

The Biblical Examiner

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

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

540.255.2243 facebook.com/ovid.need

www.biblicalexaminer.org ; tbe@biblicalexaminer.org ; ovid.need@biblicalexaminer.org

Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

Introduction: I do not like to do such large articles, for they weary all but the most ardent reader. However, our serious times require a serious look at God's Word as it applies to our times. So please bear with me.

CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY

God leaves man with a choice between life and death.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Ro 8:13, 14. See also, Jos 24:15, Ro 6:12-14, 2 Pet 2:12ff., Jude 10.)

The willing choice made by America's founding fathers to enter into a covenant with the Lord God of the Bible makes the choice all the more serious for the following generations, down to our present day. The choice then and is now – Peace, Safety and Prosperity, or Decadence, Degeneracy, Turmoil and Oppression.

"Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety." (Le 25:18. See Ps 103:8. Cf. Ez 36)

In Deuteronomy 6:1, Matthew Henry denotes the three-fold nature of the law of which only one part was done away with by Christ. The AV carefully uses different words for each kind of law.

#De 6:1-3 In this and the similar passages, the "commandments" seem to denote the moral law, the "statutes" the ceremonial law, and the "judgments" the law by which the judges decided. Moses taught the people all what, and only what God commanded him to teach. So Christ's ministers are to teach his churches all he has commanded, neither more nor less. {#Mt 28:20} The fear of God in the heart will be the most powerful principle of obedience. It is highly desirable that not we only, but our children, and our children's children, may fear the Lord. Religion and righteousness advance and secure the prosperity of any people. (MHCC, OLB)

The judgments or case law should be the foundation of our legal system. (Larry Pierce)

"Unbelief steps in, arising from human reason." (Bonar on Leviticus. OLB. That is, human reason prevails over

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God's word, and His promised blessings are forfeited.)

The choice between life and death is offered throughout Scripture: Leviticus 25:18 uses statutes and judgments together. Ezekiel 20 uses the two words together more than any other passage in Scripture -- a total of SIX times, vv. 11, 13, 16, 19, 21 & 24.

Ezekiel 20 is an interesting chapter. In it, Israel's elders come to enquire of the Lord through Ezekiel. However, rather than enquiring as to why Israel is in trouble with his God, they desire to know what the future holds. (Enquire or inquire? Ezekiel and some older authors use enquire. Others use inquire. We will use enquire unless quoting.) The Lord told Ezekiel that He would not give them counsel because they were refusing to do what they already knew to do. V. 40 gives the qualifications for enquiring of the Lord, "serve me: there will I accept them". And in the last verse, v. 49, the elders say to Ezekiel that they cannot understand what he is saying to them, "Doth he not speak parables?" Because they had refused to do what they knew to do, they cannot understand God's words to them. Therefore, we see

that the Holy Spirit must give the understanding of His counsel as found in His Word. Refusing to do what one knows to do results in not being shown anything else by the Holy Spirit. (See Ps 36:9, Mark 4:23ff. My pastor used to say, "Use it or lose it.")

Four times we are told that the result of not doing (because they could not or would not see nor understand) is death, v. 11, 13, 21, 25. The problem is in the heart, v. 16 -- "for their heart went after their idols" and they became like the pagan world around them.

• **OBSERVE:**

First. V. 1-4. Certain of the elders of Israel came to Ezekiel to enquire of the Lord, and sat before Ezekiel. Evidently, they wanted a revelation from God concerning their future state:

... Instead of giving a revelation concerning the future, especially with regard to the speedy termination of the penal sufferings, which the elders had, no doubt, come to solicit, the prophet is to judge them, i.e. as the following clause explains, not only in the passage before us, but also in ch. xxii. 3 and xxiii. 36, to hold up before them the sins and admonitions of Israel. It is in anticipation of the following picture of the apostasy of the nation from the time immemorial that the sins of the fathers are mentioned here. (Keil, Ezekiel 10:1-4, OLB)

The people want to know of the future, so they enquire of God's Word (through Ezekiel). Rather than the Lord telling them of the future, He soundly and clearly rebuked them for their past. The only thing the future held for them was oppression, suffering, trouble, sorrow and misery because of the sins of the fathers, from which the children stoutly refused to turn. Patrick Fairbairn points out that though we are not told precisely what these men enquired about,

There can be little doubt, however, that it had respect in some shape to the then depressed and suffering condition of the covenant-people, and implied, at least, if it did not openly express, a desire to ascertain something more definite about God's purpose respecting them. But here, again, a preliminary objection arose from the moral state of the persons inquiring, which was such as precluded them from any right to expect a friendly response from God to their desire for any further information. Regarding, as they did, iniquity in their heart, the Lord could not hear them. (Ps 66:18, ed.) He therefore, at the outset, denounced the presumption of such persons in coming to inquire at his servant, and called upon the prophet to do toward them the part of a judge, by charging upon them the rebellious spirit of their fathers, and showing how little either they or their fathers had received in chastisement from God compared with what they deserved.

(Patrick Fairbairn, Ezekiel, p 209, 210.)

The problem clearly spelled out by the Lord to these "inquirers": Their fathers had set in motion sinful practices which had passed on to the children. Accordingly, enquiring of the Lord and seeking His aid without dealing with those sinful practices was presumption. The parents were to pass on to the children the ways, words (laws, statutes and judgments) and works of the Lord. (2 Tim 3:15) Because they did not pass down the proper faith, the result was that instead of the children hoping in the Lord, they established their hope in themselves and in the surrounding pagan gods - They became a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose spirit was not steadfast with God. (Ps 78:4ff) Moreover, the children had an over abundance of leaders, who, in the name of the Lord, supported them in their stubbornness and rebellion against God's Law-Word. (Isa 8:19, &c. The modern state has effectively convinced Christian parents that their children must be educated in every way, including appearance, in terms of the surrounding pagan culture.)

Now the pagan children wanted to hear from God without facing up to and correcting the sinful practices established by their fathers. They should have been enquiring from God's Law-Word what they needed to do to correct the past sins, so they could again have God's blessings.

THE SINS OF THE FATHERS

America's founding fathers entered into a serious covenant through Jesus Christ with the Everlasting Christian God of the Bible. (You can read that covenant with God, or compact, in the Mayflower Compact.) He is not like the surrounding gods: Jewish, Mormon, Islam, Hindu, nor is he the god that "Christians" try to approach apart from Jesus Christ. Those who entered into covenant with the Christian God did so on His terms as clearly revealed in His Word.

Many times, Moses reviews the never changing terms of the covenant that man must keep if he will have the Lord's promised (covenanted) blessings upon him. One of Moses' reviews is recorded in Leviticus 26, which gives both the positive side, vv. 1-14, and the negative side, vv. 15ff. Though that was a national covenant given to national Israel, who can deny that those blessings were upon this nation when her God was the Lord? (Ps 33:12, 144:15. These are "open promises" for every nation who makes God their Lord. Note the turmoil in "nature", as the nations turn from the Christian God. When man turns from God, all of nature wars against

him.)

WHO CAN DENY THAT FOREIGNERS NOW RULE OVER AMERICANS?

A simple search will reveal that Washington is making it easier for rich foreigners to buy real estate (\$1 billion); Saudi Arabia is buying up farmland in US Southwest; The EB-5 visa program allows 10,000 wealthy foreigners to buy green cards; 10 countries racing to buy American homes; Foreign holdings of US stocks and bonds hit record high, &c. China is buying up food production companies here in America, as are the Muslims. America is being sold a piece at a time to the highest bidder as Washington encourages the sale. Our Republican congress lets the “good times roll”. Both parties are determined to destroy the Christian foundation of this nation, which must be done in order for the state to be the undisputed god, unchallenged in determining what is good and evil.

Leviticus 26:40-42:

“If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. (See also Dan 9:4ff. A national promise, but through Jacob, Christ, it applies to all.)

How easy it is to say, “Great. All we have to do is confess iniquities of the past generations, and everything will be restored in God’s blessings.” However, to regain the blessings promised by God, we must define confession from God’s Word:

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief. (Pr 28:13, 14, which defines 1 Jn 1:9 - confession means admitting sin and taking steps to forsake and correct that sin.)

That is, the present generation desiring to regain the former blessings of the Christian God must examine the past and present in terms of God’s total Word: They must examine everything in the light of God’s word, confess and forsake present violations, and work to correct the past violations set in motion by the “fathers”. It is impossible to expect any kind of Godly restoration of individuals or of a social order without such action.

Confession of sin ALWAYS means taking action to correct that sin in terms of God’s Law-Word. The Lord’s oath could not be stronger: He will not be revealed to the hardened children unless they correct the evil things their fathers set in motion: As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you. The only thing the Lord will reveal to the “inquirers” is their sin and what they must do to correct it. (Eze 20:3, 4.)

• ILLUSTRATION

A modern application is clearly that God will not be enquired of by this present generation until it sets about to correct the sins of its fathers, e.g., the government, pagan, antichrist (Molech) schools is one of the more obvious pagan institutions. The stated purpose of the government schools was to destroy the Christian character of this nation, and they have done a wonderful job. The state schools were motivated by the desire to overthrow God (Ps 2), and those who support them are partakers in the wickedness as they support their own destruction. (Ho 13:9, Ps 50:18, Eph 5:11)

What about the “entitlement” programs set in motion by past generations which have destroyed America’s «self-sufficiency under God» spirit? And we cannot overlook the Masons, but we assume that the Christians who read this material are not involved in that organization.

• BACK IN 1996, BORK DECRIED AMERICAN’S FALL

Decadence is overwhelming American society, and a permissive court system is culpable, former federal judge Robert Bork claims in his new book, *Slouching Toward Gomorrah*. “The rot is spreading,” states Bork, who sees decadence in America’s popular entertainment, art, religion, education, scholarship...and morality. Bork lays much of the blame at the feet of liberal activist judges who have frustrated efforts to stem the tide of decadence. “It is the courts that threaten our liberty (the liberty to govern ourselves) more profoundly than does any legislature,” he writes. Bork suggests that the U.S. Constitution be amended to permit Congress to overturn Supreme Court rulings by a majority vote. Bork, who is now a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, said outright censorship is needed to curb “the obscene prose and pictures available on the Internet, motion pictures that are mere rhapsodies to violence and the more degenerate lyrics of rap music.” He added, “Without censorship, it has proved impossible to maintain any standards of decency.”

BIBLE CONFERENCE ON PROPHECY AND THE JEWS.

Sent unsolicited to me 5/28: "Dear Christian Media Friend, We show you as receiving our prophecy publication, the Christian Media COMMUNIQUE. ... Thanks for responding to the message that God has given us, and we hope and pray you'll be blessed with it. James Lloyd." Starting about 1830 with the Powerscourt Prophecy Conference, the new dispensationalists found huge profits in Prophecy Conferences. Spurgeon had no good words for that escapist mentality.

Ezekiel 20:1-4, people should be holding "inquiring" meetings to enquire of the Lord about the sins of the past generations; that is, the wicked organizations and practices founded (set in motion) by the fathers. The meetings must enquire of the Word of God for ways to change the many areas of life and thought for God and godliness that have been yielded to secular humanism (human reason, psychology, and even man centered "Christianity"; that is, "Christian Humanism"), and then what actions to take. But prophecy takes one's mind off of responsibility:

Concluding his study on Revelation 8, JN Darby said:

It is absolutely necessary that we should renounce everything. We shall have to do so sooner or later, either with joy by the Spirit of Christ, or with shame when the judgments of God shall break every tie that is still keeping us back. We must then leave everything, or else be burnt up with Sodom. **Prophecy has a special power to separate us from this present evil world**, which the patience of God can bear, because He is taking His own out of it, but which is judged already nevertheless. (Writings, II.44. Emp added.)

Prophetic study separates one from reality! All the early major figures in the modern dispensational movement had Darby's philosophy. They were all men of great abilities, which they used to reform Christianity from victory (i.e., go into all the world, preach the gospel of grace, and claim every area of life and thought for Christ) to defeat. We are at war, war against "pietism/mysticism"; that is, "become more spiritual and wait." The movement produced a great many Bible conferences for the sole purpose of learning how to become more mystical/spiritual, dealing with the inner-self and the study of prophecy. The founding men purposely avoided any social application of the gospel. (*Death of the Church Victorious*. P. 203, 204.)

We must admit that it is much more exciting to seek information about things to come. The founding men of the middle 1800s set the climate for the next 175 years

of "Christianity." Rather than face the social issues of our day, and deal with our departure from God's Word and what to do about it, "Christians" gather to escape into "prophecy."

"We regard the failure of this most ingenious scheme of apocalyptic interpretation as a practical demonstration that a clear understanding of the meaning of prophecy is, before the event, impossible." (Systematic Theology, 3 Volumes in one, p. 1010. Warning, "For an old ager who said that men descended from apes! His grasp of the covenant of grace is very poor. -- ... Larry Pierce")

If people enquire of the Lord without genuine repentance over sin and desire to conform to all of God's word, the promise is "As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you." (cf. Pro 28:13, 14) Therefore, if they are "spoken" to, who is "speaking?" (See 2 Cor 2:11; 11:3, 13; Gal 1:8, & 2 Ti 2:26.) Not only is enquiring into the secret things of the Lord forbidden, but also enquiring into the secret counsel of wicked men. (Eph 5:11, 12. Environmentalism says, among other things, that conspiracies are the problem, not sin.)

"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." (De 29:29. Paul repeats the command in 1 Cor 2:12.)

Geneva: "Moses by this proves their curiosity, who seek those things that are only known to God: and their negligence who do not regard that which God has revealed to them, as the law." (OLB)

John Gill: *but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever;* The things of nature and Providence, which are plain and manifest, are for our use and instruction; and especially the word and ordinances of God, which are the revelation of his will, the doctrines and promises contained in the Scriptures, each of the duties of religion, and the commandments of God, such as are of eternal obligation, which may be chiefly designed, because it follows:

that we may do all the words of this law: for the end of this revelation is practice; hearing and reading the word will be of no avail, unless what is heard and read is practiced. (OLB)

Joseph Parker: The simple law is that some "things" belong unto the Lord our God; we have nothing to do with them; we are not concerned in their investigation or adjustment; other things belong to us and to our children, and our definite duty and relation to these is to see that they are realised in all their meaning and purpose. ... There is a limit to "ask, seek, knock" of all investigation....

The practical point to be kept in view is that although God encourages man to ask, seek, and knock; though he has made man an inquisitive and progressive being;

though he has endowed man with faculties, instincts, capacities that yearn to transcend the limits which humiliate him, yet human ambition is to be regulated by divine law, and man is to keep within prescribed boundaries and avoid the iniquity of trespass. This is so in nature, and it is so in what we have come to understand by the term Providence. No man can find out the work that God doeth from the beginning to the end. ... As out of so common a thing as the dust of the earth God fashioned man, so out of the ordinary trifles of life he builds the greatest realities of the future. That we cannot understand these things is no argument against the certainty of their existence and action. We have to understand God as much as God intended us to understand, and leave the rest....

Fool is he who in running from a town in flames will not cross the river until he speculates concerning the architect of the bridge and makes inquiry into the origin and date of its building....

Men like to penetrate into the hidden. They flatter it, they exalt it, they say it is given for good, and pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise; and having wrought themselves up into this delusive appreciation of its value, they put forth the thievish hand, and the fancied blessing turns to a scorpion's sting....

The sense in which things revealed belong unto us is distinctly specified in the text- "that we may do all the words of the law." ... We are not called upon to consider the words of a speculation, or a theory, or a new suggestion regarding the constitution and destiny of things. God puts himself before us distinctly as Lawgiver.... (Joseph Parker, Preaching Through the Bible, IV.325-332. Baker Book House, 1960. Emp added.)

Sadly, fallen man is far more interested in the things of God that are above and beyond his understanding (things he is to have nothing to do with) than in the things that are his. The purpose of Godly wisdom is not so we can know the secret things of God; rather, the purpose is that we might know and do the things that are freely given to us.

Parker continues: A word is to become a deed: a thought is to be embodied in expressive action... We received the law that we might "do" it; if we have failed in the doing our admiration (of God's Word, ed.) is hypocrisy and our loudest applause is but our loudest lie.

We are not only called to obedience, we are called to hope. We shall make some conquest yet even in spheres which at present are absolutely mysterious. ... If we are waiting for the solutions of the mystery before we begin obedience to the law, the mystery will never be revealed to us other than in clouds and storms of judgment. We

walk by faith, not by sight. Jesus said unto one of his disciples, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." This is the Christian's law of action. He acknowledges the mystery; he has no reply whatever to many an enigma; but he is sure that in doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God, he is preparing himself for those great revelations which are promised by faith, obedience, and love. (Ibid.)

Observe 1. Words of love for God and His law are hypocrisy if they are not backed up with doing His law as revealed through Moses. The inseparable connection between action and professed love for God's Law-Word cannot be denied. (Jos 22:5, 1 Sam 18:22, Ps 119:97, 113, 163, 165, Ro 13:10, 1 Co 2:12, Ga 5:14, Ja 1:22, 2:8)

Observe 2. The call to obedience is also a call to hope. Obedience leads to "some conquest" for King Jesus. Despite the conviction of many that the Old Testament promises are now strictly spiritual in the "age of grace," passages such as Deut 28:1ff. & 15ff., are very evidently still in effect: Just look around! (Rom 6:16, 8:13, 37, 2 Pe 2:12, &c.)

Observe 3. How many times have we heard, "When I understand, then I will do..." or "When I understand, I will believe?" However, God's way is doing what we know to do, and then He gives us more understanding. (Heb 3:18-4:3)

Parker rightly calls our attention to Christ's words to Thomas, which "is the Christian's law of action." (John 20:29) We act because we are required by God's Word, and then the Spirit gives further understanding.

Though the Christian "acknowledges the mystery," said Parker, "he has no reply whatever to many an enigma." Pity the poor pastor/teacher and/or layman who will not admit he does not have all the answers. At times, folks try to question me concerning the details of Divine Sovereignty, Election, Predestination and the "Free Will" of man: My answer to them is that I just do understand. I only know that both God's sovereign control of history is clearly taught throughout Scripture, and at the same time, man's "Free Will" is taught, and he is held accountable for every action. My problem is not that I do not understand the details of these great mysteries of God. My problem is that I am unable to do all I know to do.

It appears that modern Christianity equates Christian conversion and maturity with **knowledge about**

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

God and his Word, yet he makes no application of that knowledge into surrounding society. God's law clearly states that the Christian's law of action is simply to do what is obvious to him from the Word of God in whatever situation in which God has him. His responsibility is not to ignore surrounding social turmoil, nor is it to delve into evil conspiracies, nor into the mysteries known only to God. Rather, his responsibility is to do what God tells him to do; that is, love the Lord God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, and his neighbor as himself. In addition, he is to go forth with the intent of Christianizing the nations with the gospel, doing all things for the Glory of God.

The Word of God profits nothing if it is not mixed with doing what it says in every situation, from the servant to the president. (Heb 4:11 *"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. {unbelief: or, disobedience.}*) Christian maturity comes from doing God's Law-Word, not from knowing more of God's Word just for knowledge's sake, particularly of the secret things that belong unto the LORD our God:

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (He 5:14. Solomon asked for wisdom so he could do God's will in judgment and justice. 1 Ki 3. See also Heb 11:2.)

Matthew Henry

(Deut 29:29) [3.] He concludes his prophecy of the Jews' rejection just as Paul concludes his discourse on the same subject, when it began to be fulfilled (Ro 11:33), How unsearchable are God's judgments, and his ways past finding out! So here (De 29:29), Secret things belong to the Lord our God. Some make it to be one sentence, The secret things of the Lord our God are revealed to us and to our children, as far as we are concerned to know them, and he hath not dealt so with other nations: but we make it two sentences, by which, **First**, We are forbidden curiously to enquire into the secret counsels of God and to determine concerning them. A full answer is given to that question, Wherefore has the Lord done thus to this land? sufficient to justify God and admonish us. But if any ask further why God would be at such a vast expense of miracles to form such a people, whose apostasy and ruin he plainly foresaw, why he did not by his almighty grace prevent it, or what he intends yet to do with them, let such know that these are questions which cannot be answered, and therefore are not fit to be asked. It is presumption in us to pry into the Arcana imperii--the mysteries of government, and to enquire into the reasons of state which it is not for us to know. See Ac 1:7; Joh 21:22; Col 2:18.

Secondly, We are directed and encouraged diligently to enquire into that which God has made known: things revealed belong to us and to our children. Note,

1. Though God has kept much of his counsel secret, yet there is enough revealed to satisfy and save us. He has kept back nothing that is profitable for us, but that only which it is good for us to be ignorant of.

2. We ought to acquaint ourselves, and our children too, with the things of God that are revealed. We are not only allowed to search into them, but are concerned to do so. They are things which we and ours are nearly interested in. They are the rules we are to live by, the grants we are to live upon; and therefore we are to learn them diligently ourselves, and to teach them diligently to our children.

3. All our knowledge must be in order to practice, for this is the end of all divine revelation, not to furnish us with curious subjects of speculation and discourse, with which to entertain ourselves and our friends, but that we may do all the words of this law, and be blessed in our deed. (Matthew Henry, OLB.)

WHY?

We can ask the same questions pointed out by MH: "Why would God go to the vast expense of miracles to form the US "as are so obvious in the honest history of this country - when He so clearly saw the apostasy and ruin that would come in a few hundred years?" "Why did not His grace prevent the apostasy of our day?" "What does the sovereign God of Scripture intend to do with apostate America and American Christianity?" (America seems to be suffering greatly at the hands of "Mother Nature," since about the time of hurricane Andrew.) With the above questions in mind, we must not yield to presumption; that is, prying into the mysteries of God's government on earth, for that is not for us to know. (Isa 55:8, 9)

However, we are to diligently enquire into what God has made known through his clearly spoken word, so we can do them. Those things belong to us and to our children. Though much of God's workings in the affairs of men are secret, there is more than enough clearly made known to satisfy and save us, for He has kept back nothing profitable for us. (Acts 20:20) He has clearly spelled out "the rules to live by, the grants we are to live upon; and therefore we are to learn them diligently ourselves, and to teach them diligently to our children." We are told to learn the Word of God, so we can do it.

Evidently, the elder's enquiry of Ezekiel was along this line: "Why did God do the great miracles bringing us out of Egypt just to turn us over to ruin?" Or, "Why did God establish us as a nation just to deliver us to pagan

Babylon?” Or “What does God intend to do with us?” Or “How can we deliver ourselves from this pagan Syrian army?” However, the elders of Israel clearly should have been enquiring into the reasons why they were oppressed by the ungodly, one-world system, Babylon; they should have been enquiring into why they were now under the authority of a foreign, pagan power; they should have been enquiring into the reasons why foreign troops and workers were on Israel’s soil (see my booklet on “Tongues”); they should have been enquiring what, according to the Word of God, could be done to regain their freedom under God. Man’s enquiry into God’s workings must be so man can better do God’s good pleasure. (Philip 2:13)

Enquiry into the fate of the “Jewish” nation, or any nation for that matter, is presumption. Enquiry must be so that we may know and do all the words of His law.

Matthew Henry well stated the matter. Searching God’s Word “to furnish us with curious subjects of speculation and discourse, with which to entertain ourselves and our friends” is presumption. Would this not include God’s secret counsels concerning things like Election, Divine Providence, Predestination and maybe even creation? (Heb 11:3) These are things that must be accepted simply because God said it. What happens when we try to apply human reasoning and understanding to God’s secret things? Are not His ways far past man’s ability to find out? The Lord has given more than enough clearly understood things to keep one busy for many lifetimes. (Job 28:28, Ps 25:14.)

The secret of the Lord is with them who depart from evil! If we want God to reveal secret things to us, we must depart from the sins in our lives. (I saw a little statement on the bottom of a scratch pad, with which many of us can identify: “God put me on this earth to do many things. Right now, I’m so far behind I’ll never die.”) When we come so far short of what we know God would have us do, why are we so determined to understand the mysteries of God? Did not the Lord rebuke the disciples for their attempted enquiry into the future, saying that their concern was to be proclaiming the total of God’s Word unto the uttermost part of the earth? (Acts 1:6-8) The believer’s responsibility is to make God’s Word known to all nations for the purpose that those nations will be obedient to the faith. (Rom 16:26. See also John 20:31)

Where are the “enquiry meetings” with God’s Word? Where is the spirit of enquiry concerning sin and how to correct the sinful activities established by past gener-

ations? We should dread to even think that God’s words spoken through Ezekiel to the elders might apply to us and our generation: “*As I live, saith the Lord God,*” I will not be enquired of by you because you refuse to confront and deal with the sins of the past generations to which you have fallen heir. (The vast majority of professed Christians absolutely refuse to confront the government school situation, and the result is that a great many Christian young people cannot even read their diplomas, let alone read God’s Word. I suppose some of the new versions - perversions - of God’s Word is because people cannot read the KJV.)

Ezekiel 39:8-10 presents an interesting thought: God’s people should be prayerfully going throughout the land to discover the weapons of the enemy, for he has infiltrated every area of life and thought. God’s people should then, based upon God’s Word, set about to “burn” those weapons with the refiner’s fire (1 Pe 1:7), reclaiming those areas according to the Word of God. (See Patrick Fairbairn, Ezekiel.)

The news media has become a very effective “weapon” of warfare against God and His covenant people. The victory has been won in Christ, so God’s people should set about claiming that area back for God; they should set about to “burn” that weapon that has been effectively used by the enemy. Christians should “unite” to purchase - reclaim - some of the sources of the mass media.

Why is it that if Christians cannot start at the top, they are unwilling to start at all? It appears that if they cannot control ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN or FOX, they are not interested in doing anything toward controlling the media for the Lord.

The great Bible conferences going on today should be conferences on how to reach into areas such as the media for the Lord. Continuing our look at what we are told by God through Ezekiel:

Second, vv. 5-26, “and say to them...” Rather than a revelation of the future, they got a review of the past, and it was not nice. The Lord reminds them of the evil of their fathers, who never gave up their false gods and idols. As soon as they got out of Egypt, they built the calf, and they complained against God and wanted to return to Egypt all the way to Canaan. The only thing that kept the Lord from destroying them was his name’s sake. (V. 9)

We should point out that the generation that went into Canaan under Joshua was not much better than their

fathers who came out of Egypt. a) Korah, b) murmuring over water at Kadesh where Moses and Aaron sinned, c) the evil with Moab. It was the generation that went into Canaan who was threatened with dispersion among the heathens. (Deut. 29:4, Ez 20:23)

God continues through his Prophet to remind them of the past, telling them the nation that He had redeemed unto Himself behaved like pagans in the desert. Only God's mercy spared the old nation of Israel. (V. 17) However, God's mercy finally expired in 70 AD.

V. 12, "The Sabbaths" is best described by Isaiah 58:13, 14. The day was/is not simply a day of rest, but it was/is doing the will of God from the heart. (Eze20:13, 14) Vv. 18-24, the Lord continually warned the nation of Israel, yet they ignored His warning. V. 18, though Moses does not tell us about it, evidently Israel became idol worshipers in Egypt, serving the same gods as did the Egyptians. (Josh 24:2, 3, 14, 15) Several times, the Lord determined to destroy the nation, but Moses interceded.

Third, vv. 22-26, "they did not execute my judgment" against sin in God's people as required to prevent His name from being polluted among the heathen. (His just judgments are given in Ex 22:1-23:33.) Their hearts and then their eyes went after the idols around them. (Col 3:5, covetousness is idolatry.)

Fourth, vv. 25, 26, the Lord polluted them... that he might make them desolate.

[C]an only, indeed, be the polluted customs and observances of heathenism that the prophet here characterizes as statutes not good, and judgments in which life was not to be found. By a strong expression (and yet not so strong as that in Isa. lxiii. 17: "O Lord, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways and hardened our heart from thy fear?"), God is said to have given death-bringing ordinances to the Israelites, when he saw their wayward and perverse behaviour in regard to the commandments and duties of his service; since, to punish their unfaithfulness, he subjected them to influences which carried them still farther astray, and brought on, first spiritual, then also, in due time, outward desolation and ruin. We have precisely the same process described, and in still stronger language, in 2 Thess. ii., where, of those who "received not the love of the truth," it is said, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, and that they might be damned," first, the corrupting influences that bring spiritual blighting and disaster let loose upon them, and then, when these have wrought their full effect, the doom executed upon them of final perdition. (Fairbairn, Ezekiel, 221, 222. See Strong Delusion, this issue.)

God's people are warned several times of the deceit they are open to when they depart from God's Law-Word: **Antinomianism** says that there is no Sovereign God who has delivered to man clearly written rules or laws by which to live. The natural result of **Dispensationalism leads to** "the polluted customs and observances of heathenism" being mixed with what little slice of God's word that is left for them. The result is that God closes his people's eyes and minds so they will submit to heathen influences and customs. Old Israel's worship of God became a very corrupt mixture of error and truth; Christ came calling Israel to the true worship of the Father, and the Jews hated Him. (John chps 6, 10. I understand that true dispensationalism holds that the book of John is not for the "Church Age.")

God clearly spells it out: When men reject God's Word, God rejects them, "*because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee*". (Hos 4:6) The result of His rejection is that He sends a spirit of blindness. The result is that those who do not love and practice the Divine Truth of God's Law-Word are prepared to receive a lie. Destruction must follow the reception of lies which leads to the final end, i.e., just retribution for rejecting the Truth. (Jas 1:21, 22. See also 1 Tim 3:13.) Notice God's words of warning as delivered by Ezekiel.

Fifth, vv. 23-26, repeated warning

I. The Lord repeatedly warned His people to return to Him by obeying His statutes and by instilling His judgments into society. They ignored the warning. Notice that it was an act of mercy that the Lord God gave his statutes and judgments, for they give life as opposed to death without them, v. 21. **II.** The Lord Jehovah withdrew His hand from them for rejecting His statutes and judgments, v. 24. **III.** God Himself sent things to them which were not good, and that would lead to death. They were blinded because they rejected His Law-Word, so now they accept the law-word of man through the false gods. **IV.** Note that the reason the Lord sent the deception was so they would follow after the statutes that were not good: "That I might make them desolate." The purpose was for their chastisement: to drive out the corruption they were secretly harboring in their hearts. The purpose for their believing a lie was to make them desolate, or for their own ruin. (Deut 30:16. Pro 8:36 "*But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.*" See also Pro 15:32; 19:16; 20:2; Mark 6:36.)

The end result was that they might know that "I am the Lord and God's name would not be polluted among

the heathen.” V. Look at what the people of God did—“they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb,” a clear reference to Moloch worship. (Eze 20:26)

Moloch is “the king” or “kingship.” The name of Moloch is also given as Milcom (I Kings 6:5, 33) and Malcam (Jer. 49:1, 3, RV; Zeph. 1:5). Moloch was an aspect of Baal (Jer. 32:35), *baal* meaning lord. Under the name of Melcarth, king of Tyre, Baal was worshiped with human sacrifices at Tyre.

While relatively little is known of Moloch, much more is known of the concept of divine kingship, the king as god, and the god as king, as the divine-human link between heaven and earth.

... Moloch worship was thus a political religion. Moloch worship was thus state worship. the state was the true and ultimate order, and religion was a department of state. The state claimed total jurisdiction over man; it was therefore entitled to total sacrifice. ... For a state to claim total jurisdiction, as the modern state does, is to claim to be as God, to be the total governor of man and the world. ... The Moloch state is a product of apostasy. When a people reject God as their King, and make a man or the state their king (I Sam. 8:7-9), God declares the consequences... (I Sam 8:11-18, ed.) The Moloch state simply represents the supreme effort of man to command the future, to predestine the world, and to be as God. ... (Many “Christians” will fight tooth and nail against any idea that God predestinates the world, but they have no problem letting the state predestinate the world, ed.) ... The law is the specified way of holiness. (RJR, Institutes of Biblical Law, pp. 32-36.)

Ezekiel 20:21ff., God’s people rebelled against their God: “they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them.” This passage clearly repeats several times that the standard for God’s people is always His judgments and His statutes. Because God’s people would not accept God’s statutes that were for their good, He sent to them and caused them to accept the statutes that were to their death, e.g., COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAWS that “forced” the children to be sacrificed to Molech, the state. Many times God’s people refuse to give their children to the Lord, yet they freely give them to the Molech state with no objection. (Eze 20:26, 31)

God is not concerned with the past sins of the fathers; what He is concerned with is that the present children serve Him with purity of heart according to His word.

We can discuss endlessly the faults of those who instituted the modern Molech welfare state; we can disagree

over who started the ideas or how they came about, but what are we going to do about it?

God is dealing with the present children of the fathers who established the pollution, and what are the children going to do about it? Pollution...! Environmental activism constitutes the “fastest-growing form of Christian ministry” among evangelicals, claims Fred Krueger, director of Christian Society of the Green Cross. Green Cross, begun in 1993, is guided by the motto “Serving and Keeping Creation.”

At least two dozen schools in the Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities now offer environmental science majors. Certainly Godly stewardship over God’s creation should be emphasized, but I wonder if those same Christian Colleges have enquiry meetings to learn how the children can deal with the pollution, the corrupt mixture of error and truth in serving God, set into motion by the fathers? It is the trespasses against God’s Word set in motion by the fathers which the children refuse to deal with that moves God’s mighty hand against His people.

Sixth, vv. 33-44

V. 33 is straight-forward, leading up to the promise of v. 34. V. 33:

That power which should have been exerted for their protection shall be exerted for their destruction. Note, There is no shaking off God’s dominion; rule he will, either with the golden sceptre or with the iron rod; and those that will not yield to the power of his grace shall be made to sink under the power of his wrath. (MH, OLB)

This sure sounds like either God’s people will allow Him to reign over them as their King, or He will exalt pagan rulers over them. (Cf. 1 Sam 8.) One way or another, God will rule over all men.

“Bad” things upon a Christian are always for chastisement; “Bad” things upon the unsaved are always for judgment.

God’s word to these “inquisitive” elders ends on a high note:

... By the new and better state of things introduced through the gospel, Mount Zion has risen to a nobler elevation than of old, and Canaan has burst its ancient bounds, and the elect people have spread themselves far and wide in the earth. Wherever there is a true believer in Christ, there also is a genuine member of the house of Israel, a pure worshiper coming to Mount Zion, a free-born citizen, who feeds on the heritage of Jacob his father; for they who are Christ’s are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. But other and more fitting opportunities will occur for considering how far the prom-

ised good to Israel is to be understood as merging in the good of the Christian Church... (Fairbairn, Ezekiel, 230. See also E.W. Hengstenberg (1802-1869) on Hos 2:16, Christology of the Old Testament, 183-189. MacDonald Publishing)

• **CONCLUSION:**

1. Inquiring into the future to find out more than what is clearly revealed in God's word is sin.

2. It is only "through faith we understand" the deep things of God. (Heb 11:3.) Only as a man does His will, can he increase in knowledge, and know His doctrine. Only in His light can we see light. (John 7:17, Ps 36:9)

3. There can be no return to national godliness until the weapons of the enemy's warfare are "discovered" and destroyed. (see Ezekiel 39.)

4. Knowledge about God is useless and leads to pride unless that that knowledge becomes workable wisdom and is applied to everyday life and society.

5.

3. The precursors of Christ's coming.

(a) Through the preaching of the gospel in all the world, the kingdom of Christ is steadily to enlarge its boundaries, until Jews and Gentiles alike become possessed of its blessings and a millennial period is introduced in which Christianity generally prevails throughout the earth. (A.H. Strong, Systematic Theology, 3 volumes in one, 1912. P 1008

6. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Isa 11:9)

"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (**Hab 2:14**)

GOD'S SOLDIER IN NORTH KOREA

WHEN "Ji PARK" first crossed the icy Tumen River from North Korea into China, he did so only to save himself.

Desperate to escape North Korea's repressive communist regime and widespread famine, Ji chose to risk his life in an attempt to flee the country rather than slowly wasting away inside.

The second time Ji crossed the Tumen — in the opposite direction — he did so to help save others. Armed with 200 gospel tracts, he returned to North Korea to share the hope of new life he had encountered in a Chinese church. Ji's decision to return to his home country eventually cost him years of his life. But he felt like he was following orders.

"I'd never been in the army, but I felt like I was a spe-

cial soldier," he said. "I am God's soldier. I am a special soldier for God's evangelism work." ...

What I know about God needs to be followed with my actions...

(Voice of the Martyrs, 2/16

Ji was caught, imprisoned for preaching the gospel, freed for good behavior, imprisoned again for preaching the gospel, but this time facing serious torture. He and another prisoner escaped to South Korea, where he married, and is training to be an evangelist with VOM. He plans to return to North Korea.

Observe that most Western Christian refuse to acknowledge there is a deadly war taking place, particularly for the hearts and minds of their children, and that we have been called, "drafted" into the Lord's Army.

A STRONG DELUSION

2 Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

12 SIGNS THAT A CLOUD OF INSANITY HAS DESCENDED ON THE LAND

What in the world is happening to America? Recently, I was asked to describe what we are watching happen to our nation.

Michael Snyder, End Of The American Dream - May 17, 2016

After thinking about it, I have come to the conclusion that it is almost as if a "cloud of insanity" has descended upon the United States and much of the rest of the western world. From our top leaders on down, people are engaged in incredibly self-destructive behavior and are making extremely irrational decisions. Some would describe it as being given over to a depraved mind, and I would have to agree. It is almost as if some sort of severe form of mental illness were rapidly spreading through the air and infecting everyone. Virtually every day I am immersed in news and current events, and it can be difficult to shock me after all this time. But lately, there have been quite a few stories that have stunned even me. The following are a few of those stories...

•**#1 A 27-year-old woman** in Maryland is hoping to "normalize naked breasts" by running around in public without any clothing on the upper half of her body. So far she says that she has not been arrested and no men have tried to touch her inappropriately.

•#2 **It is being reported that** “sex roulette parties” are becoming increasingly popular in the western world. The concept behind these parties is that there is someone in attendance that is secretly HIV positive, and everyone engages in unprotected sex with others in the room without knowing who that particular individual is.

•#3 **The obsession with body art** in the western world is officially getting out of control. A couple of the hottest trends right now among those that are into “body modification” are to tattoo your eyeballs and split your tongue.

•#4 **A Catholic archbishop from St. Louis** recently testified in court that he “wasn’t sure whether he knew it was illegal for priests to have sex with children“.

•#5 **All over the nation**, colleges and universities are holding workshops and events to promote “polyamory” as “an acceptable lifestyle choice” to our young people. According to Wikipedia, polyamory is “the practice of, or desire for, intimate relationships involving more than two people, with the knowledge and consent of everyone involved.”

•#6 **With each passing year**, the level of debt slavery in this country gets even worse. The average American household with debt now owes approximately \$131,000 and is paying out about \$6,000 a year in interest.

•#7 **A dangerous form of synthetic marijuana** is popping up in many American cities these days, and it sends many of the users into zombie-like states...

•#8 **According to some progressives**, identifying yourself as an “American” is now considered to be a “microaggression” and should be avoided because it might offend minority groups.

•#9 **Even though we can see what socialism** has done to Venezuela, North Korea and dozens of other failed regimes throughout history, young Americans are embracing it with gusto. In fact, one survey recently found that a majority of American young adults under the age of 30 say that they completely reject capitalism.

•#10 **The Obama administration** has just issued new “guidelines” that require public schools all across America “to allow transgender students to use the restroom and locker rooms that correspond to their chosen gender“. So 55 years after President John F. Kennedy declared that we would put men on the moon, Barack Obama is declaring that we will put men somewhere else where they have never been before...

•#11 **One anonymous member of Congress** identified only as “Congressman X” is making waves by putting out a new book that explains what really goes on behind the

scenes in Washington. The New York Post has published some new quotes from this book, and a couple of them are quite stunning... When even members of the U.S. Congress start admitting that our nation is in “an irreversible decline”, you know that the party is just about over.

•#12 **When you look up the term** “corrupt politician” in the dictionary, photographs of Bill and Hillary Clinton should be right there. Bill has a history of well documented sexual escapades that goes back for decades, and both of them should be serving long prison sentences for a shocking series of horrible crimes that goes all the way back to the 1970s. But the American people are willingly ignoring all of this, and if the election were to be held today it is almost certain that Hillary Clinton would be the next president of the United States.

Ultimately, we get the leaders that we deserve, and I am not just talking about the White House.

If you look at Congress today, they very much reflect who we are as a nation, and it isn’t a pretty picture.

One of the big reasons why there is so much craziness in America today is because there is no longer a shared set of values or morals that unites us. You would like to think that we should all be able to at least agree on the U.S. Constitution, but in law school I learned that courts routinely ignore the Constitution whenever it suits them. In fact, we might as well not even have a Constitution anymore because hardly anyone in the legal community takes it seriously these days.

Without any foundation to stand on, it is inevitable that our nation will crumble. The widespread insanity that we are witnessing is simply the acceleration of a process of decay that has been in motion for decades.

I would like to think that we could turn things around, but at this point I am not very optimistic.

<http://www.infowars.com/12-signs-that-a-cloud-of-insanity-has-descended-on-the-land/>

Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat – “those whom God wishes to destroy he first drives mad”.

ARE WE READY?

VIDEO: Obese Woman Starts Trashing Store After EBT Card Gets Refused

<http://www.infowars.com/video-obese-woman-starts-trashing-store-after-ebt-card-gets-refused/>

Are we ready for what will happen when the EBT cards are no longer accepted?

Chaos Outside Webster Hall as Fans Flock to Would-Be Kanye West Concert

Hundreds of people packed the streets outside Webster Hall in Manhattan's East Village after Kanye West teased a surprise concert there early Monday — but the concert was ultimately canceled as the crowd grew and grew, leading to a frenzied scene that left behind smashed cars and piles of trash. ...

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/NYC-Hundreds-Webster-Hall-Kanye-West-Surprise-Concert-Canceled-381936931.html>

Are we ready for the mob violence that is coming when the welfare generation cannot get its way? At this time, we cannot imagine what is going to take place when the money runs out. Notice the riots over a rock concert, and imagine what is planned for the Republican and Democrat conventions. Remember, the New World Order must remove every vestige of Christian law and order, and create uncontrolled chaos in order to bring about their totally planned society. In the current social climate, chaos will probably not cause people to turn to the gospel. It will cause people to demand or at least permit a police state. NWO will gladly supply security with their multi-national "peace keeping" force, which rapes and kills world-wide. Our hope is not a Republican hope, nor a Demarcate hope, nor even in self-defense. Though safety is of the Lord, the horse needs to be prepared for battle. (Ps 21:31) Our only hope is a gospel hope. We need to pray that God will send his Good Spirit in the midst of the chaos, and change hearts.

"OUTRAGED" CHRISTIAN PARENTS BOYCOTT

"Outraged" Christian Parents Boycot Gay-Promoting Target While Happily Shipping Their Kids To Gay-Promoting Public Schools. (I should add "To be trained in Sodomy," ed.)

By Scott Alan Buss - April 28, 2016

TULSA, OK – In a curious strategy seemingly designed to secure the very result they claim to vigorously oppose, millions of outraged Christian parents are mobilizing against Target Stores, Inc.'s open promotion of the LGBTQ movement (<http://theendtimes.news/2016/03/11/target-launches-bruce-jenner-fashion-line-for-men-pretending-to-be-women/>) while freely shipping their young children off for daily mind-sculpting and worldview training in a system openly committed to promoting the LGBTQ movement.

<http://theendtimes.news/2016/04/07/christian-parents-shocked-that-anti-christian-education-system-is-teaching-their-children-anti-christian-values/>

"We can't just sit idly by and support businesses that are promoting the abandonment of God-given gender distinctions and assaulting the God-ordained institutions of marriage and family," bellowed Margaret Englewood, a clearly agitated 32-year-old mother of three, from a megaphone as she led roughly 100 self-described "outraged Christian parents" in picketing a West Tulsa Target store on Wednesday.

"We have to take a stand! We have to stop buying public school supplies for our little children at stores like Target! When our little boys and girls spend their seven or eight hours a day immersed in the LGTBQ-supportive teaching openly advocated by our beloved State-run public schools operating under the Department of Education, we have to be sure that they are not taking notes using pencils or notepads purchased at Target!"

"That'll teach 'em!"

Target Stores, Inc. seemed unconcerned with the protests and confident in its long-term strategy.

"Sure, we might lose a few backpack and glue stick sales in the short run," noted a Target representative in a brief press release. "But at the end of the day, with even most of these supposedly 'outraged' protesting parents choosing to freely ship their kids off for daily training in the LGBTQ-promoting worldview of State-run schools, we're confident that things will work out just fine."

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist – or even a Target store clerk – to see that the way these folks are allowing their children to be educated is setting us up quite nicely in the long run."

While picket lines typically roll through business hours, most of the nationwide protests targeting Target dispersed by around 2:30 in the afternoon so that protesting parents could pick up their kids at nearby public schools.

<http://theendtimes.news/2016/04/28/outraged-christian-parents-boycott-gay-promoting-target-while-happily-shipping-their-kids-to-gay-promoting-public-schools/>

Note: "Tongue in Cheek", but oh how true!! Christian parents protest Target, yet "freely ship their kids off for daily training in the LGBTQ-promoting worldview of State-run schools", and even pay to have them trained in sodomy.

A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

By Thomas Williamson

Should we be lobbying the American government to

bomb Muslim nations such as Iraq, Syria, Sudan and Libya back into the Stone Age?

Should we encourage Israel to crack down on the Palestinians for the umpteenth time, in the hope of getting the situation there under control?

Should we ask the president to send American ground troops to Palestine to smite the Muslim infidels hip and thigh, in the name of Jesus?

These are issues of politics and foreign policy, on which Christians will have honest differences. It is not the purpose of this article to try to dictate the answers to questions such as these, which are not always black and white situations with clear answers.

All we can do is present some general principles, to help us form our opinions from a Christian perspective.

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT TO BE EXTENDED BY FORCE OF ARMS. Christ told Pilate, the Roman military governor of Palestine, that “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.” (John 18:36) When Peter used military force to oppose the officers who came to arrest Christ, He said “Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.” (Matthew 26:52)

When the disciples wanted to call down fire from heaven upon some uncooperative “Palestinians,” Christ “rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” (Luke 9:55-56)

The Apostle Paul taught that our warfare is on a spiritual and intellectual level, depending on the power of God, not military force, to persuade and convert men. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the, flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds).” 2 Corinthians 10:3-4.

Islam is criticized, and rightly so, for propagating religion through the power of the sword. As Christians, we must not be guilty of the same thing: we must avoid any appearance of using military might to win our spiritual battles, which would be contrary to the teachings of our holy book

This does not mean that we are pacifists. Christians may serve in the armed forces (Luke 3:14, Acts 10:1-2) and may support national involvement in a just, defensive war (Romans 13:4). At no time should we give the impression that we are supporting a holy war in order to achieve Christian objectives or to suppress our religious

rivals through military force.

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A TERRITORIAL RELIGION. Islam is territorial in nature. Through history, Muslim armies have conquered land, expecting that the inhabitants will submit either by conversion or by paying higher taxes. The expectation is that such lands, once subdued, must always remain Muslim. Jerusalem and the territory around it are considered by Muslims to be part of their turf. (Islam has a view of the world that Christians have. That is, all the world must be made Muslim by forced conversion. We are commanded to make all the world Christian through preaching and teaching the gospel of peace through grace as clearly defined by the Word of God. Ed.)

Christianity, on the other hand, is a kingdom that is not of this world, and does not depend on military or political dominance of earthly territory.

In particular, as Christians we have no mandate to try to control Jerusalem or to prevent anyone else from controlling that city. Christ stated in John 4:21 that the religion He came to establish would have no dependence at all on Jerusalem as a holy city or place of worship.

In Galatians 4:25-26 and Hebrews 12:18-24 we are instructed to focus on the heavenly Jerusalem, not the earthly. Even the Patriarchs no longer have any interest in the earthly Jerusalem, now that they are in heaven, Hebrews 11:13-16.

We may have our preferences as to who we would like to see controlling Jerusalem. But as Christians, we have no mandate to encourage our nation, or any other nation, to go to war over the age-old, controversial question of who gets to control the ancient holy sites of Jerusalem.

(US support of Israel is political – misguided Christians have forced us to pour billions into that antichrist nation, based on a vision by some man in the early 1800s. See *Death of the Church Victorious* for documentation. Shame on Christians who “support,” with God’s money, the pagan nation of Israel’s claim Jerusalem. That city is the holy places of false religions; our “holy place” is the new Mt. Zion, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we could become as dedicated to that “city,” we would see Matthew 28:19, 20 fulfilled. Ed.)

WHAT ABOUT THE TEMPLE MOUNT? Some Christians have imagined that it is their duty to help Jews to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, so that a Jewish temple, complete with animal sacrifices, can be built on that site.

It should be noted that the Israeli government has been opposed to all attempts to blow up the Muslim mosques in Jerusalem for purposes of building a Jewish temple. Extremist Jews who have promoted such an agenda have been treated as lunatics and terrorists by the government. In 1984 Yehuda Etzion of the “Chai Vekayam” group was sentenced to prison for plotting to blow up the Dome of the Rock so that a Jewish temple could be built there.

In 1994 Israel declared the organizations “Kach” and “Kahane Chai” to be terrorist organizations, and the U.S. State Department listed these groups as terrorist organizations in 1997. Their agenda is to expel all Palestinians from the Occupied Territories.

In 2001, former Shin Bet secret service chief Carmi Gillon and former police commissioner Assaf Hefetz warned that a strike by extremist Jews on Al Aqsa “would lead to an all-out war and unleash destructive forces that would imperil Israel’s existence.”

Yizhar Be’er, director of the Keshev Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel, warned of “total apocalypse” as a result of “these Temple Mount lovers [who] want ideologically and practically to build the 3rd Jewish Temple where the mosques now stand,” and he complained that these extremists, many of them with convictions for violent activities, were receiving financial backing from fundamentalist Christians.

Fortunately for the well-being of our Israeli friends, there is no Christian principle that requires us to support destruction of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, any more than we are obligated to try to demolish St. Peter’s in Rome, the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, or other places of false worship around the world. Any Jewish Temple, if built, would also become a place of false worship, since the animal sacrifices there would be a denial of Christ’s all-sufficient sacrifice, Hebrews 9:8-12, 10:1-14, 26-31.

WE MUST NOT MISUSE ANCIENT PROPHECIES AGAINST MODERN PEOPLES. There are some prophecy teachers today who are predicting, or even encouraging, military action and nuclear war against various Middle Eastern countries, including Palestine, Syria and Egypt, based on ancient Old Testament prophecies that date back about 2700 years.

This is not a valid method of Bible interpretation. No one would urge us to bomb modern Israel in order to fulfill an ancient prophecy of judgment upon the Jews by Isaiah or Amos, from the 8th Century BC. It is

equally ridiculous for us to urge military action against any modern Muslim peoples based on old prophecies against Damascus, Egypt and Philistia..

The fulfillment of these divine judgments can easily be traced in the Old Testament and ancient historical records. There is no need to nuke or bomb the Muslims in order to fulfill the prophecies yet again. In particular, it is a pathetic mistake to apply prophecies against the Edomites to any Arab or Muslim peoples living today. Josephus records that the Edomites were absorbed into the Jewish nation in the 2nd Century BC - therefore, there is no connection between Edom and modern Arabs.

AVOID THE CRUSADER MENTALITY. It was 900 years ago that the Crusaders poured out of Europe to conquer Palestine, at the urging of the Roman Catholic Pope. They committed abominable atrocities, slaughtering Muslims, Jews and Orthodox Christians as they went.

After 200 years, they were finally driven out of Palestine by the Muslims. Almost every Muslim in the Middle East is familiar with the history of the Crusades - to them it happened yesterday, and they are very suspicious that the Christians are coming to invade their land again.

The legacy of the Crusades is an ongoing bitterness on the part of the Muslims toward all Christians and “Christian” nations. Also, Muslims are very aware of the fact that they tenaciously resisted the Crusaders and defeated them at last, and they are confident that they can do it again if necessary. (This should give us pause before applying the strong-arm military approach to solve the problems of the Middle East. It’s been tried before, and in the long run, it doesn’t work - all it will do is create bitterness for another 900 years).

In all our approaches to Arabs and Muslims, we must avoid giving any impression that we are coming to take their territory, that we would deny their basic human rights because they are of the “wrong” ethnic and racial group, or that we regard them as “squatters” on land they have lived on for generations. We would like to win them for Christ, but we do not covet their land

The use of “Crusader” terminology may have to be reconsidered, if it is found to be a hindrance to outreach to Muslims. Wheaton College and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association have recently dropped references to “crusades” and “crusaders.” The word may remind Muslims of the atrocities of the original Crusaders. (If

we were going to have an evangelistic outreach involving Jews in any way, we would not call it a “pogrom” or “holocaust,” would we?)

In our dealings with Muslim individuals and nations, we must not compromise our Christian convictions in any way. But we also should not give unnecessary offense, nor stir up opposition, over matters where our Christian principles do not require contention or conflict. Let us boldly confront the false religion of Islam, on the basis of Christian principles, not with worldly tactics and carnal weapons.

From

“CHAPLAINS’ CORPS CHRONICLES OF THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Anno Domini 2016, June

“That the Southern people literally were put to the torture is vaguely understood, but even historians have shrunk from the unhappy task of showing us the torture chambers.” Claude G. Bowers

“Reconstruction was ... an artificial fog, behind which the ‘master minds’ staged a revolution that changed America from a democracy to a plutocracy of ever-growing magnitude.” Rep. B. Carroll Reece (R-TN) 1960

Quote from a Confederate Chaplain

“When I began speaking to Mr. White, of the Sixteenth Alabama today, who was a penitent ... during the revival in Lowry’s Brigade last month, he said he feared his wound was mortal, and he felt like he was almost lost, but I began to read him selections of Scripture suitable to encourage the penitent, and his faith took right hold of God’s promises, and he began to thank God, and to say very softly, ‘Sweet Jesus.’ Then turning his dying eyes on me, he said, ‘Tell my mother I am prepared to meet my God in peace.’”

Chaplain Sterling M. Cherry, (1835-1914), 37th Georgia Regiment

Editorial by Ronald Rumburg

FELLOW COMPATRIOTS IN THE CHAPLAINS’ CORPS AND FRIENDS OF THE CAUSE

A friend attending the Chaplain’s Conference gave this editor a recently reproduced copy of Volume II of Gen. D. H. Hill’s monthly magazine *The Land We Love*, published in Charlotte, N.C., in 1866. This friend, like me, is an admirer of Gen. D. H. Hill. In reading this volume I have found Hill’s eclectic editorials quite fascinating. There needs to be an article written on “Blackened

Chimneys” that mark the way of wrath.

How can I proceed without quoting from one of those editorials?

“Those blackened chimneys stand all over the South, as monuments to the wrath of man. That awful delusion is a more fearful monument of the wrath of the Most High. Our twelve hundred burned or desecrated churches tell of man’s opinion, in regard to the heinousness of rebellion. But that infatuation, which closes the eyes to personal sins and short-comings in duty, tells of abandonment to “walk in the light of their own fire, and in the sparks that they themselves have kindled” (Isa. 50:11). The almost universal drought at the South may be intended, by a merciful Providence, to save us from a similar phase of Pharisaism. We have attributed our unexampled losses to the enemy, and have not sufficiently recognized the hand of God in his dispensations. Therefore, the need for personal repentance has not been sufficiently impressed upon the conscience. But we cannot say that the Yankees brought the drought upon us. ’Tis a visitation of God and shows that he has a controversy with us. May the chastisement turn our people to repentance and may they be clothed with humility, as with a garment. “

Certainly God’s people need not only see the enemy from without but also study the one within. We are often our own worst enemy. Perhaps we become too concerned with correcting the modern lying historians, which needs to be done, but we need some soul searching to be sure we are right with our majestic God.

Hill went on to show that New England was responsible for shipping and selling slaves in this country. These New England merchants of human flesh became troubled when a prime slave cost them 270 gallons of rum. Hill explained: “How touching is this lament at the high price of negroes and at the glutting of the market with New England rum! Who does not pity the poor distressed traders in flesh and blood!” Hill said, “Now we think we understand the whole change in their views and sentiments. When the negro rose in value to 200 gallons of rum, the conscience of some humane man began to trouble him, about the lawfulness of the trade; when he rose to 250 gallons, the monitions of conscience became louder and more troublesome; and when the price reached 300 gallons, the strings of conscience could no longer be borne.” Then the time had arrived for:

“The penitent slaver became a reformer, and wished to convert all mankind to his views. The crusade against the slave trade extended to slavery when it ceased to be profitable. The slaves were sent South and then the States, which had got rid of them, abolished slavery. Next, the

reformers determine to deprive the descendants of the purchasers of their property. War with its carnage follows, and all from overstocking the coast of Africa with New England rum!"

Such was the deduction of the former professor of Mathematics, a writer of Christian books and founder of a military school. Reader, you may be saying of those rum merchants, "What hypocrisy!" But such hypocrisy has not ceased. For example, we are not supposed to judge Muslims by the myriads of atrocious acts (murders, beheadings, burnings, crucifixions, etc.) that they perform worldwide, but Confederate history, with its symbols, is supposed to be obliterated from history because of the action of one murderer who had a Confederate flag in his possession but not a Confederate heart in his body. What about banning everything made in New England because of the slave trade they made fortunes from in trade for their rum? Harvard, Yale and other New England institutions profited from this trade, so why are they not being closed and the property disposed of for conscience sake?

Hill later in the same editorial penned: "What a rebuke do these extracts give to spiritual pride and intolerance." And then he noted something that should be of consequence to the loyal Southern people, "Those, who are now reviled and persecuted, may be regarded with reverence by succeeding generations." We are the "succeeding generations" so how are we doing?

FROM THE "MONEYCHANGER"

I would make fun of today's news, but how do you satirize people who are already disconnected from reality? It's impossible to exaggerate enough to out-do their lunacy. Muslim radical walks into a homosexual bar and shoots 49 people. Muslim is pledged to ISIS. However, Huffington Post says, "Don't Throw the Blame On Muslims for the Pulse Shooting." Goofier yet, the Chicago Tribune mumbles profoundly, "The target was all of us." What do the acolytes of the great god Diversity do when one diverse element kills 49 other, dissimilar diverse elements? Why, it threatens to homogenize diversity! In a blender.

The snake is eating his own tail. Country is becoming ungovernable.

Franklyn Sanders, June 13.

THE LIGHT SHINETH IN DARKNESS

The snowy peaks of the rugged mountains stood out

in bold relief against the black sky of the Alpine night. Even though it was summer, the cold wind whipped through the valley of the Dora River, and the tumbling cascade of water could be heard as it sped its way down the mountain gorge.

In this gorge of the Dora were camped eight hundred men. Roughly the size of David's band of mighty men in the wilderness of Judea, these mighty men faced a daunting task. The men were Waldenses, or Vaudois. For many generations, their ancestors had raised their sheep in these Alpine meadows, cut off from the rest of the world by the rugged and inhospitable terrain of their native valleys. In these valleys their fathers and grandfathers had worshipped God in Spirit and in truth, not after the manner of Rome. They read their Bibles in their native language, sang the psalms of Zion, preached the pure Gospel, tended their farms, and raised their children to love and serve Christ. For rejecting the mass and spurning the shrines of Rome, these people of the mountain valleys had been persecuted, reviled, and scorned by most of the world for many long centuries. But no persecution had as yet been able to make them abjure their faith. The motto of the Waldense people had been this phrase, "Lux lucet in tenebris" - "the light shineth in darkness."

But in the summer of 1689, the darkness had never been blacker. The valleys of the Waldenses lay in smoking ruins. The worst persecution in recorded Waldense history had been launched upon them by the Duke of Savoy.

Ever since 1655, their native valleys had been in the hands of the enemy. In that terrifying year, bands of brigands had been unleashed by the Savoyards upon the Waldenses. Roman Catholic Irishmen had been imported to kill and loot in the Waldense valleys. On pain of death, they had been ordered to abjure their faith and return to the Roman church. Churches had been razed to the ground or else filled with idolatrous images. Waldense pastors had been tortured to death by horrid mutilations. Nursing infants had been torn from their mothers arms and tossed into deep gorges. Wives and daughters had been savagely assaulted by brutal invaders. Though these events stand recorded, the modest pen refused to recount the awful details of these barbarities.

After several years of the most intense persecution, the Waldenses were forced out of their native valleys. They took refuge in the cantons of Protestant Switzer-

land. In cities like Lucerne and Geneva, these homeless pilgrims found refuge. They had lost all because they would not deny or forsake the truth.

Thirty long years of exile crawled slowly by. The Duke of Savoy invited loyal Romanists into his domain to repopulate the valleys. Irishmen from the British Isles and Italians from crowded cities to the south flocked in to inherit the well-ordered Waldense farms. Waldense churches had been reoccupied and decorated with candles, images, and altars for the mass.

Psalm 74 describes their case, "Remember thy con-

RELIGION IS DEFINED AS "MAN'S ULTIMATE CONCERN". CHRISTIANITY—MAN'S "ULTIMATE CONCERN" IS OBEYING GOD'S WORD, AND DOING ALL THINGS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. HUMANISM IS DOING ALL THINGS FOR MAN'S GLORY AND WELLBEING. IF THE ULTIMATE CONCERN IS THE LATEST SPORTS SCORE, MAKING MONEY, HAVING A GOOD HOME, NEW CAR, MAKING SURE OTHERS LIKE YOU, &C., THEN THOSE THINGS ARE ONE'S RELIGION NO MATTER HOW LOUD HE PROFESSES CHRIST. FOR A PASTOR, IF HIS ULTIMATE CONCERN IS KEEPING A GOOD NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS, KEEPING A GOOD INCOME, OR MANY OTHER MOTIVATIONS, THAT IS HIS HUMANISTIC RELIGION.

gregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt. Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary. Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations; they set up their ensigns for signs" (Psalm 74:3-4).

These eight hundred mighty men, encamped tonight in the gorge of the Dora, had come back to their native valleys to reclaim them for Christ.

A blazing fire illuminated the thoughtful face of the commander. He was a courageous Waldense pastor, a man named Henri Arnaud. It was he whose courage had revived the hopes of his fellow countrymen in Geneva. Arnaud saw no contradiction between his role as pastor of his flock and as military commander of this expedition. Arnaud said, "I preach and I fight: I have a double commission and these two contests occupy my soul. Zion is to be rebuilt, and the sword is needed as well as the trowel."

Leaving their wives and children in the care of friends in Switzerland, eight hundred mighty men had set out to reconquer their valleys. The march had led them over narrow mountain trails, across dangerous precipices, and through narrow defiles. Avoiding the main roads, they sought to catch their enemies by surprise. So far,

they had encountered no major force.

But on this night in the Dora Valley, Arnaud knew that on the morrow they would be forced to do battle for the Lord. Over 3,000 Savoyard troops held the high ground, blocking the Waldense path of advance. Only one bridge spanned the torrential river, and that bridge must be crossed. Though they were outnumbered over 3 to 1, Henri Arnaud sought to give courage to his men from Psalm 74. "O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever? Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right

hand? pluck it out of thy bosom." As the morning sun painted the snowy Alpine peaks with gold, the Waldense warriors put their trust in Jehovah and committed themselves to the battle.

The resulting battle was a dramatic display of the power of God to defend His people. At the climax of the battle, the Savoyard troops had surrounded the Waldenses, and the

Waldenses were taking fire from two sides. At this point, someone shouted out, "The bridge is carried." No one knows who gave this cry of triumph. At this point, the bridge was still firmly in the hands of the enemy. Some speculated that it could have been a heavenly voice who gave the cry to cheer the hearts of the Waldense warriors. At the news, a great shout went forth from 800 manly voices. They rushed for the bridge and carried it instantly. In the confusion, the Savoyards became intermingled with Waldense warriors. Some began to cut down one another. The battle raged for two long hours. At the end of the slaughter, only 15 Waldense soldiers were killed and 12 wounded. Over 600 Savoyards had been slain, and the rest were scattered in confusion.

Captain Henri Arnaud led his men to the top of the next mountain, Mount Sci, from whose heights they could look down into their own valleys. The first town that was recaptured was the village of Prali. Arnaud led his victorious men into the church where they destroyed graven images, overthrew idolatrous altars, and removed the Roman tapestries.

Captain Arnaud then ascended the pulpit. In one hand was his French Bible. In the other hand was his massive sword. Laying both upon the pulpit, he opened his Bible to Psalm 74 and read the words of Scripture, "Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and

that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name. O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked: forget not the congregation of thy poor for ever. Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name. Arise, O God, plead thine own cause" (Psalm 74:18-22). Arnaud's men then made the ancient church resound with the voice of psalm as the warriors sang Psalm 74 together.

God had indeed pled his cause and given rest to His children. In a few short weeks, the mighty men of Henri Arnaud had driven the enemy from the Waldense valleys, purified the churches, and restored true worship. Soon, wives and children were able to safely return and inhabit the Valleys of the Piedmont again.

Foreign courts heard of the exploits of Henri Arnaud, and numerous offers of command reached him. For a time, Arnaud was appointed a commander in the army of William III, and Arnaud's confident leadership led the Protestant forces to an important victory at Blenheim. But after the peace of the Protestant people was assured, Arnaud turned down lucrative and important military posts to return to his own people. He lived the last portion of his life in a quiet village, serving his people as their pastor.

—Drawn from Foxe's Book of Martyrs by John Foxe, The Glorious Recovery by the Vaudois of Their Valleys by Henri Arnaud (out of print), and The Waldenses, Sketches of Evangelical Christians of the Valleys of the Piedmont by Alexander Mitchell, reprinted by Crown Rights Book Company in Dahlonaga, GA
(John Huffman: *Mighty Man Herald*, cbebelleville@gmail.com. June 2016)

PERSONAL

It is hard to remember any time over the past couple of months that we have not been on the road either to a hospital, a doctor, or dentist. Of course, I had my cataract surgery which required seven or eight visits to the eye doctor. My left eye still has a distortion in it. It turns out there is a swelling behind the retina which we pray will go down as we continue eye drops.

An unknown mass was found in my belly close to my colon, so the doctors insisted on a colonoscopy. They removed two benign polyps. Everything was fine. Now we must decide what to do about the mass.

One of the scans which found the mass also showed stones in my bladder. A closer look at the stones caused

concern about cancer. The VA hospital at Chillicothe sent me to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base hospital to have the stones removed. That required four trips. The stones were "laser zapped", and there was no sign of any cancer. I was asleep for the procedure but the following days after the removal of the catheter were not pleasant.

However, visits to the Chillicothe, OH VA hospital are very pleasant, for it is only about 20 minutes from 10 of our grandchildren.

I am catching up on the medical problems that had been put off because of our move.

Our daughter, her husband and their three young children are living with us. They had a good opportunity to sell their house in Goshen, Ohio for their asking price. At the time, they had a good prospect on another home, but that prospect fell through. They have been with us now for several weeks, and for how much longer, we do not know.

Our garden will be small this year: 6 4x4 raised beds we found from Costco. We are close to Amish Auctions, where we will get our veggies for canning. It is one of the auctions where one of our grandsons sells his tomatoes. (They planted only 500 plants this year. It is a lot of work, but turns a good profit for a 13 year old and his siblings who help him.)

VARIOUS SICKENING SIGNS OF INSANITY

Some headlines that caught my attention

**** Cancer screening mostly** a psychological terror campaign waged against women to enrich cancer treatment clinics, warns doctor

http://www.naturalnews.com/053981_cancer_screening_psychological_terror_campaign_unnecessary_treatment.html

**** Christian Refugees Forced** to Participate in Islamic Prayers

<http://www.breitbart.com/london/2016/05/11/christian-refugees-forced-participate-islamic-prayers/>

**** Harvard to Punish Students** who Join Single-Gender Social Clubs Because they foster "forms of privilege and exclusion."

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/harvard-punish-students-who-join-single-gender-social-clubs>

**** Feds Promote Rainbow Badges** for Public School Faculty: I'm an LGBT 'Ally'

Providing "safe spaces" for "safe schools."
<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/feds-promote-rainbow-badges-public-school-faculty-im-lgbt-ally>

**** Obama's Hometown Schools Take Transgender**

to Next Level... Require Sick Thing From Students.

“Under the new guidelines, if someone has male parts but happens to think he is a female, you could be punished by referring to him as “he” or “him” instead of “she.”

http://conservativetribune.com/schools-take-transgender/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=ConservativeBrief&utm_campaign=DailyBest&utm_content=2016-05-18

**** San Fran High School To Offer Nation’s First LGBT Studies Course**

“[T]he impact of this course could not be underestimated.”

This Fall, San Francisco’s Ruth Asawa School of the Arts will become the nation’s first high school to offer a course in LGBT studies. The class is an elective and will last a semester. So far, 25 students are enrolled.

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/san-fran-high-school-offer-nations-first-lgbt-studies-course>

CHRISTIANS SUPPORT SODOMITE EDUCATION

**** Baptist Press June 3, 2016**

Christian education leaders: No rush from public schools yet

The Obama administration’s transgender directive for public schools does not seem so far to have provoked a widespread rush of families toward other education options, but it could be a factor if such a movement develops in the future, say leaders in the Christian school and homeschooling movements.

<http://www.bpnews.net/46979/christian-education-leaders--no-rush-from-public-schools-yet>

There is nothing more to say!

There is nothing but destruction

To come on this once great nation.

We have put the enemy into public

Office to destroy us from within and still,

The churches are silent. I know

From my study of history that the churches

Were once a power in America.

No longer. They have been infiltrated

By the enemies of Jesus Christ and the gospel

Perverted and while all this was going on

Christians sat in their pews and fell asleep.

Psalm 9:17 KJV, The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

**** More Democrat Corruption: Flint Mayor Sued for Diverting Water-Crisis Funds to Personal PAC**

Welcome to Michigan’s Democrat machine.

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/more-democrat-corruption-flint>

mayor-sued-diverting-water-crisis-funds-personal-pac

**** ICE Agent Commits Suicide** in NYC; Leaves Note Revealing Gov’t Plans to Round-up & DISARM Americans During Economic & Bank Collapse

<https://www.superstation95.com/index.php/world/1288>

**** Tennessee Supports Gold Depository, Fearing Monetary Crisis**

Citing concerns about a possible economic crisis and a desire for monetary stability, the State of Tennessee is now officially on record supporting the establishment of a depository facility to house gold and other precious metals for Tennesseans. In a remarkable example of bipartisanship on serious issues, the resolution passed unanimously in both the state House and Senate before being signed by the governor. But more work remains, according to pro-Constitution and sound money activists supporting the efforts....

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/economy/economics/item/23207-tennessee-supports-gold-depository-fearing-monetary-crisis>

GET OUT OF BANKS, PAPER MONEY, STOCKS AND BONDS.

**** In Search For Cures, Scientists Create Embryos That Are Both Animal And Human**

May 18, 2016:08 PM ET Heard on All Things Considered

A handful of scientists around the United States are trying to do something that some people find disturbing: make embryos that are part human, part animal. ...

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/05/18/478212837/in-search-for-cures-scientists-create-embryos-that-are-both-animal-and-human>

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. How far will the Lord allow man to sink into his depravity?

**** The New Counterculture: Conservative Students Speak Out Against PC Mania on Campus**

“I was called a ‘race traitor,’ ‘Uncle Tom’ and ‘coconut’ by black students.”

5.20.2016, by Trey Sanchez

The political correctness running wild in academia is giving rise to conservatism as the new counterculture movement on campus. The status quo is liberalism and the establishment is leftist professors and administrators.

As TruthRevolt previously reported, a Saddleback College student in California is among this political minority that is noticing this shift. Taylor Samuelson believes that the PC culture on campus “is reaching its peak” and it’s just a matter of time before it freefalls to its death, leaving conservatism to fill the void. Samuelson said there is hope on the horizon:...

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/new-counterculture-conservative-students-speak-out-against-pc-mania-campus>

Note: we certainly understand that “conservatism” will not solve the world’s problems. Only teaching the gospel, and teaching the people to observe all things God has commanded can bring sanity to our currently insane world. However, it is encouraging to read about young people getting fed up with the “PC culture”. Is this a step toward returning to reality?

**** Forbes attacks pro-organic group ‘Moms Across America,’ for promoting GMO-labeling through independent billboard campaign**

http://www.naturalnews.com/053993_Forbes_hit_piece_Moms_Across_America.html

**** Listening to “all things considered” on NPR, we heard the sugar beet growers complaining about the big candy companies switching to cane sugar. The reason is that sugar beets are almost exclusively Monsanto GMOs, while cane sugar is not. People are waking up and even paying extra for non-GMO products.**

*** * U.S. taxpayers paying ‘salaries’ of jailed Palestinian murderers**

<http://www.wnd.com/2016/05/u-s-taxpayers-paying-salaries-of-jailed-palestinian-murderers/>

**** Watchdog group protests annual American Psychiatric Convention, objects to recommendation of use of electroshock therapy on children and teens**

http://www.naturalnews.com/054008_electroshock_therapy_children_CCHR_protest.html

**** Pope Francis Likens Jesus to ISIS, Says Muslims Must Breed With Europeans**

In a shocking interview, Pope Francis likened Jesus Christ to ISIS and said Muslim migrants must breed with Europeans to counter “declining birth rates.” ...

His opinions are stunningly similar to those of top Iman Sheikh Muhammad Ayed, who said Muslims should **exploit the migrant crisis to breed with Europeans and “conquer their countries.”**

“Europe has become old and decrepit and needs human reinforcement... they are not motivated by compassion for the Levant, its people and its refugees... soon, we will trample them underfoot, Allah willing” he stated. “Throughout Europe, all the hearts are en-

thused with hatred toward Muslims. They wish that we were dead, but they have lost their fertility, so they look for fertility in our midst.”

“We will give them fertility! We will breed children with them, because we shall conquer their countries!”

Muslim Scholar Celebrates Extinction of ‘Blue eyed, blond Haired’ Germans.

<http://www.infowars.com/pope-francis-likens-jesus-to-isis-says-muslims-migrants-must-breed-with-europeans/>

The West hates children, and the Muslims will force children with the Western females, as they are already doing in the countries they control.

**** DANGER: GULEN CHARTER SCHOOLS AND THE FETHULLAH GULEN MOVEMENT**

“The charter school experiment has resulted in the United States being the only country in the world where the Gülen Movement has been able to establish schools fully funded by the host country’s taxpayers.” -The Joke’s on US!

The world should never forget “Islam is a Human time bomb ignited by a hair trigger called hatred – them toward us”.

The Gulen Charter schools and the Gulen Movement must be removed from the United States. I recently wrote an article regarding the CIA’s role in allowing Sheikh Mohammed Fethullah Gulen into this country and put all the blame for their invasion into our school systems upon the CIA and uninformed and unquestioning state and local school boards. Now they are invading our military bases. It is time for parents to understand the full danger involved in this Jihad. For the 2015-2016 school year we have 155 Gulen Charter schools in 25 states with Texas (52) and Ohio (17) having the most. In 2011, Texas only had 33. ...

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Kepus/diane139.htm>

**** Sharia-Compliant Financing Secured for Lux Condos, Islamic Museum Near Ground Zero**

MUSLIM FLAG-PLANTING ON US SOIL

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/sharia-compliant-financing-secured-lux-condos-islamic-museum-near-ground-zero>

“This is flag planting, plain and simple.” The message is clear — just as sure as the Marines raised the flag over Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, in February 1945 to claim Iwo Jima for the US, the Muslims are raising their flag over the most “sacred” spot in the US to show that they have conquered this nation for their moon god, Allah. Read the news. They have conquered the education system. The federal government with US taxpayer funds financed them with an indifferent Congress and

public. They are also well underway to conquering the US by the tens of thousands of Muslim imports from Assyria. Again thanks to a Congress that must finance the Muslim army's invasion. The article did not say who is financing the building of this monument to Allah, but it is a well-known fact that for many years Saudi Arabia has been financing the conversion of the public schools to Islam through textbook publications which praise Islam. I see no reason to doubt that Saudi Arabia is behind the building of this monument. The courts have ruled that the surviving victims of the 9/11 attack can sue Saudi Arabia in civil court for their part in that attack. According to "appearances", we are clearly living in a post-Christian world.

**** BOMBSHELL REPORT: Saudis Hit Back:** "The U.S. Blew Up World Trade Center To Create War On Terror"

<http://sgtreport.com/> **Why are we not suprised?**

**** England Bans Its Own Flag** to Avoid Offending Muslims. "English people are terrified of displaying their own flag after being endlessly lectured that it's racist and offensive to immigrants."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTlr0707vLU>

**** House Votes to Ban Confederate Flag** at National Cemeteries

http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/05/19/gop-led-house-votes-ban-confederate-flag-national-historic-cemeteries/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social

Personal note: We need to fly a "Confederate flag" if for no other reason than to show that we are against the PC police.

**** Monsanto now facing wave** of chemical negligence lawsuits over glyphosate (Roundup) and cancer deaths
http://www.naturalnews.com/054088_Monsanto_Roundup_cancer_lawsuits.html

**** The warnings continue** about the world's #1 spyware program, W10. Top Story: Windows 10's nasty new trick will make you furious.

Stop Windows 10 from upgrading you without your knowledge

http://www.komando.com/tips/360268/one-accidental-click-could-install-windows-10-even-if-you-dont-want-it?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=totd&utm_content=2016-05-26-tips_items-title

**** Big Pharma's medical research papers** are total bunk... hundreds were fraudulently ghostwritten by a P.R. firm called 'DesignWrite' (Intentionally causing cancer for the benefit of big pharma.)

http://www.naturalnews.com/054141_Big_Pharma_research_fraud_ghost_writing_science_papers.html

**** More Young Adults Live With a Parent Than With**

a Spouse, Partner

For the first time in more than 130 years of record-keeping, young adults in the United States are more likely living with mom and dad than they are living with a spouse or partner.

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/05/24/millennials-live-parent-spouse-partner/>

**** Millennials turn to 'sugar daddy' prostitution** to pay debts. Skyrocketing cost of education driving 'arrangements'

<http://www.wnd.com/2016/05/millennials-turn-to-sugar-daddy-prostitution-to-pay-debts/>

**** Think the Zika virus is responsible** for all the cases of microcephaly in South America? Think again: There is no reliable scientific evidence linking the two. The developmental deformities are actually caused by exposure to toxic insecticide and larvicide chemicals, not Zika virus.

http://www.naturalnews.com/054248_Zika_virus_medical_hoax_vaccine_industry.html

**** Fishwrap: Confidence** in newspapers, TV news hits bottom

...And Americans aren't putting their faith in religion. Gallup found that confidence in organized religion dropped below 50 percent, to an all time low of 41 percent. ...

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/gallup-confidence-in-newspapers-at-all-time-low-congress-worse/article/2593711>

TURN THOU US UNTO THEE...

I have found Lamentation to be a depressing book, as it shows us the judgment of God against His people, and reveals the cause of that judgment. Yet amidst his judgment, God always has a light shining. One of these lights here in Lamentations is found in 5:21, where we read, "*Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned*". This passage gives us as much hope of any in the Scripture. "*Turn us*" is repeated many times throughout Scripture.

1. Man is utterly depraved, for he has gone astray from his youth.

2. He has no desire to turn to God or do any good. In fact, God says quite the opposite---his every desire is opposite of God.

3. That corrupt nature is in all men, and still fights for control over even those who have His "new nature." It manifests itself in an overwhelming desire to operate apart from God. The corrupt nature will even convince us that "good works" pleasing to God can be accomplished apart from the faith of Jesus Christ.

Does not scripture show us that the major temptation of Christ was the temptation to be his own god, and act apart from the Father's will? "He was tempted in all points like as we", and if Satan could have persuaded him to act on his own or within his own power or strength even to heal the blind, cast out devils, raise the dead, then the plan of redemption would have been destroyed.

Thus, any action apart from dependence on our heavenly Father, the Spirit working through us, is an act of sin. Satan will even encourage "good works", if he can get us to act apart from God's strength, grace.

Even when the unregenerate think they are doing God's will, they are acting independently of God--sin. However, Divine Providence is unseen hand behind everything that takes place in His creation, and all things are for his glory. (Rev 17:17, Ps 56:10) Any action on the part of any man apart from dependence on the Spirit working through him is sin. But we have an advocate...

But without faith it is impossible to please him: (Heb 11:6. Faith is shown in action in Heb 11.)

Is "living by faith" some mystical feeling that might motivate us? No! Faith is simply acting on the command-word of God as it is revealed to us. Noah built an ark because God told him to; Abram moved out of Ur because God told him to; Rahab perished not because she believed God, &c.

How do we depend on the Spirit rather than self? by obeying the Word of God as His will is revealed to us, regardless of what emotion or feeling might be "attached". Though actions motivated by other than obedience by faith are sin, even those actions bring glory to him. (Rom. 14:23, Ps. 76:10, Jam 4:17) Thus, "walking in the Spirit" is obeying the command-word of God, and leaving the results up to Him.

EMOTIONAL APPEALS

Churches uses many means to motivate people to good works, but if the basic motivation toward good works is contrary to an act of faith that the Spirit will work through us as we obey, then it is sin. Everything we do is to be done for one purpose, the glory of God. (1 Cor. 10:31) How much today is being done as an act of sin? Bus ministries were bad about this: Fill your bus, and win this prize, &c.

If Christ had done one thought, word or deed (various miracles), apart from a complete obedience to his Heavenly Father, we would have been left of all men most miserable. (Rom 14:23 "for whatsoever is not of faith

is sin.")

Is it any wonder that what has looked so good for so long (last fifty years) is turning out to be eaten up with the worms of worldliness. Good in man's eyes is not necessarily good in God's eyes, as God defines good.

Is speaking to others about the Lord good or bad? Is it a result of being "pumped up" with music or shamed to do so by a speaker, &c., or is it a result of the desire to obey the commands of the Word of the Lord? Does the preaching build faith that God can work through redeemed sinners, if we will obey. Or does the preaching build emotions that will override our fears? Does not fear return when the emotions dissipate into thin air?

Christ did nothing apart from complete obedience to the Father. How many of our actions are a result of simple obedience to our Lord's commands? (Jn 3:32, 8:38ff.) Our temptation is to do "good things" because we want to, not because the Word commands us to act.

Read the biography of Chesty Puller, Marine. He tells how the Chinese commanders of North Korea "siked" up the vast army of tens of thousands of soldiers, and sent them charging into the face of his blazing machine guns. Many Chinese had no guns, so they attacked with sticks and firecrackers. His guns fired until the barrels melted, but the hordes of mindless Chinese kept coming.

Is the pastor's responsibility to build emotions which will cause his hearers to charge hell with an empty squirt gun, as the Communist did in Korea? Preaching is to build faith and confidence in the Word of God to where we will, in spite of our fears, do his revealed will. (Ps 34:4, 2 Cor 7:5)

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (1 Cor 2)

Though Paul had "weakness, fear, and much trembling", he obeyed his Lord's command anyway. The result was that their faith stood in the power of God.

If we obey God out of emotion rather than faith, do we compromise the power of God that causes men to stand? We may condemn the Pentecostal movement for using music to emotionally charge the people, but I have sat in a good number of Baptist meetings that do

the same thing through various methods.

God gave emotions, and admittedly, it is much easier to stir up emotions. God works through emotions, but the world, flesh and the devil make their appeals through the emotions. Emotions, as well as every thought and action, must be subject to the Word of God.

We do what is right because God's Word commands it of us, not because we feel good about doing it; that is, we walk by faith. How many of our churches are "built" by people who did it because they felt good about doing it? They were emotionally charged up by their commanders rather than realizing their responsibility and obeying God's Word. We must reach that co-worker because it is our responsibility. We pray and read our Bible because it's our responsibility. We are faithful in the public assembly because it's our responsibility. We get involved for godliness in the community because it is our responsibility.

How many churches have been built by pastors and people who worked because it was right to do in obedience to the Word of God, as they stepped out maybe with much trembling, and by faith did it? Of course, only the Lord knows. Even the individual may not know, for many times the results of both faith and emotion appear the same. (Php 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.)

In the early 70s, I was a staff member of a large church that was in a building program. The preacher put a terrible guilt trip on everyone who would not give at least \$1000 to the building fund. As a staff member, we did not make enough to do such a thing, so I yielded to the guilt, and "donated" the money in the form of silver coins I had been holding since the middle 60s. Then the pastor "bragged" how great the building fund was doing. I did not give out of love for the Lord, but because of the guilt from the pulpit. (The ungodly know very well how to use guilt to obtain their ungodly goals; we are surrounded with messages of guilt: "Mrs. O: I wake up in a house built by slaves..." Drudge, 6/4/16.)

The preacher's responsibility is to build up the faith of his people, so they will follow their Commander into the war to the death if need be.

We must keep in mind our heart is deceitful above all things, which is why we must have His Word to divide between the soul and the spirit. How much will be burned as "wood, hay and stubble" in that day? (1 Cor. 3:12) How much praise will we receive at His throne?

"Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned."

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:12, 13)

Grace is both the God-given desire and His power to do His good pleasure. Grace, "God's unmerited favor", is certainly true in the sense that we have done and can do nothing to merit God working in us to bring life and to do His good pleasure. Truly, grace is God working in our dead state, giving us that desire and power to come to Christ. Without this grace there can be no desire to turn toward him. Grace: 1) Shows the need. 2) Gives the desire. 3) Provides the power to yield to that godly desire. 4) Provides the power to fulfill God's good pleasure in our lives and revealed in his Word.

"God's unmerited favor" seems to say that God comes to the aid of man (as man's servant) even though man is violating God's Word. This understanding can open some very unscriptural doors. "Though I have lust and bitterness in my heart, the grace of God will come to my aid anyway." This unscriptural idea of "grace" is evident in the church today, whether intentional or not.

However, a better understanding of grace is Philippians 2:13---the Sovereign God working in whomsoever he pleases, giving them the desire and power to accomplish his good pleasure as he calls the Elect to himself and then calls them to holiness, forming Christ in them.

2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds ..." (Geneva). Paul tells us that God alone can command the light of the knowledge and glory of God into the blinded minds. Geneva, "God" vs KJV "god". "God" fits better into the context of scripture. God is the one who sends blindness for his own sovereign purpose, i.e., judgment. (Joh 12:40, Ro 11:7, 2 Co 3:14)

Here in Lamentations 5:21, Jeremiah reminds the Lord that he alone can work in man's total corruption and rebellion to turn the hearts of men to himself. (See Elijah, 1 Ki. 18:37 "Thou hast turned their heart back again".) God alone can work in circumstances, God alone can turn the hearts of the sinner, and he normally uses his Word and the preaching of His Word and our prayers. (I will not go into the occult details, but there is a "soul power" of even the unregenerated man. Through "meditation" this "latent soul power" can control people and situations. Of course, God must give permission

anything Satan does.)

No matter how hopeless a situation might appear, the outcome does not depend upon us. It depends upon the workings of the grace of God. Let us not chance compromising His grace by moving into the realm of unbelief, and acting on our own. (Disobedience to the command-word of God is unbelief. He 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. {that...: or, that were disobedient}) Faith, maybe with fear and trembling, follows the Word of God into the unknown, depending on the Spirit to do His promised work.

Until Christ's time on earth was fulfilled, all of the enemies the devil could muster were powerless against him. But when his job was completed, only then did the enemies of the Father have power over him. (Acts 2:23) If he would have become fearful of men, then they could have moved successfully against him before his job was finished. Moving in complete obedience on His Heavenly Father, he not only had the power of the Father, but had the Father's provision and protection. (Jn. 8:26-31)

We must keep our eyes on Him and obey His Word because it is the right thing to do, not because we have been emotionally charged up to do so. We can hide behind our shield and strong Tower-- and let the raging seas roll for the enemy cannot touch the elect unless the heavenly Father permits it for their good. (Rom. 8:28-29, etc.)

Whate'er my God ordains is right;
His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er He doth;
And follow where He guideth;
He is my God; though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall:
Wherefore to Him I leave it all.

What a wonderful song. There are six more verses found in the Trinity Hymnal. Samuel Rodigast, 1676. Translated from the German, 1863. Rodigast wrote this hymn to cheer his friend Gastorius, precentor at Jena, who had become seriously ill. Gastorius not only recovered, but went on to write the tune for Rodigast's words. Germany has been the source of the Reformation and so much outstanding music and Christian works. Is it any wonder that the Devil has made Germany a key target in destroying Christianity.)

The wonderful, matchless, marvelous grace of God empowers and watches over those who step out by faith to do his revealed will. Satan himself is subject to the will of God, and can only do what glorifies God. (Job 1,

2, Dan 4:34, &c.)

At one time, I thought that if I could do enough "spiritual" work, I would be worthy of his loving care. But then the Lord "destroyed" me with Philippians 3:4ff., "and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20) That is, I live by faith that if I obey God's command word, he will fulfill his will for me to conform me to the image of his Dear Son.

Both testaments have an abundance of grace as God gives the desire to his people to do what is pleasing in his sight. Grace gives the power to follow through the desire placed by the Spirit to accomplish His good pleasure, and thus inherit all the promises that are available in Christ; God's unmerited favor is merited in Christ Jesus. However, God's people cannot ignore their responsibility to God as clearly spelled out in his command-word and still have his favor. Grace is God working in the elect to give them the desire to come to him, and then the Spirit gives to them both the desire and power to be holy even as he is holy, which will result in the expansion of His kingdom over the earth:

"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God." (Le 20:7, 1 Pe 1:15, 16.)

All articles by Bro Need unless otherwise noted.

- Do you enjoy ObamaCare? Do you like paying for abortions, the results of drunkenness, sodomy, &c.? Check into <http://samaritanministries.org/> SM is the closest to Scriptural health care that you will find, and is a fraction of the cost you encounter in various insurance plans, especially in ObamaCare, particularly with the IRS breathing down your neck if you do not submit to the Federal Government. Log on, check it out, and tell them that Bettie Need (bettie.need13@gmail.com) recomend-ed SM, and we will get one month paid for if you join.

* Messages are available as Microsoft file to be emailed to those who request to be on that list. Contact me at tbe@biblicalexaminer.org to be added to that list to receive the message as an attachment as we get them together. We are now in Hebrews 10.

