

# The Biblical Examiner

*Since 1985, seeking first the Kingdom of God and its Advancement*

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

Our Mediator

## VICTORY IN JESUS

### HEBREWS 2:1-8

(We sing the song, but we restrict the words to simply “personal salvation.”)

I have been going through Hebrews in my weekly studies, and making those studies available through Dropbox to those who have expressed a desire to have them. I send them a link, so they can download each study. I just placed Hebrews 5:6-14 in Dropbox. After things calm down from our move, I hope to get back to providing a weekly lesson.

Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fpqpcsi8e0cjrz6/AACGA01-q0v3HXm24L7674Xqa?dl=0>

As every teacher has found, there are more good lessons in any book of the Bible than one can ever cover. I find it a joy to study through a book of the Bible with various theologians, developing the implication of Scripture and of their comments. My favorite theologians over the years have been mostly Presbyterians. I prefer material published before 1915. That seems to be about the time that “fluff” started taking over, though there are several good theologians since then.

So I will probably publish several studies out of Hebrews as I proceed in the book.

I have been amazed at how many Christians are afraid of the word Dominion, and even mock and rebel against it. But subdue, subjection and similar terms mean dominion. The Christian view of dominion means bringing everything into conformity to the Law-word of Christ. Dominion must start with dominion over one’s own spirit. Without self-dominion, or self-control under God, the whole world will continue to lie in wickedness.

Notice all the efforts of the world to destroy godly, individual self-control. The enemy realizes that as self-control is destroyed, chaos will develop. The result of the chaos is that people will accept, even request more control by the state, even military control. The “Posse

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Comitatus Act of 1878” is dead.

The entire book of Hebrews emphasizes the victory of Jesus Christ. V. 7 clearly tells us that through His victory, the Redeemed have the responsibility to take dominion in the name of Christ “over the works of thy hands.”

Psalms 45 is a psalm of the final victory of Jesus Christ over all principalities, powers and every name that can be named. Those in Christ are partakers of that victory as they sit in him in heavenly places.

His victory is based upon his mediation work that makes his people more than conquers through the Second Adam, Jesus Christ who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. We being in the Second Adam are commanded and empowered to do what the First Adam failed to do.

**Genesis 2:26** “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*” (Heb 2:8)

**1 Timothy 2:5** “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*”

As I have been studying and teaching through Hebrews, it has dawned on me that generally modern day Christians have no idea of the significance of, nor the importance and power of the Mediation work of Christ.

We view that work simply as forgiveness of sin and freedom to stand in the presence of God.

But Christ's mediation work is far more than simply forgiveness of sin, a clear conscience before God and eternal life. It is the basis of the "dominion" command, and his mediation work provides the power to fulfill his command as given to Adam.

**Psalms 110:1** *"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies."*

*Through the mediation work of Christ, former rebels against God are changed to friends and faithful servants of Christ.*

Note:

**Psalms 2:7** *"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession".* **Hebrews 1:5** *"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"* **Mark 1:11** *"And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Mk 9:7, Lk 3:22, 9:35, &c.) **Psalms 110:1** *"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."*

Matthew 22:43 *"He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?"* (Mk 12:36, Lk 20:43, Acts 2:35, &c.) **Hebrews 1:13** *"But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?"* **Hebrews 10:13** *"From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool."*

As a result of the Mediation work of the Son, he is promised in Psalms 2 that the heathen, as well as the uttermost parts of the earth will be given to him as his inheritance.

**Mark 1:11** (*"And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*) shows us that the beginning of the fulfillment of that promise was at the baptism of Christ. From his current position at the right hand of all power and authority, the fulfillment of that promise is being and shall be accomplished.

The Baptist said, "the kingdom of heaven is at hand". When Jesus Christ began to preach, he said "repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". He sent his disciples to preach, saying "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mat. 3:2, Mt 4:17, 10:7.) In Mark, *"Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, (which*

*is the same as the kingdom of heaven), and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."* (Mk 1:14, 15.)

"And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus preached the gospel or good news of his own advent and of the setting up of the unending kingdom which should convert the world to righteousness and save the souls of men. We should note that Jesus himself declares that the prophesied time for the setting up of his kingdom was at hand. There were many general prophecies as to this kingdom, but one which especially fixed the time of its coming; namely, Da 9:24-27. This prophecy tells of seventy weeks in which each day is reckoned as a year, so that the seventy weeks equal four hundred and ninety years. They are to be counted from the date of the decree which ordered the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The Messiah, or Prince, was to come at the beginning of the seventieth week, or four hundred and eighty-three years from the date of the decree. ... there is much uncertainty about all ancient chronology. Suffice it to say that Daniel told in round numbers how long it would be until Messiah should come, and that Jesus said that this time had been fulfilled. It would have been easy to ascertain the correct chronology at the time when Jesus spoke, and we have no record that any presumed to dispute his statement. Jesus announced the coming of a new dispensation. The King had already come, but the kingdom in its organization and administration was as yet only "at hand." Until the crucifixion of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the kingdom could not be fully organized, for the blood shed upon the cross furnished the means for purification which precedes a proper entrance into the kingdom, and the coming of the Holy Spirit afforded that indwelling strength by which those entering are enabled to abide therein.

Repent ye, and believe in the gospel. That is, prepare for the kingdom by repenting of sin, and by believing the glad news that the kingdom was approaching, for the King had come. {Joh 1:49} The preaching of Jesus at this time did not differ materially from that of John the Baptist, for John preached repentance and the approaching kingdom, {Mt 3:2} and the gospel, {Lu 3:18} and belief in the King. {Joh 1:29,36 3:36} The fact that repentance comes before belief in this passage is by some taken as an indication that repentance precedes faith in the process of conversion, but it should be remembered that the preaching here is addressed to the Jewish people, who already believed in God, and in the Scripture as the revelation of God. They were, therefore, required to bring forth fruit worthy of the old faith and the old revelation as preparatory to their reception of the new faith and the new revelation. Thus repentance and faith appears to be the established order for Hebrews, {Heb 6:1} and their proselytes, {Ac 20:21} because of the spiritual standpoint

or condition in which the gospel found them. But those who have no faith in God can surely have no repentance toward him, for belief precedes every call upon God, whether for mercy, pardon, or any other blessing. {Ro 10:13,14}

*(FourFoldGospel, Online Bible)*

Psalms 2:7 & 110:1, the everlasting Covenant promised the unending kingdom to the Son. "In the fullness of time", that is, "*the time of reformation*", Christ came. The start of his kingdom was announced at his baptism, the power of his kingdom was established by his death, burial, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father. And the promise according in the eternal covenant between the Tri-une God of subduing all things to Christ was placed in action.

**Note:** "*The time of reformation*" started with the coming of Christ when he started preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and the proper application of the laws he gave to Moses. Those today who preach the gospel of Christ and teach the proper applications of all he gave to Moses are doing the work of "reformation." This publication is an effort to "reform" those in my circle of influence into the image of Christ in all that they do.

Comparing Scripture with Scripture, we understand that the Kingdom of God is advanced by the Spirit of God working through the redeemed:

**Philippians 2:13** *For it is God which worketh in you both to will, or desire, and to do, or accomplish, his good pleasure, which the First Adam failed to accomplish.*

His good pleasure throughout Scripture is given in the very first words to the first Adam to the last words from the Second Adam. That one everlasting word from our one everlasting God who changes not is for his people to subdue all things by doing all things to the glory of God.

Hebrews 2:7, dominion is accomplished by applying God's law to every area of life, thereby doing all things for the Glory of God.

Such a task is only possible because of the mediation work of Christ, which he now accomplishes through his people from his position at the right hand of all power on high.

Some of the implications of Jesus Christ's victory which he accomplished on the cross:

**Colossians 2:13** *"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in*

*it."*

Colossians 2:13-15. Because of the Mediation work of Christ, his people have free access to Christ's authority over all the dark powers of this world. His people are commanded to apply his power to subdue all things to Christ through faithful obedience to and application of the entire law-word of God.

• **HEBREWS 2:1-8.**

The book of Hebrews was written to the physical seed of the first Hebrew, Abraham. They had been converted to new life in Jesus Christ. However, they were being influenced to return to the rites and rituals of the mediation laws which had been given 1500 years previously through Moses. Since Christ, those mediation laws were null and void, yet they were still being practiced in the then standing Temple. It was Rome's destruction of the Temple that finally brought those practices to an end.

The author is telling them that Christ alone is the mediator between God and man.

There are only 2 differences between the Old and New Testament, or the old and the new Covenants:

**1. The Old Covenant** was made with the physical seed of Abraham, which was the old physical nation of Israel. **The New Covenant** is made with the spiritual seed of Abraham, which Paul identifies as the new Israel of God.

**2. The Old Covenant** with Abraham was sealed with the blood of an animal as Abraham was sleeping. (Gen 15:17) **The New Covenant** is sealed with the blood of Christ.

The *law of the covenant* remains the same, and is found in **Genesis 2:16** *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*

**2 Kings 22:2** *"And the king (king Josiah,) went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD."*

The five books of Moses reveal God's everlasting law of the Covenant:

The law of the covenant between God and man was established with Adam. It was simply obey God's law-word and live and prosper, or ignore or disobey and die. Being made in the image of God, God's law was written in the being of every man. Twenty-five hundred

years later, God spoke and wrote his law for all of mankind. (Exo 20, Deut 5) After giving the law, the Lord explained how it works out in in everyday life. Then in Deuteronomy 27 & 28, the Word of God spells out the “obey or disobey” conditions and their results.

Our God changes not, so through the First Adam, the conditions apply to every man from the beginning of time to the end of time, but the unregenerate man, even though he may have made “professions of faith” with heart felt sincerity, has no desire to abide by the Covenant Law. (However, he may have the desire for “Godly action” because of “Christian peer pressure.”)

The whole world was present in Adam, so all men are under the blessings and curse of that “obey, disobey” covenant. The natural man is unable to fulfill its conditions, but the new man in Christ is called and equipped by the Spirit to “obey and live.”

The author of Hebrews is explaining that the sacrifice of the Lamb of God replaces the sacrifice of bulls and goats as required since Moses. They are told that Christ was the end of and replaced those old mediation laws. (Col 2:14) The author of Hebrews proves Christ’s superiority from the Old Testament Law, Psalms and Prophets.

Chapter 1 shows that angels have always had an appeal because they have no law nor power to enforce law. Angels are popular because people want a lawless religion with no worry about a just, righteous and avenging God against sin. People are interested in angels because they believe angels (and the dead “saints”) have a mystical power which will provide safety from judgment, and bring blessings upon them in their lawless lifestyle.

In Hebrews 1:13, the author quotes Psalms 110:

*“1 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”*

The author uses Psalms 110 to prove the superiority of both Christ and men over angels. Evidently there was a problem with the Jews venerating angels. In fact, it was a common belief that it was an angel who delivered God’s Commandments to Moses.

The followers of the Popish Roman religion today have developed and promoted not only veneration of angels, but even the worship of angels. Go to any predominately Popish country such as Brazil. As a Christian, I found the many statues of angels and of Mary very depressing. The demonic atmosphere was very strong.

**Hebrews 1:14** *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”*

Man’s created status is clearly above that of angels, for angels are simply “ministering spirits” sent to minister to the “heirs of salvation”.

Angels can have no part in mediation, for the Son is the only mediator between God and man. Seeking help from angels is clearly an abomination to God.

Many people have made large sums of money from the scripturally ignorant by offering images of angels with a promise of supernatural help. Man looks for any help that does not require the God of the Bible who demands holiness and obedience to his law-word.

Our mediator is the only Divine mediator between God and man. The man Christ Jesus is both the great lawgiver, mediator and the judge. He mediates the law that he gave through Moses. A human mediator is to be

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

neutral in his mediation between two “warring” parties, but Christ is not neutral concerning man’s sin and transgressions. Sin and transgression will lead to death without supernatural intervention.

With Jesus Christ as the mediator, man is face-to-face with the judge who established the law that man transgressed. In pleading for Sodom, Abraham said, *“Will not Judge of all the earth do right?”* (Genesis 18:25) And he will certainly do right in that day to the unconverted who have no mediator, *“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”* (Mat 25:41)

The only answer for man’s sin problem is repentance, restitution, pardon and regeneration, which must come from His throne. The converted sinner then has a Mediator, and he has access to the Mediator’s total power and authority. The redeemed that have power and authority in him because he has “Christ in him, his hope of Glory.”

2:1. In the context of Hebrews, *“things we have heard”* would be the gospel which proceeded from the mouth of Christ. His gospel condemned the Temple worship that was still going on at that time.

The required mediation sacrifices, offerings and ordinances established by Moses for the Hebrew people had been in force since the time of Moses. The author of Hebrews is now proving to them that those mediation laws at the Temple are not only useless, but are cursed by God, for they deny the mediation work of Jesus Christ.

Addressing those who were tempted to return to the Temple worship with its mediation laws, they are told that it is dangerous to neglect what they have heard of the Son, for he is now the only mediator between God and man.

Peter issues the same warning of the danger of departing from the gospel which has been heard from the Word of God:

**2 Peter 2:20** *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”*

**Hebrews 6:6** *“If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”*

The redeemed must earnestly heed his every word, “less at any time we should let them slip.” Because the gospel comes from the highest possible source, from the very throne of God, the redeemed are under the most urgent necessity to hear and obey.

**Acts 7:35** *“This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.”* (That angel was Christ, which the apostate Jews of Christ’s day refused to admit, and the apostate “Christians” of our day also refuse to admit.)

We should keep in mind that the Gospels and Epistles were written in and to a “Jewish culture”.

Galatians 3:18 *“For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. 19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. 21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been*

*baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

Galatians 3:18, the promise to Abraham was not that God would provide a new or different law of holiness. Abraham understood that his inheritance was never through faith in the law of holiness.

John 8:56 *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.”*

He knew that his inheritance was through faith in the promised mediator who would come, Jesus Christ. That promise of the mediator was continually before the Hebrews in the form of the required blood sacrifices at the Tabernacle and Temple.

In Galatians 3, Paul is speaking of the mediation laws, not of the laws of holiness as found in the Commandments:

• **IN GALATIANS, PAUL SPEAKS OF 2 LAWS:**

**First**, the laws of righteousness and holiness, the Commandments. They revealed the holiness of the Tri-une God. When the holiness of God was revealed to his chosen people at the Mount, they knew they could not approach their God, so they asked for a mediator:

*“And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”* (Exo 20:19)

**Second**, the mediation laws were added at the Mount because of sin. (Gal 3:19) Those mediation laws were as a schoolmaster, teaching the saints of old of the need of a mediator between their holy God and sinful man. The Old Testament Saints understood that the mediation laws of the blood sacrifice promised the coming of the sinless Sacrifice who would be the true mediator between the Holy God and fallen man.

That mediator was *“the man Christ Jesus”* who would justify the guilty through faith in his mediation work. His mediation work nailed the old mediation laws of Moses to the cross:

Colossians 2:14 *“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”*

The laws of righteousness reveal the holy nature of the Thrice Holy God. (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8) The Commandments were never given to equip man to stand before the Holy Creator God, though human nature tries to use them to be right with God.

The Commandments revealed man’s need of “the man Christ Jesus” as his mediator. From eternity past to

eternity future, the Commandments define righteousness. They set forth the standard by which his people are to be “holy even as he is holy” They reveal the everlasting character of our Holy God before whom every person must stand and give an account for himself.

**We are faced with two methods of righteousness:**

Men will have a religion, either his or God’s. Whatever man’s religion might be, it will have laws that must be followed in order to be righteous in the eyes of his religion.

**First**, the religion of man, or faith in man. Man in various ways declares himself god, and his laws require obedience or death. When one keeps man’s laws, he is declared righteous by the enforcers of his laws.

**Second**, the religion of faith in Christ, which will make one “righteous” in the eyes of the Christian God of Heaven and Earth. His faith will result in keeping God’s laws of righteousness rather than man’s laws of righteousness when the two conflict.

(We attended a supposed “Reformed” church recently. The version of Scripture used by the preacher changed “faith of Jesus Christ” to “faith in Jesus Christ”. Don’t students of the Word, even professed Calvinists, realize what has happened? “Faith of” tells us that we are given faith by the Spirit to trust Christ. “Faith in” implies that faith is drummed up from within the individual.)

Did not Peter say, We ought to obey God’s laws rather than man’s laws when the two conflict?

The Old Testament shows us how God’s laws of holiness work out into everyday life.

**Hebrews 9:10** *“Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.”*

The time of reformation was the time when the old manner of worship through the meats, drinks, washings and carnal ordinances were replaced with the new manner of worship through the mediation of Jesus Christ.

The time of reformation resulted in a reformed man through the work of Christ. That is, fallen man is reformed into a new creation in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ then tells us that the new newly reformed man will show his love for Christ by his love for the laws of holiness. (Psalms 119)

Christ said that *“If you love me, keep my commandments”*.

Hebrews 2:2 is another reference to angels. The author has previously shown that angels are simply messengers of God with no independent power. Any independent power attributed to angels is denial of the all

sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

In some way, angels, messengers of God, had a hand in the revelation of God’s law at the mount. This influenced the Hebrews to exalt angels above simply being messengers of God sent forth to minister for “them who shall be heirs of salvation”. (1:14)

Their word had the force of law, “and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward”. But that law was not their law: It was God’s law.

In Stephen’s message to those in the synagogue, he said,

**Acts 7:52** *“Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.”*

Stephen was witnessing to the Jewish religious leaders who were proud of their “religiousness” according to their very corrupt understanding of God’s law. Yet Stephan tells them they are hypocrites. The angels were witness at the giving of the law at the Mount.

Now in the presence of those angels, Stephen tells them that they have not kept the law of which they are so proud. Stephen tells them that in the day of their judgment, the very angels who witnessed the giving of the law to the Hebrews at the Mount will testify against them.

The same message is for all who are proud of their “religiousness”, yet they despise the gospel of God’s grace and holy living as revealed in our Holy God. Those same angels who were present at the Mount will testify against those who professed but did not live what they professed.

V. 2. That law was and is steadfast and sure, and changes not. The law is based on and expresses the character of God and his holiness:

**Matthew 5:17** *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

**1 Peter 2:21** *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but com-*

*mitted himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."*

God's Holy Commandments reveal his Holy Character. Therefore, changing any part of God's Holy Commandments is to attribute a change in God's character, and must be identified as idolatry.

Everything that can be known by man about God the Father is revealed to us in God the Son. God's character is revealed to us in the Word of God, starting in Genesis 1:1.

Those who want to know who God is must study everything that is revealed about him in the law, prophets, psalms and as well as in the Gospels and the Epistles. Those who only know the god (little "g") revealed in the New Testament do not know the God (cap "G") of the Bible. Rather, they have a false god made after their own imagination.

Hebrews 2:2. We saw in Matthew 5:18 that God's justice requires the punishment of "every transgression and disobedience."

**1 John 3:4** "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

V. 3. God's justice requires punishment for every transgression, "for the wages of sin is death".

It was not the angels, but it was the Son who was the first herald of the Gospel. It was the Son who was witnessed by the apostles. The gospel was confirmed by those who were with the Son. Many Hebrews to whom this was written had never seen nor heard the Son, so they may have doubted the validity of this new Gospel message. So the Apostle reminds them that the Gospel which they are now hearing is being presented by eye-witnesses of Christ's ministry here on earth.

So the author asked the Hebrews, "how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation" which was confirmed by so many eye witnesses who heard "God with us" speak, and saw his mighty works?

**1 Corinthians 15:3** "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep."

The same question is for us today: How shall we escape his judgment if we ignore the mediation work of Christ for the salvation of sinners, and which calls and equips us to full the purpose of man's creation as given

in Genesis?

**Hebrews 2:7, 8. Psalms 8:6** "Thou madest him (man) to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:"

V. 4, God the Father also bore witness of His Son Jesus Christ through signs, wonders, miracles "and gifts of the Holy Ghost" which were given to the apostles "according to his own will".

The Holy Spirit is emphasized, reminding us that he is fully an equal person of the Godhead. The Spirit's will is his own will, yet it is in total unity with the Father and the Son.

Individual members of the body of Christ have unique gifts and abilities with which to fulfill their created purpose.

**1 Corinthians 12:4** "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

V. 5. "the world to come" speaks of the future triumph through Christ's work of redemption and mediation. Psalms 45 speaks of the triumph of his new creation in time and in eternity.

Again, angels are placed in their proper order. The promised subjection of "the world to come" was not given to the angels, but to the Son who works in and through the redeemed. He works through them by his grace from his exalted position over all powers and authorities. There can be no exaltation of the angels over the elect, nor over Christ Jesus, for they are simply ministers of God, assigned to do his will.

The signs, wonders, and miracles as well as the gifts of the Spirit of v. 4 were not given to confirm any power to angels. Rather they were given to confirm the absolute authority, power, Lordship and the Mediation of Jesus Christ for sinful man.

V. 6 & 9. Jesus is the Son of Man, the Messiah. He is the one who suffered and made atonement for our sins:

**1 Timothy 2:5** "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

It was the Son of God who surrendered his heavenly throne so he could taste death for every one of the Elect. He had to taste death in order to become our Redeemer and Mediator. The angels did no such thing, nor were angels created to take dominion over the earth in the name of the Lord God. It is man who was created to take dominion in the name of the Lord over the works of God's hands. (Gen 1:26-28)

If Jesus Christ is our mediator, we not only have life eternal, but we have the same responsibility as given to Adam---do all things to the glory of God, and thereby subdue all things to the King.

In vv. 6-8, the author of Hebrews continues to emphasize the Old Testament requirements of the new man in Christ. He quotes,

**Psalms 8:3** *"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"*

Man is the heir to God's grace and salvation because he was brought into existence by God's creative word. His created purpose was clearly established at the beginning, and his purpose is reaffirmed throughout Scripture: Psalms 8, Hebrews 2, &c. His created purpose was and is to "have dominion over all the works of thy hands. He is to subdue all creation according to the word of God. Christ died and rose again and now sits at the right hand of all power as the only mediator. The purpose of his mediation work was and is to restore man as a new creature in Christ Jesus. Only through the grace of God in Christ can man fulfill his purpose:

*"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* (1 Cor 10:31)

Psalms 8 is attributed to David. He must have looked into the heavens on a clear night, and knowing man's created purpose of dominion, his heart overflowed with praise as he looked forward by faith to man fulfilling his purpose.

And we must say, who can look into the heavens on a clear and starry night, particularly with no moon, and not have the attitude that David expressed in Psalms 8?

The authors of Psalms 8:6 and Hebrews 2:7 are clearly speaking about man, yet the Spirit is looking forward to Christ as the head of the new humanity. Though both

man and angels were created by God, it is man not angels who is created to be over God's creation. It is only through Christ that man can accomplish his great task.

Adam fell, and from that time on, man has tried to implement Psalm 8 on his own terms, and according to his own word. Over the ages, fallen sinful man has done everything in his fallen power to fulfill Psalms 8:6 and Hebrews 2:7 & 8 in his own name. His desire is to give to himself dominion over the works of God, and put all things under his feet. "Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

"Master the Human Domain: The Domestic Plan Behind Jade Helm

Pentagon goal of information domination is hidden in plain sight. Its specifically stated purpose was and is to "master the human domain", which reveals its larger agenda in regards to domestic policy."

<http://www.infowars.com/master-the-human-domain-the-domestic-plan-behind-jade-helm/>

The purpose of "Jade Helm" was to see if the military could infiltrate an American community without being noticed.

2:8. Though David wrote Psalms 8 thinking of God's creative purpose for men, the author of Hebrews shows us that it is fulfilled only in Christ Jesus. This Psalm looks ahead and guarantees the triumph of the Messiah as he works through his people from his throne on high.

Psalms 8:1, 84:1. "The Psalmist gives vent to his admiration of God's manifested perfections, by celebrating His condescending and beneficent providence to man as evinced by the position of the race, as originally created and assigned a dominion over the works of His hands." (JFB)

Hebrew's author uses Psalms 8 to prove that the salvation accomplished by Christ establishes a new order of things. That new order equips man to pursue and fulfill his original creative purpose to "have dominion over all the works of thy hands," which is the created purpose of man not of angels. For in Christ, the administration of angels is done away with.

V. 3, "so great salvation". Jesus Christ became a man and temporarily subjected himself to the restrictions of man, so he could identify with those for whom he mediates before God the Father.

Hebrews tells us that the final revelation of God to man is Jesus Christ, who is the Lord over all things. Our mediator has total power, and we are joint heirs with him of all things. The author of Hebrews asked the Hebrews why they would reject their heirship in Christ for angels who have nothing to offer them.

Hebrews 2:6, Psalm 8:4 “*What is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the Son of man that thou dost visit him?*”

Hebrews is the New Testament explanation of Psalms 8:6, “*Because thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet.*”

Christ comes as the new Adam. He destroys the power of sin and death. By his regenerating power, he creates a new humanity. We are now children of the last Adam. We are members of his new human race. We have a calling which angels do not have. Our calling is to put all things under Christ’s feet.

In **1 Corinthians 15**, Paul used the phrase from Psalms 8:6 (“*Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:*”)

V. 20 “*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*”

Paul tells us when the general resurrection will take place. He speaks of the end of the world, but he makes no reference to any coming of Christ before the end. Paul’s view of the end has been the view of the church during the overwhelming portion of Church history. The victorious view of Christ before the end of history only recently changed after the French Revolution (c. 1790), which proved to the human intellect that man is a hopeless case.

• **HODGE ON 1 CORINTHIANS 15:24.**

“To God even the Father. That is, to him who is at once his God and Father. The first person of the Trinity is identified as God the Father. In the mystery of the Trinity, Christ is God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the God whom Christ came to reveal, and whose work he performs in his redemptive work here on earth.”

V. 24, through Jesus Christ’s mediation work, he will subdue his enemies. When his mediation work is finished, and all things are set in their proper order, “then

cometh the end”, including the end of the world.

The great commission calls for all rule, all authority, and all powers outside of Christ to be put down by Jesus Christ, in whatever manner he so chooses. All nations are to be disciplined under the kingship of Christ.

• **WILLIAM SYMINGTON, 1884, COMMENTS:**

“The anti-Christian leaven, which has been so extensively diffused, shall be purged out of both the churches and the nations. Every usurper of the rights and prerogatives of Zion’s King shall be pushed from his seat. Every rival kingdom shall be overthrown. The civil and ecclesiastical constitutions of the earth shall be regulated by the infallible standard of God’s word; their office-bearers, of every kind, shall acknowledge the authority of Messiah the Prince; and the greatest kings on earth shall cast their crowns at his feet. All enemies shall be put under his feet; and such as resist the melting influence of his grace, shall be crushed beneath the iron rod of his power. By spiritual conversion or judicial destruction, he shall effect the entire subjugation of the globe. And, at the last, there shall not be a spot on the face of the habitable earth where the true church of Christ shall not have effected a footing, nor a single tribe of the vast family of man which shall not have felt the meliorating and blissful influence of Christian laws and institutions.”

(William Symington, *Messiah the Prince or, The Mediatorial Dominion of Jesus Christ. Still Waters Revival Books, [1884] 1990*), pp. 185-86, on Puritan Hard Drive. Link, PHD)

1 Corinthians 15:25 “*For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.*”

Romans 8 assures us that in this pre-second coming world, all things are working according to his sovereign will, for the praise of his own glory and for the benefit of the Elect. (Rom 8) He must reign from his position at the right hand of the Father until all powers and authorities are put under His feet, and “then cometh the end.”

Here we are told that all things will be put under Christ’s feet before the end, and then death itself will be destroyed. This means that the power of sin on earth is replaced by the power of Jesus Christ, and then the fullness of God’s new creation and eternal life will replace the fallen world order.

Acts 15:18 “*Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*”

Isaiah 46:9 “*Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 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.*”

The world is not placed under angels, but it has been placed under man who is to be in subjection to the Man, Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 2:7 & 8 reminds us of the purpose of man's creation and of the redeemed man's purpose in Jesus Christ. That purpose is to rule over all the created works of God through proper application of the Word of God, and for the glory of God

Jesus Christ is even now reigning in his kingdom; he reigns over all creatures, over his own people, over all principalities and powers, and over every name that can be named in heaven and earth. All powers under heaven are even now doing his will as he carries out his mediation work on earth through the person of God the Holy Spirit.

I believe Scripture clearly teaches that all human powers will be subdued through Christ's redemptive work. "25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet", and then the end will come.

He reigns and subdues his enemies through his ambassadors, as they fulfill their responsibility, obey the great commission and properly use the whole armour of God.

It must be the Spirit of God who will supply the proper religious leadership and teaching. He shall supply the desire and the power in his people to do the revealed will of God.

According to the prophets, the second coming does not at once follow this triumph. Rather, there will be an era of triumph commonly identified as the Millennium, when Christ shall reign through His people. This will be a multitude of years which precede the end. The redeemed, those who are new creatures in Christ, will do what Adam failed to do: that is, subdue the earth as faithful and obedient ambassadors of Jesus Christ. His ambassadors will do only what their Sovereign would do if he himself were present in the flesh.

Then the last enemy, death, is destroyed. The destruction of death follows the destruction of the fall's first consequence of sin, the binding power of sin. It has been destroyed by the power of the resurrected Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."*

That triumph of the Redeemer through his mediation work for his people is promised by the prophets, particularly in Isaiah 65.

Have we ignored the power and responsibility of

trusting in Christ our Mediator?

"Victory in Jesus !!"

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## PERSONAL

We are now in the Ohio, surrounded by corn and soybean fields about as far as we can see, with only a few houses in view. The land is flat and the water table high enough that a 30-foot well will reach an unlimited supply of water. But, sadly, this property is on county water with fluoride and chlorine. There is an old well here somewhere, but...

The property was a farm that was sold at auction in July. The farmer who bought the property did not want the house and outbuildings that were on the property, so he cut off 2.5 acres and sold the house and outbuildings, which are far bigger than we need. Our house in West Virginia had sold, and we had no place to move. We must mention that the lady who bought our West Virginia house spent several days helping pack up the house and load the truck. Without her help, we would never have been able to be out of the house in such a short time frame. And of course, being that rushed, the "packing" resulted in a jumbled up mess on this end. We brought things we did not intend to bring, and left things we needed to bring. As we try to move into this house, we see no end in sight, but we know that this too shall pass.

Our daughter, who lives in Goshen, Ohio, has a realtor friend. We contacted her, and she started looking for us. She found a house in Hillsboro, Ohio. We came out to look, but home inspection proved it to be an unwise investment. Its main selling point was natural gas. She put us on a "feed" of new listings. We watched it closely, and as soon as this house, also near Hillsboro, showed on the feed, we contacted her. We came out again (about 350 miles each way), and looked at the house with a builder friend of our daughter. Being an older house, we knew that it would require some work, e.g., replacement windows, etc. We wanted hardwood floors, and we found that under the carpets were hardwood floors. They are not in the best of shape but serviceable. Refinishing the floors makes them beautiful.

We also wanted to be able to heat with wood, and this house has built in fireplaces not only on the main floor, but one in the full basement, which is unusable.

The house is about 50 years old, all brick, with a poured concrete, full unfinished basement that remains dry. It is amazing how well the owner built this house. Everything he did with the house and the outbuildings

was overkill, which is fine with us.

• **REASON FOR MOVING:**

Though our minds cannot believe it, our bodies are telling us that we are getting older. So if we are going to spend any time with children and grandchildren, now is the time. Bettie's oldest daughter and her family (11 children) live in South Africa, as her husband works with Persecution Project in the Sudan. Bettie's son (9 children) are moving to southern Virginia to get away from the overwhelming farm chemicals that make his family sick. Not long ago, a police helicopter was chasing some "bad guys" in their area of rural Pennsylvania. That did not give a feeling of security.

Bettie's youngest daughter and her family (10 children) have a cabin rental business in Hocking Hills, Ohio, about an hour and 15 minutes east of us. My oldest daughter (3 children) lives 45 minutes from us toward Goshen, and my youngest daughter (two children) and her family live about an hour and 15 minutes from us in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, which is south of Cincinnati.

The family with the cabin rentals also raise tomatoes and other vegetables for auctions and farmers markets. There are Amish auctions during the harvest season within easy driving distance. I attended one with our son-in-law, and I saw buyers from the surrounding cities getting their produce from the auctions to resell in the cities. One cannot grow a garden for what you can pay for vegetables at these auctions. The auctions are located where the Amish can bring their goods in on horse-drawn wagons.

Though we are far too close to Cincinnati for our taste, we see that where we are is about as centrally located to three of our children as one can be.

We are located right at the end of the Appalachian Mountains, (US 32, south of us is the "Appalachian Highway") and the Appalachian spirit seems to be strong here. Confederate flags are very common, and people whom we have met are very friendly.

As we have been rushing "hither, thither and yon" throughout this part of Ohio, we have seen many 100 year old one-room school houses still standing. (Note that the new, overpriced and fancy school houses are engineered for about a 20 year life span, as I was told by an architect in Indiana. Keep the money in circulation!) These old school houses are all in very good shape, and at least two just in the few miles between us and Hillsboro have been turned into homes. There seems to be an old schoolhouse about every 5 miles or less.

Looking at them, I have been reminded that it was

the generation raised in those old school houses that built this nation. The "greatest generation" was educated in these one-room schools, and maybe only to the "sixth grade", which is college level now. (Do your research.) Yet after spending multiplied billions of dollars on new air conditioned buildings, multitudes of teachers who are overwhelmed with paper work and administration staff, the only thing children are getting is anti-American and antichrist indoctrination into a foreign religion, generally Muslim (We read of schools where prayers to Allah are required).

They are not proficient in the "3Rs" as was the generation trained in these many one-room school houses we see over the Ohio countryside. (The public has been indoctrinated to think more money means better education. Clearly, facts prove otherwise. Ps 111:10 "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*" Pr 9:10. Apart from the Christian God, education is education in rebellion.)

In other words, young people today are graduating from multimillion dollar facilities with little or no understanding as to how to write an intelligible sentence. I must confess that though I graduated in 1959, I knew very little about grammar and punctuation. But it was not my teacher's fault who tried to pound this into our heads in our small classes in Indiana. (My first school had 3 grades in one classroom, and the teacher did fine.) I saw no need of being able to write intelligently until I got into the ministry, and tried to put together intelligible theological papers. So I sought out a community college in Lafayette, Indiana, about 45 minutes north of where I was pastoring, and I enrolled as an auditing student in a "bonehead" English-grammar course. The instructor edited my book, "The Death of the Church Victorious". My wife now edits my writings. She was home-educated, a home-schooling mother, and is very sharp in English and grammar.

What brought about the above explanation of where and why we are here was an email I received, "What are the 14 punctuation marks in English grammar?" with a link <http://www.yourdictionary.com/index.php/pdf/articles/49.punctuationjungle.pdf>

• **COMMUNICATION:**

We do not have access to broad band, though AT&T's DSL runs about 1/2 mile from our house. So we had to go with HughesNet Satellite, which restricts the up and download usage. Also, we are just barely within range of our AT&T cell phone, which uses the number we have had for several years. If you call on the cell

phone let it ring, because we must leave it in a window and it may take us a while to get to it. If necessary, leave a message, and we will get back with you as soon as possible. It is our old Virginia number: 540.255.2243 We still have our VOIP number: 304 591-6607. It does not work well over HuguesNet, but you can leave a message on it, and it will be sent to us by e-mail. I will call back.

**Shoulder:** it has been well over a year now since my two shoulder surgeries. I thank the Lord that he has allowed recovery of almost all of its use, but it can be quite sore, which is to be expected. (It is getting a workout in this move.) The carpal tunnel surgery on my right hand has about ruined my handwriting. I can write a sentence or two but then it turns into scribble. I can block print if I take my time. I can type, but I got a "Dragon Dictate" program when my arm was in the sling. It is kind of embarrassing to talk into the computer, but this paragraph proves that it works, particularly in spelling the words right. (BTW, we are available for speaking engagements.)

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## STATINS

Heart Disease Drug Speeds Up Ageing Process, Warns New Research

STATINS make regular users become older faster, leaving them open to long-term mental and physical decline, according to disturbing new research.

By LUCY JOHNSTON, Sep 27, 2015

Fears are growing over the side effects of cholesterol-lowering drugs

Scientists have found the heart disease drug badly affects our stem cells, the internal medical system which repairs damage to our bodies and protects us from muscle and joint pain as well as memory loss.

Last night experts warned patients to "think very carefully" before taking statins as a preventative medicine.

A GP expert in the field said: "They just make many patients feel years older. Side effects mimic the ageing process."

The new research by scientists at Tulane University in New Orleans has reignited the debate about statin side effects which many doctors say have been played down.

They include memory loss, muscle pain, diabetes, cataracts, liver dysfunction, diabetes, fatigue and memory loss.

Millions of Britons currently take statins to combat the risks of heart attacks

Professor Reza Izadpanah, a stem cell biologist and

lead author of the research published in the American Journal of Physiology, said: "Our study shows statins may speed up the ageing process.

"People who use statins as a preventative medicine for health should think again as our research shows they may have general unwanted effects on the body which could include muscle pain, nerve problems and joint problems."

This research reinforces what has long been suspected. The side effects of statins mimic the ageing process – Dr Malcolm Kendrick, GP

The scientists who treated stem cells with statins under laboratory conditions found that after a few weeks the cholesterol-busting treatment had a dramatic effect.

Statins prevented stem cells from performing their main functions, to reproduce and replicate other cells in the body to carry out repairs.

The researchers found the statins prevented stem cells from generating new bone and cartilage.

They also found they increased ageing.

Professor Izadpanah said: "People at high risk of heart disease can reduce this risk by taking statins. However, considering the adverse effects of these drugs and their association with so many side effects, it is crucial people are fully aware of the risks before they take the treatment."

Dr Malcolm Kendrick, a GP in Macclesfield, Cheshire, who has studied heart health and statins, said: "Statins just make many patients feel years older. This research reinforces what has long been suspected. The side effects of statins mimic the ageing process.

"I observe patients on statins slowing down. Some are not affected, for some it is a relatively subtle process, but for many it is a serious side effect and one which disturbingly helps us confirm what we have long suspected."

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence says the findings could save lives.

Millions of Britons currently take statins to combat the risks of heart attacks, but a 10-year NHS plan has already been introduced to prescribe the drug to low-risk patients with only a 10 per cent chance of a heart attack within a decade.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence claims this could save thousands of lives.

But critics say much of the trials data has never been made public and more work is needed to ensure routine use is not harmful.

<http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/608210/statins-age-you-faster-new-research-suggests-long-term-use-warning>

**Editor's note.** My "heart attack" was in 1999. I was warned then that I must take a statin to prevent another "attack". I took a few, but since have refused the doctor's pressure to take them. From what I understand, it is pretty much 50/50 chance on heart problems with or without statins. Statins are great money makers for the medical/Industrial complex, so they will not give up their cash flow without a fight. It is very much like the "GMO", "Planned Parenthood", and totally senseless and endless wars. The medical problems caused by the man made chemicals means more money for the medical/industry complex, as they produce more drugs to combat the problems caused by their own chemicals. It all fits well within the "overpopulation" hysteria.

The ungodly combination of love of death and the love of money is deadly for any social order. Follow the money.

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## FAT FRAUD

LONG ACCEPTED GUIDELINES FOR DIETARY FAT ARE  
FOUND WANTING

by Bill Sardi

An 18-page U.S. dietary guideline issued in 1977<sup>1</sup> that called for Americans to consume more sugar-producing carbohydrates from bread, rice, and pasta and to limit intake of fat and cholesterol, in particular saturated fat, is suddenly being abandoned 37 years later.<sup>2</sup>

The realization that millions of Americans have been massively misled by food and nutrition experts comes without apologies from any group that represents modern medicine.

It's not that newly understood food science has forced changes in fat intake guidelines. There was never ANY evidence to support the dietary recommendations issued in 1977! There was no evidence whatsoever that eating less fat would translate into fewer cases of heart disease or death.<sup>3</sup>

### Political from the start

An examination of this report's authors should have been a tip off. Leading members of Congress co-authored this misdirected report that is now being emphatically denounced. From the start it was a political document as much as it was a scientific one.

### A hidden agenda

There were three prominent experts from the Harvard School of Public Health, the Rockefeller Foundation, and University of California San Francisco whose opinions were largely relied upon. One of these so-called experts raises eyebrows.

On the dietary guideline panel was Beverly Winikoff, MD, advocate of abortion and population-control programs. What was Beverly Winikoff doing on this panel? She was no nutrition expert.<sup>4</sup>

Which begs the question: was the effort to reduce fat and cholesterol intake in the American diet a covert effort to reduce fertility and birth rates and control population growth? There certainly weren't as many fertility clinics in past generations as there are today. Fats and cholesterol are required to produce estrogen and testosterone. Did fat phobia cause all the anguish barren women have faced in recent decades?

There is evidence that males who consume less saturated fat and more unsaturated fat produce less testosterone.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, reduction of dietary fat results in lower estrogen levels.<sup>6</sup> Low saturated fat in the diet is associated with female infertility.<sup>7</sup>

And it is now realized that the shift away from dietary fat and towards carbohydrates that the 1977 guideline recommended spawned the current diabetes epidemic.<sup>8</sup>

### Ingrained fat phobia

This factitious report resulted in a fat-phobic America. Fat phobia is so ingrained now it may be difficult to reverse.

How the recommendations of this select committee of dieticians and politicians misdirected America into eating a diet that was never satisfying (lack of satiation) and lowered sex hormone and mood levels while fattening and diabetizing America is inexplicable. Did the entire medical profession line their own pockets by written policy to ensure there would be more than an ample amount of disease to treat?

Charts from the 1977 report show seven published dietary studies never varied significantly (no more than 1-2%) for heart deaths or all deaths as visualized by the distance of squares from a midline in the chart. Using their own evidence, the guideline was scientifically bogus.

### Then came the cholesterol-lowering drugs

In the wake of this guideline the first FDA approved cholesterol-lowering statin drug, Mevacor, was approved in 1987.<sup>9</sup> Mevacor failed to reduce coronary artery disease mortality rates but the FDA never removed it from the market but rather chose to allow pharmaceutical companies to submit more powerful liver-toxic statin drugs for approval.

### An authoritative study published in the Journal of the American

Medical Association showed elevated cholesterol

is not a risk factor for mortality or heart disease.<sup>10</sup> But cholesterol drugs were good for business.

Despite the fact cholesterol-lowering statin drugs only prevent one non-fatal heart attack among 200 healthy users over a 5-year period, the sale of statin drugs rose to billions of dollars.<sup>11</sup> More than 25 million Americans were taking them. Global sales of cholesterol drugs rose above \$35 billion in 2006.<sup>12</sup> Halt the sale of these problematic cholesterol-lowering drugs (they are fraught with side effects) and the pharmaceutical sector of the stock market would plunge.

Despite these facts, cardiologists are not expected to abandon their proclivity to prescribe these liver-toxic pills anytime soon. Cholesterol phobia drives patients to doctors' offices.

Fearful heart disease patients can't imagine living without them. Yet, in practice, it turns out patients have used statins to give them a license to overeat.<sup>13</sup>

The rate of heart disease throughout the world has declined and statin drugs are often attributed to this improvement in heart health. But the worldwide decline in heart disease began in the 1960s, more than a decade before statin drugs came into use.<sup>14</sup>

### **Circulating cholesterol is not arterial plaque**

About 80 percent of circulating cholesterol particles are produced by the liver. The remaining 20 percent comes from the diet. But circulating cholesterol is not the cholesterol that forms arterial plaque. Furthermore, most sudden mortal heart attacks are electrical storms, not caused by cholesterol blockage of a coronary artery.<sup>15</sup> So driving down cholesterol numbers has not driven down death rates from heart disease despite contrived science produced by modern medicine.

Listening to advice from cholesterolologists may be harmful. There is such a thing as driving cholesterol levels too low. Men with low cholesterol are five times more likely to kill themselves.<sup>16</sup> Low cholesterol is associated with depression and anxiety among women also. Low cholesterol levels are also associated with cancer.<sup>17</sup> A large study involving thousands of middle-aged and senior men showed those subjects with total cholesterol levels below 170 had the highest death rates.<sup>18</sup>

Cholesterol particles (lipoproteins) are necessary to maintain mood, produce sex hormones, and transport key antioxidants (vitamin E, beta carotene, lycopene, lutein) to tissues.<sup>19, 20, 21</sup> You aren't healthy if your liver is not making cholesterol.

Cholesterol-phobic individuals with heart problems who now need something to replace their fear of cholesterol may want to investigate the work of cardiologist

Lester Morrison who cured heart disease in the 1970s.<sup>22</sup> Or learn about another overlooked cholesterol particle called lipoprotein(a).<sup>23</sup> Three scientifically valid artery cleansing regimens you can do at home have been described by this author.<sup>24</sup>

If you absolutely must reduce your cholesterol numbers, the use of vitamin C and apple pectin has been proven to remove cholesterol via bile flow.<sup>25</sup> The red wine molecule resveratrol (rez-vair-uh-trol) promotes efflux (exit) of cholesterol from the liver rather than toxic drugs that interfere cholesterol production in the liver.<sup>26</sup>

Like other unfounded phobias, such as arachnophobia (fear of spiders) or fear of flying (aviatophobia), the doctor-induced fear of cholesterol is a disorder that can be overcome. •

Disclaimer: The information in this article is for educational purposes and not meant as medical advice.

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(From “Christian HealthCare Newsletter, Vol 21, No 10.)

“Long accepted guidelines for dietary fat found wanting... Eat Butter” (Cover of recent Time magazine.)

## MY MOTHER BARKED LIKE A SEAL

by Jeanmarie Coogan.

MOTHER was a great handicap to me when I was little. She was different. I learned this very early, when I first began going to other children’s houses. There, when the mother opened the door, she said something sensible, like “Wipe your feet” or “You’re not bringing that junk in here.”

At our house, however, when you rang the bell, the letter slot would open, and a little high voice would pipe out, “I’m the chief troll here. Is that you, Billy Goat Gruff?” Or a syrupy falsetto would sing the first few lines of “Barnacle Bill the Sailor”: “Who’s that knocking at my door?”

Other times the door would open a slit and my mother, crouched down to our eye level, would say, “I’m the new little girl here. Wait a minute, I’ll call my mother.” Then the door would close for a second, reopen, and there would be my mother—regular size. “Oh, hello, girls,” she’d say. “I didn’t know you were there.”

In that awful first moment when my new friend would turn to me with a “what kind of place is this” look, I knew how it felt to open a closet and have the family skeleton sprawl all over you.

“Mo-ther,” I would bawl, but my mother would never admit to being the little girl who had opened the door. “You girls are kidding me,” she’d say. We’d wind up protesting that a little girl had opened the door, when what we really meant was that no little girl had opened the door.

It was all very confusing. And different. That was the hard part. She was different from other mothers.

Like the seal in the basement. When we were outside while my mother was washing or ironing in the basement, we would often hear a cheerful barking coming from down there. Mother’s explanation was that it was our seal. Every Friday, she made a great show of unwrapping the fish (which eventually wound up on the dinner table) for the seal. And though kids made countless dashes down to the basement trying to catch the creature, he had always “just gone for a ride in the bakery truck” or “was taking his swimming lesson at the Y.”

This seal was smart and would answer questions by barking once for “yes” and twice for “no.” His reputation soon spread. Children came from blocks around to ask the seal questions at our basement window. The seal was always good for a few barks.

I was mortified to be pointed out as the girl with the seal, but my mother was equal to the occasion. Often when a crowd of little boys huddled at our window, waiting for a hark, my mother would open the door and call out gaily, “Hello, little girls.”

MY MOTHER was no different with grownups. She often greeted an acquaintance by poking a finger in his back and growling, "Stick 'em up." The fact that adults liked my mother was no comfort to me. It was easy for them. She wasn't their mother.

Furthermore, they didn't have to put up with the "Interested Observer." My mother often carried on conversations about us with this invisible person.

"Would you look at the kitchen floor," my mother would say.

"Mud all over it and you just finished scrubbing it," the Interested Observer would say with sympathy. "Didn't you tell them to use the basement door?"

"Twice!"

"Don't they care how hard you work?" the I.O. wanted to know.

"I guess they're just forgetful."

"Well, if they'll get the clean rags under the sink and wipe it up, it'll help them to remember in the future," the I.O. would advise.

Immediately, we'd get the rags and go to work.

The Interested Observer's tone was so impartial nobody ever questioned his presence. He was so plainly there, observing family life and its problems, that friends never asked, "Who's your mother talking to?" but rather, "Who's that talking to your mother?"

I never found a suitable answer.

LUCKILY MY MOTHER improved with age. Not hers—mine. I was about ten the first time I ever realized that having a "different" mother could be a good thing.

The playground at the end of our street had a cluster of formidably high trees. To be caught climbing them brought out every mother for blocks, shrieking "Come down! You'll break your neck!"

One day, when a bunch of us were dizzily swaying in the top branches, my mother passed and caught sight of us silhouetted against the sky. We froze, but her face as she looked up was dazzling. "I didn't know you could climb so high," she shouted. "That's terrific! Don't fall!" And off she went. We watched in silence until she was out of sight. Then one boy spoke for us all. "Wow," he said softly. "Wow."

From that day on, I began to notice how my classmates stopped at our house before going home; how club meetings were always held in our kitchen; how friends, silent in their own homes, laughed and joked with my mother.

Later, my friends and I came to rely on my mother's lighthearted good humor as a support against adolescent crises. And when I began dating, it was wonderful

to have a mother whom boys immediately adopted and a home where teenagers' craziness was not just tolerated, but enjoyed.

Everyone who knew my mother liked her. Many people loved her. All have said kind things about her. But I think the one who best described my mother was that boy, high in the tree, long ago.

"Wow," he said softly.

And I echo, "Wow."

*Condensed from Ladies Home Journal, and reprinted in Readers Digest. 1962.*

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## HEGELIAN DIALECTIC

The Hegelian Dialectic is, in short, the critical process by which the ruling elite create a problem, ( ie. THESIS ) anticipating in advance the reaction ( ie. ANTI-THESIS ) that the population will have to the given crisis, and thus conditioning the people that a change is needed. When the population is properly conditioned, the desired agenda of the ruling elite is presented as the solution ( ie. SYNTHESIS ). The solution isn't intended to solve the problem, but rather to serve as the basis for a new problem or exacerbate the existing one.

From Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German Philosopher ( 1770 — 1831 )

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## OREGON SHOOTER SOUGHT CHRISTIANS TO KILL

"Oregon Shooting: Umpqua Community College Gunman Talked Religion," NBC News claims in the headline for a story about Thursday's shooting in Roseburg, Oregon. Of course the headline is misleading, to say the least. The gunman, 26-year-old Chris Harper-Mercer, didn't bring a Bible to Umpqua Community College; he brought three handguns and a semi-automatic rifle. He didn't talk about his religious beliefs; he asked who was Christian and shot in the head those who said they were while shooting others in the legs. Yet, if the only thing we knew about the tragic event was the NBC News headline, we could be forgiven for concluding that the gunman was a religious zealot as opposed to an anti-Christian hater...."

[http://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/crime/item/21689-oregon-shooter-sought-christians-to-kill?utm\\_content=ovid.need%40gmail.com&utm\\_source=VerticalResponse&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_term=Read%20on%2E%2E%2E&utm\\_campaign=Oregon%20Shooter%20Sought%20Christians%20to%20Killcontent](http://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/crime/item/21689-oregon-shooter-sought-christians-to-kill?utm_content=ovid.need%40gmail.com&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=Read%20on%2E%2E%2E&utm_campaign=Oregon%20Shooter%20Sought%20Christians%20to%20Killcontent)

If asked such a question, what would we answer?

If you have not figured it out yet, the US has been

converted by the wicked education system from Christian to a pagan nation. I have mentioned before that there is a serious move in Detroit to erect a statue to Satan surrounded by children.

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## FRITO-LAY & SODOMY

Rainbow Doritos the latest absurd example of corporate #gaywashing... Frito-Lay trying to feed obese lesbians GMO snack chips laced with MSG and artificial colors

(NaturalNews) Corporate #gaywashing is becoming so absurd and insulting to the LGBT community that it deserves serious comment. Frito-Lay has just introduced "Rainbow Doritos" which pander to gays and lesbians, insulting their intelligence by hoping they will blindly eat genetically modified corn chips laced with MSG and chemical colors just because it's all packaged under the "rainbow banner.

*"[http://www.naturalnews.com/051215\\_Rainbow\\_Doritos\\_corporate\\_gaywashing\\_LGBT\\_community.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/051215_Rainbow_Doritos_corporate_gaywashing_LGBT_community.html)*

I love the GMO and MSG laced Cheetos, but Frito-Lay has gone too far. No more Frito-Lay products for me, and I will tell them why. Walmart has a "Great Value" brand of the same thing.

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## DEMENTIA

ARE WE THE ONES WITH DEMENTIA? ARE WE THE ONES WHO ARE AGING?

ONE: Recently, I went to McDonald's and I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets.

I asked for a half dozen nuggets.

'We don't have half dozen nuggets,' said the teenager at the counter.

'You don't?' I replied.

'We only have six, nine, or twelve,' was the reply.

'So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?'

'That's right.'

So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets (Unbelievable but sadly true...)

(Must have been the same one I asked for sweetener and she said they didn't have any, only Splenda and sugar.)

(And they think they are worth \$15.00 per hour)

TWO: I was checking out at the local Wal-Mart with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those dividers that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After

the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the divider, looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it.

Not finding the bar code, she said to me, 'Do you know how much this is?'

I said to her 'I've changed my mind; I don't think I'll buy that today.'

She said 'OK,' and I paid her for the things and left. She had no clue to what had just happened.

(But the lady behind me had a big smirk on her face as I left)

THREE: A woman at work was seen putting a credit card into her DVD drive and pulling it out very quickly. When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM thingy. (Keep shuddering!!)

FOUR: I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car.

'Do you need some help?' I asked.

She replied, 'I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door un-locker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery to fit this?'

Hmm, I don't know. Do you have an alarm, too?' I asked.

'No, just this remote thingy,' she answered, handing it and the car keys to me.

As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, 'Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries. It's a long walk...'

FIVE: Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, 'I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I do?' 'Just use paper from the photocopier,' the secretary told her. With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies. Brunette, by the way!!

SIX: A mother calls 911 very worried asking the dispatcher if she needs to take her kid to the emergency room, the kid had eaten ants.

The dispatcher tells her to give the kid some Benadryl and he should be fine, the mother says, 'I just gave him some ant killer.....'

Dispatcher: 'Rush him in to emergency right now!'

Life is tough. It's even tougher if you're stupid!!!!

Someone had to remind me, so I'm reminding you too.

Perks of reaching 50 or being over 60 and heading

towards 70!

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- 2 In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- 3 No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People call at 9 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 5 PM.
9. You can live without anything but your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
19. You can't remember who sent you this list.
20. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night!

Copied

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## SHARIA LAW IN ACTION

Minneapolis: Muslim refugee brutally rapes 10-year-old girl, media hides facts

<https://creepingsharia.wordpress.com/2015/10/10/minneapolis-muslim-refugee-brutally-rapes-10-year-old-girl-media-hides-facts/>

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## ONE PEOPLE OF GOD, OR TWO?

By Thomas Williamson

One of the cornerstones of dispensationalist theology is the distinction between the Church and Israel. Dispensationalists believe that the Church does not fulfill any of the promises God made to Israel in the Old Testament, and that the Church Age is a mere parenthesis or intercalation in God's program of working through Israel, which will resume after the Rapture.

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost of Dallas Theological Seminary is a representative of dispensational teaching on

the so-called "Israel/Church dichotomy," saying, "The divine purpose: Israel - the earthly promises in the covenants; Church - the heavenly promises in the gospel. . . . There is a distinction between the true church and true or spiritual Israel."

Based on this belief, dispensationalists tend to place great emphasis on the re-establishment of national Israel in 1948 as indicating the resumption of God's purpose in working through Jews after the flesh, as opposed to working through the Church.

This belief is contrary to what the Bible teaches. The New Testament clearly teaches that the Church and Israel are one and the same. God's true spiritual Israel for this age is composed of all Jewish and Gentile born-again believers, and God has just one program for all His people.

In John 10:16 Jesus told His Jewish disciples that He had other sheep (the Gentiles) and that He would bring them together as one fold under one shepherd. That means just one people of God, not 2 peoples.

In John 8:39 and Revelation 2:9 and 3:9, Jesus taught that true Jewishness was no longer a matter of ethnic pedigree. (See also Matthew 3:9). That which was once exclusively Jewish is now fully appropriated by Christians, including Gentiles. The menorah, once a Jewish symbol, now represents the Christian churches, Revelation 1:12, 20. Christians are now the pillars of the true Temple, Revelation 3:12, and that true Temple of God is in heaven, Revelation 11:19. Born-again Christians are the priests of that true Temple, Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 7:15.

In Romans 2:28-29, 9:6-7, Galatians 3:7, 26-29, 6:15-16, we are taught that the true Israel is composed of all true believers, including Gentiles, but not including unsaved Jews.

Romans 11:13-25 teaches that Gentiles have been grafted into the olive tree representing Israel. There are not 2 trees, just one tree, one true people of God including both Jews and Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:11-16 teaches that God has broken down the middle wall of partition between Jews and Gentiles, reconciling both of them unto God in one body.

Ephesians 2:19-20 teaches that Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners - they are now part of the household of God, built on the foundation of the prophets. Notice that there is only one household of God, not 2 households.

Peter said in Acts 15:9 that God has put no difference between Jewish and Gentile believers. In Acts

15:13-18, James taught that the Gentile Christians were the fulfillment of the promises of restoration of Israel in Amos 9:11-15. Paul in Romans 10:12 tells us that there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek. He tells us in Romans 9:24-26 that the Gentiles, who were not God's people, have now become His people, in fulfillment of Hosea 1:10, 2:23.

The New Testament does not teach that unsaved Jews are "God's Chosen People." In 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, Paul condemns those unsaved Jews who opposed the gospel, saying that wrath is coming upon them to the uttermost. God's Chosen People today are the elect, born-again Christians whether Jewish or Gentile, 1 Peter 1:2, 2:9.

According to Hebrews 9:15, all Christians - "they which are called" - now fulfill the covenant of Jeremiah 31 that God made with the houses of Israel and Judah. See also Hebrews 10:14-18, 29.

Peter, in his First Epistle, addresses the predominantly Gentile believers of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, using Jewish terminology to emphasize their acceptance into God's spiritual Israel. They are now God's chosen people (1 Peter 1:2, 2:9), just as much so as the Jews were in Old Testament times. They too have a land grant, not in Canaan but in heaven, 1:4. They fulfill the promises of the Old Testament prophets, 1:10-12.

They fulfill the Levitical requirements for holiness, 1:16. The Passover Lamb has been slain for them, 1:19. They are the new Temple, made of "living stones," 2:5. They are priests, 2:5, 9. They are the cornerstone of Zion, 2:6. Like the Jews of old, they are a separate people, 2:9. They once were not God's people, but now they are, 2:10. (Obviously, Peter is not addressing a Jewish Christian audience here, because the Jews had always been God's people. He is talking to Gentiles).

In Galatians 4:25-26 and Hebrews 12:22-24 we read that God's people still approach Him at Jerusalem, but not the literal Jerusalem in Israel - all Jewish and Gentile Christians, as one united people, now approach God in His heavenly Jerusalem.

Paul, in Acts 17:26, made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles - he taught that God has made all nations of men of one blood.

As we have seen, the doctrine of the two peoples of God, or the Israel/Church dichotomy, is contrary to the Word of God. Craig Blaising and Darrell Bock, in their book "Progressive Dispensationalism" published in 1993, state that progressive dispensationalists have abandoned the two-peoples doctrine.

The doctrine of 2 distinct peoples of God, and 2 different purposes of God, should be abandoned by all of us. There is just one People of God/Family of God/Household of God, including Jews and Gentiles together. There is just one purpose or program of God for His people - the Great Commission.

I realize that this teaching is contrary to what many of us have been taught in Bible school. So don't take my word for it - look up all the Bible verses that I have cited in this article, and see for yourself that born-again Jews and Gentiles are now one people, God's true spiritual Israel.

This reality of just one people of God does not in any way take away, from any Jewish believer, any privilege that he is entitled to before God. It is not "Replacement Theology" - it is "Grafted-In Theology." It admits Gentile believers to the same position of privilege as the Jews, thus provoking unsaved Jews to take an interest in the spiritual blessings that are equally and richly available to them, Romans 11:12-15, 25-26.

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## ARE WE GOING THE WAY OF ROME?

*By Lawrence W. Reed, published on Sept. 1, 2001*

There's an old story worth retelling about a band of wild hogs which lived along a river in a secluded area of Georgia. These hogs were a stubborn, ornery, independent bunch. They had survived floods, fires, freezes, droughts, hunters, dogs and everything else. No one thought they could ever be captured.

One day a stranger came into town not far from where the hogs lived and went into the general store. He asked the storekeeper, "Where can I find the hogs? I want to capture them." The storekeeper laughed at such a claim but pointed in the general direction. The stranger left with his one-horse wagon, an ax and a few sacks of corn.

Two months later, he returned, went back to the store, and asked for help to bring the hogs out. He said he had them all penned up in the woods. People were amazed and came from miles around to hear him tell the story of how he did it.

"The first thing I did," the stranger said, "was to clear a small area of the woods with my ax. Then I put some corn in the center of the clearing. At first, none of the hogs would take the corn. Then after a few days, some of the young ones would come out, snatch some corn, and then scamper back into the underbrush. Then the older ones began taking the corn, probably figuring that if they didn't get it, some of the other ones would. Soon they were all eating the corn. They stopped grub-

bing for acorns and roots on their own.

“About that time, I started building a fence around the clearing, a little higher each day. At the right moment, I built a trap door and sprung it. Naturally, they squealed and hollered when they knew I had them, but I can pen any animal on the face of the earth if I can first get him to depend on me for a free handout!”

The moral to that story happens to be the connecting link between the course of ancient Rome and the path which America has been taking for much of the last century.

Roman civilization began many centuries ago. In those early days, Roman society was basically agricultural, made up of small farmers and shepherds. By the second century B.C., large-scale businesses made their appearance. Italy became urbanized. Immigration soared as people from many lands were attracted by the vibrant growth and great opportunities the Roman economy offered. This growing prosperity was made possible by a general climate of free enterprise, limited government and respect for private property. Merchants and entrepreneurs were admired and emulated. Commerce and trade flourished, and large investments were commonplace.

It is certainly true that slavery existed within Rome's sphere of influence. That's deplorable from any standpoint, of course. But to be fair to the Romans, it must be said that slavery was far more common and far more brutal in the rest of the world in those days.

#### • **REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

Historians still talk today about the remarkable achievements Rome made in sanitation, transportation, the arts, public parks, banking, architecture, education and administration. The city even had mass production of some consumer items and a stock market. With low taxes and low tariffs, free trade and private property, Rome became the center of the world's wealth.

At one time, the political and military power of Rome dominated Europe and the Mediterranean. Roman roads facilitated speed of travel and communication to a degree that would not be surpassed until the development of the railroad, the steamship and the telegraph in the 19th century. Roman law and justice enabled the traveler to journey throughout the empire with a considerable degree of safety. “The benefits of the Pax Romana [the peace of Rome],” says Arthur Ferrill in “The Fall of the Roman Empire,” “included the development of one of man's most impressive codes of law and an administrative system that met the needs of men of varied languages, ethnic backgrounds and cultural tra-

ditions. The poet Virgil was not far wrong in claiming that his nation ruled the world in peace and justice.”

All this disappeared, however, by the fifth century A.D., and when it was gone, Europe was plunged into darkness and despair, slavery and poverty. In the space of 700 years, explains Max Shapiro in his book “The Penniless Billionaires,” “The Appian Way, where Roman legions had frequently paraded in celebration of victory, was clogged with rubble and weeds. Wild dogs roamed through the ruins of the Forum, in search of food. And the 60,000 souls who inhabited the desolate place which had once been called the Eternal City now referred to it as ‘the great cow pasture.’”

Why did Rome decline and fall? The record is abundantly clear on this point. Rome fell because of a fundamental change in ideas on the part of the Roman people - ideas that relate primarily to personal responsibility and the source of personal income. In the early days of greatness, to a considerable degree, each Roman regarded himself as the chief source of income. Each individual looked to himself - what he could acquire voluntarily in the marketplace - as the source of his livelihood. Rome's decline began when large numbers of citizens discovered another source of income: the political process, or the state.

When Romans abandoned self-responsibility and self-reliance and began to vote themselves benefits, to use government to rob Peter to pay Paul, to put their hands into other people's pockets, and to envy and covet the productive and their wealth, they set into motion Kershner's First Law: “When a self-governing people confer upon their government the power to take from some and give to others, the process will not stop until the last bone of the last taxpayer is picked bare.”

The legalized plunder of the Roman welfare state was undoubtedly sanctioned by people who wished to do good. As Henry David Thoreau once said, “If I knew for a certainty that a man was coming to my house with the conscious design of doing me good, I should run for my life.” Another person coined the phrase, “The road to hell is paved with good intentions.” Nothing but evil can come from a society bent upon coercion, the confiscation of property and the degradation of the productive.

Early in the process, a politician named Clodius ran for the office of tribune on a “free wheat for the masses” platform and won. Candidates for office began spending huge sums to win public favor and then plundered the population afterwards to pay their campaign debts.

When Julius Caesar came to power in 48 B.C., he

found 320,000 persons on government grain relief. Temporarily slowing the welfare state bandwagon, he ordered the welfare rolls cut to 200,000. Within a half-century, the rolls were back up to well over 300,000.

### **Government Bread**

A real landmark in the course of events came in the year A.D. 274. Emperor Aurelian, wishing to provide cradle-to-grave care for the citizenry, declared the right to relief to be hereditary. Those whose parents received government benefits were entitled as a matter of right to benefits as well. Aurelian gave welfare recipients government-baked bread (instead of the old practice of giving them wheat and letting them bake their own bread) and added free salt, pork and olive oil. Not surprisingly, the ranks of the unproductive grew fatter, and the ranks of the productive grew thinner.

Surely, many Romans opposed the welfare state and held fast to the old virtues of work, thrift and self-reliance. Just as surely, some of these sturdy people gave in and began to feed at the public trough in the belief that if they didn't get it, somebody else would. That attitude only hastened the slide into bankruptcy.

The central government also assumed the responsibility of providing the people with entertainment. Elaborate circuses and gladiator duels were staged to keep the people happy. The equivalent of a hundred million dollars per year in the city of Rome alone is one modern historian's estimate of what was poured out on the games. These days, many Americans think that by virtue of being artists they are entitled to grants from the federal government at other people's expense. If handouts for the arts constitute a legitimate function of government, by what possible rationale can just about any other handout be resisted?

In Rome, the emperors were buying support with the people's money. After all, government can give only what it first takes. The emperors, in dishing out all these goodies, were in a position to manipulate public opinion. As Alexander Hamilton observed, "[A] power over a man's subsistence amounts to a power over his will."

By the second century, many cities had spent themselves deeply into debt. Beginning with the Emperor Hadrian, municipalities which got themselves into financial difficulties lost their independence as the central government placed them under the authority of imperial curators. Local authority was increasingly replaced by the power of the central government.

### **Taxes & Regulations**

Civil wars and conflict of all sorts increased as faction fought against faction to seize control of the huge

state apparatus and all its public loot. Of 27 emperors or would-be emperors between A.D. 180 and 285, all but two met violent deaths.

High taxes and burdensome regulations were the order of the day. Business enterprise was called upon to support the growing body of public parasites.

By the time of Emperor Antoninus Pius, who ruled from A.D. 138 to 161, the Roman bureaucracy was as all-embracing as that of modern times. The historian Trever wrote that by the third century, "the relentless system of taxation, requisition and compulsory labor was administered by an army of military bureaucrats. ... Everywhere were the ubiquitous personal agents of the emperors to spy out any remotest case of attempted strikes or evasion of taxes."

Another writer, W.G. Hardy, said several years ago that in later Rome, "What the soldiers or the barbarians spared, the emperors took in taxes." The crushing cost of the military, the top-heavy bureaucracy and the public programs taxed the middle class out of existence.

Clearly, the state gradually became the prime source of income for an increasing number of Romans. The high taxes needed to finance this drove business into bankruptcy and then nationalization. Whole sectors of the economy came under government domination in this manner. The first industry in Rome to be taken over was transportation, shipping in particular. Interestingly, the first industry in America to suffer comprehensive control was also transportation — specifically, railroads.

Emperor Nero may have been the original architect of urban renewal legislation. In the 10th year of his reign (A.D. 64), a great fire left more than half of Rome in ashes. It was rumored then, and many historians now believe, that Nero had ordered the conflagration to be lighted to clear the ground for a rebuilding of the city.

In A.D. 91, the government became deeply involved in the business of agriculture. Emperor Domitian, to reduce the production and raise the price of wine, ordered the destruction of half the provincial vineyards.

As the old virtue of self-reliance gave way to political redistribution of income, priests, teachers and intellectuals extolled the virtues of the almighty emperor, the provider of all things. The interests of the individual were considered a distant second to the interests of the emperor and his legions. A spiritual vacuum ensued, which was filled partly by the rise of cults and partly by worship of the emperor. The latter reached its zenith under Emperor Diocletian in A.D. 285. No one could approach him without prostrating himself on the

ground and kissing the hem of his garment. Formerly, the proud, free citizens of Rome had refused to render such servile adoration to any of their magistrates and rulers.

### **Natural Disasters**

The Roman Empire, amid this sickening spectacle of moral decay, fell victim to an unfortunate series of natural disasters and plagues. Earthquakes, volcanoes and harsh storms caused great damage. By A.D. 200, at least one-fourth of the population of the whole empire, both civilian and military, had perished by a plague brought from the East. A later one, from 252 to 267, was nearly as bad. A morally righteous and strong people might have recovered and rebuilt, but these disasters only reinforced the growing despair of a desperate people. The fabric of Roman society was rotting away under the influence of government paternalism, bureaucracy and spiritual malaise.

### **Cheapened Money**

Rome also suffered from the bane of all welfare states: inflation. The massive demands on the government to spend for everything created pressures for the multiplication of money. The Roman coin, the denarius, was cheapened and debased by one emperor after another to help pay for the expensive programs. Once almost pure silver, the denarius by A.D. 268 was little more than a piece of junk containing only .02 percent silver. American dimes, quarters and half dollars, incidentally, contained 90 percent silver as recently as 1964; today, they contain no silver at all.

Flooding the economy with all this new and cheapened money had predictable results: Prices skyrocketed; savings were eroded; and the people became angry and frustrated. Businessmen were often blamed for the rising prices even as government continued its spendthrift ways.

The easy money policies produced periodic crises in the economy. The panic of A.D. 86 and a severe economic contraction of a few years later are examples. The government responded by imposing penalties for trading in gold, especially for exporting it, much as Franklin Roosevelt did in 1933.

Demanding relief from economic disorder, the people of Rome cried out for a strongman. He arrived in the person of Diocletian who, in the year 301, imposed his famous "Edict of 301." This law established a system of comprehensive wage and price controls, to be enforced by a penalty of death. The chaos that followed inspired the contemporary historian Lactantius to write in 314: "After the many oppressions which he put into practice

had brought a general dearth upon the empire, he then set himself to regulate the prices of all vendible things. There was much bloodshed upon very slight and trifling accounts, and the people brought provisions no more to market, since they could not get a reasonable price for them; and this increased the dearth so much that at last after many had died by it, the law itself was laid aside."

### **From Welfarism to Despotism**

Diocletian also ordered that all offices, trades and professions, as far as possible, were to be made hereditary. Young men were forced to carry on in the trades of their fathers. There was no escape from this regimentation. The welfare state had become a despotism.

This tyrant left his mark on history in other ways, too. It was during his reign that fully half the men of the Empire were on the government payroll. Not only did he impose across-the-board wage and price controls in relative peacetime, but he also resigned from office in the year 305. Nearly 17 centuries later, Richard Nixon would become the first American president to impose peacetime wage and price controls and also our first chief executive to resign from office.

All this robbery and tyranny by the state was a reflection of the breakdown of moral law in Roman society. The people had lost all respect for the sanctity of private property. This author is reminded of the New York City blackout of 1977, when all it took was the lights to go out for hundreds to go on a looting spree.

The Christians were the last to resist the tyranny of the Roman welfare state. Until A.D. 313, they had been persecuted because of their faith and their unwillingness to worship the emperor. Under Diocletian, Christians were cast into dungeons, thrown to the wild beasts in the amphitheater and put to early death by every other mode of torture that ingenious cruelty could devise. In this year, Emperor Constantine granted them toleration in exchange for their acquiescence to his authority.

Constantine himself professed Christianity, but his personal morality belied his word. Within three years of his announced conversion, he put a nephew to death, drowned his wife in a bath and murdered his son.

Meanwhile, Constantine showered the Church with land, gifts and patronage at taxpayer expense. Thus corrupted, the Church lost its old simplicity and high moral standards. It, too, had jumped aboard the gravy train.

In the year 380, a sadly perverted Christianity became the official state religion under Emperor Theodosius. Rome's decline was like a falling rock from this point on.

### **Foreign Policy**

In another arena, the foreign policy of Rome in the third, fourth and fifth centuries had become one of weakness and appeasement. Politicians, too busy buying votes at home with pie-in-the-sky programs, ignored the Empire's defense. Barbarian "converts," whose loyalty was still suspect, were even permitted to hold important posts in the Roman military establishment.

In 410, Alaric the Goth and his primitive Germanic tribesmen assaulted the city and sacked its treasures. For three days, Rome was plundered. Palaces and temples were stripped and Roman citizens were raped and killed by the thousands. The once-proud Roman army, which had always repelled the barbarians before, now wilted in the face of opposition. Why risk life and limb to defend a corrupt and decaying society?

The end came rather anti-climactically in 476, when the German chieftain Odoacer pushed aside the last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustulus, and installed himself as the new authority.

Some might say that Rome fell because of the attack by these foreigners. Such a claim overlooks what the Romans had done to themselves. When the Vandals, Goths, Huns and others reached Rome, many citizens actually welcomed them in the belief that anything was better than their own tax collectors and regulators. It is more accurate to say that Rome committed suicide. Like the wild hogs, Romans first lost their freedom, and then they lost their lives.

History does seem to have an uncanny knack of repeating itself now and then. America, by elevating government power at the expense of individual responsibility, has made some of the same mistakes that Rome made centuries ago. In a famous statement, philosopher George Santayana warned that those who ignore history are condemned to repeat it.

No one reading this, however, should despair for the future. The growing intrusiveness of government in America is not inevitable; it is not something beyond the control of the American people. It is, rather, the consequence of faulty ideas, which can change if only this message is carried forth by those who cherish liberty. Indeed, there are very promising indications that the intellectual battles these days are being won — often decisively won — by the friends of freedom and limited government, not by those who foolishly seek to put government in the driver's seat.

Most people who cherish freedom oppose the welfare state for moral, philosophical, spiritual and economic reasons. We would do well to add another reason: the lessons of history! As we work to restore and

preserve those ideas and institutions which made our nation both free and great, let's keep these lessons in mind.

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## **NO WEDDING? NO RING? NO PROBLEM**

More and more Americans opt for cohabitation  
BY JAY TOLSON

Before 1970, it was called "living in sin" or "shacking up," and it was illegal in every state of the union. Why then, many social scientists are beginning to ask, has America's 30-year rise in unmarried cohabitation remained a shadow issue in the family-values debate? "Unlike divorce or unwed childbearing, the trend toward cohabitation has inspired virtually no public comment or criticism," note David Popenoe and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-directors of Rutgers University's National Marriage Project. University of Michigan sociologist Pamela J. Smock, whose survey of recent research will appear in the *Annual Review of Sociology* to be published this summer, finds that most Americans are still unaware of the extent or significance of cohabitation, even though more than half of today's newlyweds live together before tying the knot, compared with about 10 percent in 1965.

Scholars are quick to point out that the United States is still a long way from Sweden, where unmarried couples—who have all the rights, benefits, and obligations of married partners—make up about 30 percent of couples sharing households. In America, by contrast, cohabiting couples make up only about 7 percent of the

total. And for most of those 4 million couples, living together is a transitory business: 55 percent marry and 40 percent end the relationship within five years. "In this country," says University of Chicago sociologist Linda J. Waite, coauthor of the forthcoming *Case for Marriage*, "it's still mostly up or out."

What Smock has found is that the proportion for whom it's "out" of the union is on the rise. In addition, more and more unmarried women who become pregnant choose to cohabit rather than marry, which means that living together is increasingly a substitute for marriage, particularly, notes Smock, among African-Americans.

One of the biggest revelations of the new research is how many cohabiting arrangements involve children. "About one half of previously married cohabitators and 35 percent of never-married cohabitators have children in the household," Smock reports. She adds that almost 40 percent of all supposedly single-parent families are really two-parent cohabiting families. Unfortunately,

that doesn't mean that kids in these households fare as well as kids with two married parents. "The nonparent partner . . . has no explicit legal, financial, supervisory, or custodial rights or responsibilities regarding the child of his partner," notes Linda Waite in the winter issue of *The Responsive Community*. Studies cited by Popenoe and Whitehead suggest there is also a greater risk of physical or sexual abuse in those situations.

Few romantic notions about cohabitational bliss withstand close scrutiny. While there is a little more sex between unmarried cohabitators than between married couples (one more act per month), there's also more cheating by both partners. Then, too, there's more domestic violence and a higher incidence of depression.

But since living together is still mainly a stage in courtship for the majority of marriagebound Americans, the critical question is how the experience affects the subsequent union. Here the evidence is slightly mixed. According to most research, couples who live together—with the possible exception of those who move in already planning to wed—tend to have rockier marriages and a greater risk of divorce. Why this is so is hard to say. It could be that people who cohabit are less traditional in their ideas and less reluctant to divorce. But it's also possible that the experience itself has an effect. "We need to do more qualitative research," says Smock, "and talk to people in their 20s . . . to find out why they are doing what they are doing."

Old rules. Some of the scholars who are studying the phenomenon—including Popenoe and Whitehead—are also taking sides, urging young adults to reject the argument that cohabitation is good preparation for marriage. Other researchers are taking aim at the economic disincentives to marriage, including the marriage penalty in the tax code and restrictions on Medicaid, both of which often discourage less affluent cohabitators from tying the knot. There is even a movement to bring back an older form of courtship. Leon and Amy Kass co-teach a course at the University of Chicago described by the former as "a higher kind of sex education." Using their own recently published anthology, *Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar: Readings on Courting and Marrying*, they attempt "to train the hearts and minds by means of noble examples for romance leading to loving marriage."

Can such a quaint notion win over minds hardened by the "divorce revolution" of their parents' generation? Steven L. Nock, a University of Virginia researcher, is guardedly optimistic that durable marriages will make a comeback (and in fact, since 1990, have been doing so),

whether or not old courtship styles are restored. "My generation," says the 49-year-old sociologist, "was the first to confront equality of the sexes. As a result, many reacted to the changed rules by fleeing from marriage. I suspect that our children, who've grown up with gender equality as a given, will be less likely to flee marriage." That might not be the "horse and carriage" argument, but it makes some sense.

*U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, MARCH 13, 2000* (15 years have seen the sin of fornication grow. Watch young people in public places – sadly you seldom see wedding rings on either person.)

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