. He *prides* himself in his achievements.”

Obadiah 1:3 “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?”

Those with great human ability are very susceptible to being deceived into thinking they are special, and in-

dispensable to God. They are self-destructed.

Hosea 13:9 "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help."

Proverbs 16:17 "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. 18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

"Keepeth" "to guard, watch, watch over, keep."

[He] that keepeth his way... That is, the individual that keepeth his way in the way of righteousness, a statement that seems to be contrary to v. 9 ("A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.") and many other similar passages, but this proverb places the responsibility squarely upon the individual for his actions. Clearly, the individual is responsible to walk in the right path and preserve his own soul.

When one gets out of God's precincts, he is out of his protection. See the old B&W Martin Luther movie. As long as he remained in the precinct of the prince who was protecting him, neither king nor pope could harm him. (The 500th anniversary of his challenge to Rome is quickly approaching, 1517-2017. Reformation Sunday will be the day after Halloween, 2017. Show the film.)

It was common in those days for a prince of protect his subjects from the pope or crown.

William Tyndale:

"We do not know who planned and financed the plot that ended his life (whether English or continental authorities), but we do know it was carried out by Henry Phillips, a man who had been accused of robbing his father and of gambling himself into poverty. Phillips became Tyndale's guest at meals and soon was one of the few privileged to look at Tyndale's books and papers.

In May 1535, Phillips lured Tyndale away from the safety of his quarters and into the arms of soldiers. Tyndale was immediately taken to the Castle of Vilvorde, the great state prison of the Low Countries, and accused of heresy."

(<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/131christians/scholarsandscholars/tyndale.html?start=2>)

What lures us from our place of safety? Often it is pride.

[V. 18] "Here being dashed in pieces and overthrown correspond. [It] means neither bursting (Hitzig) nor shipwreck (Ewald). ... [means] to totter, and hence, as a consequence, to come to ruin... This proverb, which stands in the very centre of the Book of Proverbs, is followed by another in praise of humility." (K-D)

"In this verse we find the following Masoretic note in most Hebrew Bibles. chasi hassepher: "the middle of the book." This verse is the middle verse; and the first clause

makes the middle of the words of the book of Proverbs." (Clarke)

Pride has been the ruin of many of God's people, especially of those with a "charismatic" personality. It is so easy to yield to the temptation to feel we are indispensable to the Lord, and we soon are fallen by the wayside. Pride is an ugly beast that stalks us all, waiting for the opportunity to pounce and devour.

"Goeth" is added to the text. Thus, "pride before destruction." In other words, See the proud, haughty, self-confident person? Beware, for destruction follows close behind. It has been said, 'so far as any man is proud, he is kin to the devil, and a stranger to God and to himself.'

Both Scripture and history contain many examples of pride and the resulting destruction.

God clearly marks the way, and makes it easy for the upright to do right. The danger of "falling" is in the area where we feel the most secure, e.g., Moses.

V. 19, as does the next few verses, goes with the previous.

The wise man says that it is far better (more happy, more honorable, more acceptable to God and man) to be identified as a humble person, than it is to divide the spoil with the proud. (However, a humble "spirit" in appearance and words, can be impressive, yet pride rules in the heart: "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee" and is able to deceive others.)

It is evident that very few people really believe v. 19, as they work to be lifted up in the eyes of their friends and of the world. James 3:3, 4, speaks of the small bits turning about the horses and the small helm turning about the large ships. Then in v. 5, the tongue "boasteth great things", which speaks of pride defiling the whole body, and controlling the whole person.

Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

"Keep with all diligence", as one would keep guard on a high security prison. On our way to one of our daughters' home, we pass a nice, new and very expensive "public" school. The building is very plain, and looks just like one of the high security prisons we pass going to the VA hospital in Chillicothe OH. The only thing missing at the school is the chain link fence topped with razor wire. It is a state prison for young people's indoctrination, and is very depressing to look at.

The heart is to be captive to the word of God, and every effort is to be made to keep it within those confines. Referring again to the old Martin Luther film -- standing before the King, he was asked to renounce his writings. He told the king that his conscience was bound by

the word of God, and he could not renounce what was written. "Here I stand. I can do no other."

Our conscience or heart must be bound by the word of God, and great diligence taken to see that it does not escape, for if left unchecked, it does not require much pride to cause a fall. (Proverbs 16:18) It is far better to deal with that little pride while it is still small, than refuse to heed instructions or seek counsel. If allowed to grow, it will increase control until it destroys completely.

Though Saul died a shameful death, David laments, "How are the mighty fallen! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph."

Might we learn from our Master to humble ourselves in the manner pleasing to Him.

A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS!

EXODUS 19:3-6

We catch up with Israel here three months after the Lord's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. They had seen the hand of the Lord when He parted the Red Sea and then destroyed Pharaoh's army in the Sea. That should have been enough to convince the people of the might and power of the God of Israel. But like men of all ages, they soon forgot God's workings, and went back to their old way, a story that is repeated over the next several centuries. (Biblically, "God" means the Tri-une God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

Israel's history is one of God's blessings, then toleration of sin, then admiration of the ways of the surrounding pagans, then imitation of their ways, and then the judgment from God. Judgment would bring the people to repentance and back to God, but it would not be long until they again forgot God, and the cycle started over again. Israel's history is typical of every generation. It is obvious that men seldom learn from the past mistakes of their ancestors, e.g., Ahaz.¹

Paul told the Corinthians that God recorded His dealings with national Israel to serve as a warning.² Realizing that the end of the Jewish age was fast approaching, Paul warned against tempting Christ by believing that all things would continue as they were with no judgment.³

While camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai, Moses answered God's call, and went up unto God in the mountain. There the Lord gave the responsibilities to those He redeemed out of bondage:

"Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the chil-

dren of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my commandments, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel" (Ex. 19:3-6)

For reasons known only to Himself, God chose to love and redeem Israel out of bondage. His redemption was for a purpose: he redeemed and delivered them to be His special people, to "*be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.*"⁴ He then gave them a clear "*if-then*" covenant-promise, as is common throughout Scripture. It was clearly a promise based upon a condition, and the people said, "*All that the Lord hath spoken we will do*"⁵ If they did not keep their side of the covenant, **then** they agreed that His wrath would be upon them.

God reminded Job that He does not have to explain His actions to any man.⁶ Paul asked the believers at Rome who "*hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?*"⁷ Redemption, or salvation of the individual is according to God's own purpose, "*being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*"⁸ Furthermore, in anticipation of man's objections to the right of God to do as He pleases, Paul warns against questioning God, for He is the potter with power over the clay.⁹

God works all things according to His own pleasure, for His own glory, and for the good of His people. The twenty-four elders (symbolic of all the redeemed of all time) seen by John around the throne fell down before Him and worshiped Him, saying, "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*"¹⁰ After discussing God's dealings with Israel and the way He planned to bring the Gentiles into His kingdom, Paul said that God's ways and judgments are beyond man's comprehension.¹¹ Only fools believe they can find out the way of the God of heaven and earth.

Paul knew that difficult days lay in the immediate future for the men of his generation, so he sought to give them some grounds for rejoicing even in the midst of severe trials. He knew many would refuse the truth of the gospel, and in his letter to the saints at Thessalonica, he told them not to let their faith be shaken by the

teachers where casting doubt by “saying, *Where is the promise of his coming?*”¹²

Some were teaching that the second coming of Christ was very near, but Paul told the saints at Thessalonica that some things had to happen before that glorious event occurred, including the revelation of one that he called “*that Wicked [One]...whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming*” Paul said that many people in his day would be deceived by *that Wicked [One]*.¹³

These words applied to the believers to whom Paul was writing. They were the ones who would live to see the return of Jesus in judgment against those who crucified him, but only after the “man of sin” (a man alive at that time, probably Nero) had been destroyed. All this took place before 70 A.D.

Paul said the believers had cause for rejoicing, even in the face of the terrible trials they were facing, for God had chosen them from the beginning.¹⁴

Jesus told His disciples upon their return from the first missionary journey that the real cause for rejoicing lay not in the fact that He had given them power over devils through His name, but rather, they were to rejoice, “*because your names are written in heaven*”¹⁵

Nothing is more blessed than to know that one has been chosen of God to be numbered as one His children.¹⁶ Peter urged the saints to whom he wrote, to “*give diligence to make your calling and election sure*”.¹⁷ Moreover, Christ made it clear that the choice was His, not man’s.¹⁸

“Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my commandments, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel” (Ex. 19:3-6)

His purpose for national Israel was for them to evangelize the world by showing the wisdom, holiness and power of God through their lives.¹⁹ King David and then his son, Solomon, fulfilled that purpose for a short time, and the “whole world” sought after Solomon to see the wisdom and glory that God had bestowed upon him.²⁰ But national Israel failed miserably, and the “*if-then*” covenant was fulfilled as God judged their violation of that covenant. Yet God preserved them in spite of their sin, for it was to be through national Israel and the tribe of Judah that the promised Prophet, Priest and

King would come.²¹

When John saw a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals he wept much because no one was found worthy to open the book, neither to look therein, then “*one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof*”.²²

When Mary was informed that she had been selected to be the mother of the Messiah/Redeemer-King the angel said “*Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS.*”²³

When Joseph learned that Mary was with child, he was ready to put her away privately, “*But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins*”²⁴

The Lord chose the nation of Israel as the vehicle through whom the Saviour would come into the world. When Jesus talked with the woman at the well in Samaria. He told her that her concept of salvation was in error:

“Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:21-22)

At the right time in history the fullness of the God-head came down as a man to dwell among His creation, so he could be their perfect Mediator and make the New Israel of God complete in Him.²⁵

The honour of producing the Redeemer-King was given to national Israel, yet they rejected Him, crying out, “*We will not have this man to reign over us*”, and then killed Him.²⁶ “*He came unto his own, and his own received him not*”.²⁷

Because of their national rejection of Jesus as the Messiah/Redeemer-King, the kingdom was removed from national Israel and given to the new Spiritual Israel of God, a nation that would bring forth fruit. (The Gospel Church.)²⁸

Thus, because national Israel refused to fulfill its calling to be God’s *kingdom of priests, and an holy nation*, and rejected its Messiah-King, the kingdom was removed from them and given to another nation. That nation would be the “*chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of dark-*

ness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy".^{29v} John wrote of the new song sung by the great multitude of saints gathered from every nation and tongue.³⁰

The new Israel of God has great glory waiting for them.³¹ They have been "raised up together, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come (from Paul's time) he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"³²

Paul wrote during the transitional period between the resurrection of Jesus and His glorious return in judgment, which I believe, occurred in 70 A.D. Jesus came in judgment on wicked Israel and poured out His wrath on them just as He had predicted when He delivered in the Olivet Discourse.³³

Even though there is still much sin and wickedness in the world, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is ruling and reigning with Him today. The church exists to give glory to God by preaching the gospel of His free grace to all men.

"15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." (Gal. 6)

Note: "as many as walk according to this rule" will be the Israel of God with his peace and mercy.

National Israel's responsibility was to be a kingdom of priests and an holy nation to the pagan world. Through Christ, that responsibility has been transferred to the spiritual Israel of God. Yet being in Christ does not exempt the new Israel of God from "if-then" and the serious judgment for failing in her responsibility.³⁴

All of the redeemed are made a part of that "chosen generation", that "holy nation" and His "royal priesthood". They are commanded to be the "peculiar people" of God. They are to speak and show forth to the surrounding pagan world the glory and praises of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.

"CHRISTMAS TIME"

The purpose of the coming of the King was not to provide a Holiday from work, nor a time of unrestrained partying and drunkenness and gluttony, nor to have an excuse for "giving of gifts", nor family reunions.

Christ came to redeem and prepare a "particular" people for Himself; a people to be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, and who would properly represent the "Lord and his anointed" to the pagan world. The re-

deemed are called upon to advance the Kingdom of God on earth. The covenant responsibilities which national Israel failed to fulfill is now with spiritual Israel, for "if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my commandments", "then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people".

"Christmas Time" is a time for Christians to celebrate the coming of the One Who redeems, and, by His sovereign grace, equips His people to fulfill the covenant to be that holy nation of priests to the pagan world.

God's people have embraced paganism, and the "then" results of the "if then" covenant are upon us.

NOTES

¹II Chron. 28:1, ²I Cor. 10:6 ³I Cor. 10:9-11 ⁴Deut. 7:6-8 ⁵Ex. 19:8 ⁶Job 38:2-4 ⁷Rom. 11:34-35 ⁸Eph. 1:11-12 ⁹Rom. 9:20-24 ¹⁰Rev. 4:11 ¹¹Rom. 11:33-36 ¹²II Thess. 2:1, 2, 2 Peter 3 ¹³II Thess. 2:8-13 ¹⁴I Thess. 2:13 ¹⁵Luke 10:20 ¹⁶Eph. 1:4-6 ¹⁷II Pet. 1:10 ¹⁸John 15:16 ¹⁹Deut. 4:6 ²⁰Matt. 12:42 ²¹Gen. 49:10, Heb. 7:14 ²²Rev. 5:5 ²³Luke 2:30-31. ²⁴Matt. 1:20-21 ²⁵John 1:14, Col. 2:9-11 ²⁶Luke 19:14 ²⁷John 1:11 ²⁸Matt. 21:33-46, John 15:16. ²⁹I Pet. 2:7-10, Rev. 1:4-6 ³⁰Rev. 5:9-10 ³¹I Pet. 1:3-5, Rom. 8:18, I Cor. 2:9-10 ³²Eph. 2:6-7 ³³Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, Rev. ³⁴John 14:15, 15:10

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