

The Biblical Examiner

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

FINDING HOPE IN TURBULENT TIMES

We must say in opening that every generation since Adam's fall has felt that their generation is the most wicked of all times. It was Noah's generation that saw God take action against the prevailing wickedness. The flood did not solve the problem, for sin was and is the problem. Throughout the Old Testament, we see sin take its toll in the nation He called to be a testimony of HIS goodness and blessing upon the obedient. His nation, Israel, was to be a missionary to the pagan world around them. Did not all the nations come to Solomon to hear the wisdom God put in his heart? The rise and fall of ancient Israel is recorded for our admonition, showing how God blesses faithfulness to his covenant, and curses unfaithfulness.

Then we have the coming of the Son into an utterly hopeless and wicked period of time, a time of rampant sin, oppressive tyranny, adultery, murder, abortion, sodomy, &c. The most concise account of the evil rulers is a small paperback, "Rulers of New Testament Time", Charles Ludwig. Accent Books. Denver, Colorado. 1976. See also "Ludwig's Handbook of New Testament Rulers & Cities". Charles Ludwig, Accent books, Denver, Co. 1983, & "The Later Herods. The political background of the New Testament", by Stewart Perowne. Abingdon Press, New York. 1958. We have yet to have a world leader who castrates a young boy and openly parades him around the world as his wife.

The Son's work on the cross did not break the tyrannical powers of wicked rulers, but broke the power of sin and of fear, and makes "the righteous bold as a lion". (Pr 28:1) His work replaced the old national Israel with the New Israel of God, as he calls a particular people out of the kingdom of darkness and into His kingdom of light. His call is just as sure as was His call to Abraham to leave his old life behind, and follow Him. Those who answer His call receive the Holy Spirit who gives a new desire to do His will, and the boldness and power to do His will as revealed in the Word of God.

Christ's work established a new race, a race of people whose sins are forgiven. They now have the indwelling power to conquer the world for their King. In Galatians, Paul identifies that new race of people as the Israel of God, or the Gospel Church. The King gave to his new race of people the boldness and power to obey his command to conquer the nations of the world with the gospel as defined in His Command-Word. He commanded that they teach the converts to observe all things the King has commanded for the glory of God.

Sin still "prosper" in the world, for there is nothing new under the sun. It is no worse today than it was during the first 100 + years of the church, as we are told that the "whold world lies in wickedness." However, instant communication is new, which makes sin seem more rampant. Like David, the natural mind cannot understand why God allows sin to prosper as he does, making the "clean hands" of the righteous seem useless. David almost slipped from the faith until he went into the sanctuary of God, and learned of God; only then did he understand that though they have everything their eyes and heart can desire, the wicked are on the slippery slope to their own destruction in hell. Asaph had the same complaint before God about the prosperity of the wicked in their corruption, even while they curse the very heavens. (Ps 37, 73) "Why doesn't God strike them down?"

We are certainly tempted to say with Asaph, "*Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.*"

Though we cannot understand why sin prospers, we are told under inspiration by both David and Asaph that the wicked have been set in "slippery places", (Ps 35:6, 73:18) and are only a step away from their final destruction. How many prayers are found in the Psalms pleading that God would hasten the day when the wicked would be taken in their own net, and pass on into the destruction God has prepared for them?

Why do the wicked prosper, particularly at the expense of the righteous?

Examining the efforts of the wicked, it is certainly

easy to be tempted to say that we have cleansed our heart and hands in vain. **So the following was put together for my own edification and encouragement.** Here are a few of the current events which confirm the antichrist trend:

Preacher convicted of quoting Bible; GOP establishment launches new attack on Republican front runner; FBI evidence; Ben Carson right about terrorist cult; School Calligraphy lesson: no God but Allah; Fed raises interest rate by 1/4 point; Big decision for fire chief axed for saying gay sex unnatural; Cruz remark during debate reveals surveillance state has grown, not shrunk; ISIS calls on supporters in France to kill teachers – “it is an obligation to fight and kill... these enemies of Allah”; California gun instructor visited by police after shopping for ammo; Arizona Sheriff tells citizens: step up and defend yourselves; Hackers trace twitter accounts back to UK government – “British government behind Pro -ISIS Twitter accounts; The war on Christmas – “House Republicans attempted defund the holiday”; Obama concedes to Putin [who, by the way, is more popular in the US than Obama) after NATO’S support of ISIS exposed – “W.H. stops demanding Assad’s removal after news reports reveal West backing ISIS; Trump exposes Bush/Bin Laden crime family connection; US Manufacturing week – industrial sector continues to struggle; Planned Parenthood unscathed in spending bill; Conservatives give Ryan a pass on budget deal they despise; Funds for Obama climate deal survive in spending bill; White House: US spending bill appears to meet Obama’s priorities; 100,000 Syrians quietly admitted to USA; Secret deal quadruples foreign workers in America; New Orleans considers removing Confederate monuments; Unaccompanied children crossing southern border in greater numbers again, raising fears of new migrant crisis; The Paul Ryan compromise – the new speaker’s first big deal is just like all the ones that infuriated conservatives under Boehner; At #GOPDebate, Graham apologizes to Islam for Trump’s comments; Buffet backs Clinton and higher taxes: UN delegation appalled by treatment of women in the US; Professor at Christian college dons Hijab, gets suspended for saying “we worship the same God”; Catholic school offers “sacred place” for Muslim prayer; Report: Feds fund plays about Lesbian gun-control activists, Feminist-Dance; Limbaugh: Trump criticism of Cruz a “red flag; Limbaugh: Trump joins ‘establishment’ attacking Cruz”; NATO weapons help make Boko Haram deadliest terror group: Evangelical pastor on trial for branding Islam “Satanic”; After Muslim Truckers Refuse to Deliver Beer (Obama supports the Muslims against their employers); Bigots go bonkers after [a black female practicing] Muslim judge swears oath on Koran [in New York]; Yale [established in 1731 to train Congregational ministries in theology and sacred languages] students enthusiastically sign petition to completely

eliminate the First Amendment... (statist education is accomplishing its goal with taxpayer money.); Update: School canceled after backlash from making students write “No God but Allah”; Report: Fed relies on “compromised” thermometers that inflate alleged warming trend; NASA: Burning Fossil Fuels Cools Climate. Don’t worry, this will all be straightened out some day; This week in progressive lunacy: Professor leads campus protest wearing “Muslim yellow star” (religious studies professor at the University of San Diego); Sam’s Club CEO admits hiring based on race and gender; Irish preacher tried for saying he does not trust Muslims; Minnesota: Public School Students sing ‘Allahu Akbar’ during “Holiday” concert, &c., &c.

Observe:

First: there is an all out, world wide “state sponsored” war against what is left of Christianity and “Christian Common Law”. Clearly, the rulers of this world have counseled together to replace Christianity as defined in the Law-Word of God with humanistic law.

The wicked rulers are determined to make their fiat word effectual in their attempt to be as god, and control history. The Lord sits in the heavens, and he laughs and mocks their foolish efforts.

Their antichrist---any spirit that is against Christ (See 1 John)---most effective training ground against the “Lord and his anointed” is in the education institutions, starting in the pre-school and continuing through the highest levels of the education process. Sadly, the vast majority of even “Christian” education institutions have been sucked into the antichrist education process. The spirit of the antichrist assures man that with enough scientific knowledge, he can be as god, and can remake man and the world after his own image:

“IVF: First genetically-modified human embryos ‘could be created in Britain within weeks’” That is, the first GMO human being.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/ivf-first-genetically-modified-human-embryos-could-be-created-in-britain-within-weeks-a6810506.html>

“Could this be humanity’s LAST century? Experts says ‘re-engineering our children’ will lead to the creation of a new species”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3405312/Could-humanity-s-century-Expert-says-engineering-children-lead-creation-new-species.html>

Though many Christians might realize there is an all-out effort to convert children to paganism by the antichrist, they seem to want to ignore the danger, or they might imagine their children will be immune to their paganization. Maybe out of convenience, they avoid personal involvement and sacrifice to protect their

children from worshipping at the altar of the antichrist, and following his ways.

We have been blessed to have a Constitution with a Christian foundation, which is the Ten Commandments; it was written in terms of Biblical law being understood and accepted by the population. But as that law is replaced with humanistic law, the Constitution will be understood from a humanistic perspective. That perspective allows Christianity to be suppressed by the antichristians under the name of “religious freedom”. The last century, we have seen that freedom used to subvert our nation, and change its “Christian” character. The foundation of the Constitution was the rule of Christian law. That foundation has been destroyed, and replaced with the rule of antichristian men proclaiming their word as the word of god.

Humanism: “The doctrine emphasizing a person’s capacity for self-realization through reason ; rejects religion and the supernatural.” That is, through his capacity to be his own god, man is able to determine for himself what is right and wrong. The humanistic state makes the claim to be god over all, and, thus, must determine what is right and wrong for everyone under its authority. It is confident that by its sovereign, fiat word, it can control all things: human behavior, crime, finances, weather, &c. Because it is god, it can do no wrong, resisting its attempts to be god is considered treason, and will be punished as such. If something does not work, try, try again, for surely man’s word will prevail in the end. Humanistic education has failed every time it has been tried, yet they keep trying, the latest attempt being “Common Core”.

“Common Core” is promoted by the textbook publishers not for the benefit of the students, but for the vast amount of “corporate profits” for the publishers.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diann-woodard/bill-gates-common-core_b_5489233.html. <http://thenotebook.org/articles/2013/05/24/a-major-motive-behind-common-core-is-profit-not-education>

Observe that man’s faith in himself as god who is able by his fiat word to form all things after his liking, requires that there be only one god. All the national gods must be subjected to the one god, and, thus, the efforts toward a One World Order.

“Ye are gods”, that is, civil rulers or chiefs are called gods. God has given civil rulers the power and authority to act as “gods”, and the wicked misuse that power for their own glory. (John10:34)

The state as god will tolerate “Christian” law as long as it does not challenge the state as the final god/authority. When men choose to obey God rather

than man, then persecution shall take place. Babylon welcomed all religions, as long as they recognized Babylon’s authority to make that religion legitimate. Rome did the same. The state will tolerate, even finance a Muslim takeover if it will stamp out the troublesome Christian “treasonous” laws that challenge the state’s effort to be god.

We are seeing the character of this nation being forcefully changed into a Muslim character, as we quietly and quickly become a Muslim nation. We are in serious need for God to call and raise up Christian men of strong moral character and courage to minister to the Muslims being imported while there is still “freedom” to do so.

The policies out of the White House are forcing national conversion to Mohammedism. A change in the law-system means a change in the government. We are living in a humanistic, pragmatic nation now, and we may be close to living in a Muslim country here in North America.

Second: over and over again we are being shown that **politics is not the answer**. “Both sides of the aisle” have the same agenda; that is, to destroy what is left of Christian America, and strengthen their own place of power. Those who consistently live out their Biblical Christian profession are a threat to ungodly powers. “The whole world lieth in wickedness”, because Christianity has been seriously compromised by the “religious” leaders.

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Pet 4:17)

Throughout the Old Testament, the blame for the paganization of society has been laid upon the ungodly religious leaders. The church must be paganized before society can be paganized.

“The whole world lieth in wickedness” because God’s people have tried to serve two masters. When men refuse to submit all things to the Command-Word of God, they willingly submit those unsubmitted things to the kingdom of darkness; that is, to the world of wickedness, regardless of their profession. There is no middle ground.

We cannot count the number of professed Christians who want to remain neutral in the war against wickedness. They are hoping to go to heaven on “flowery beds of ease, while others fight to win the prize and sail through bloody seas”. The Christianity that changes the world has the wrath of the antichrist against it. I personally

have found that even in the mountains of WV, when one takes a Christian stand against the “word” of a god, and there will be a price to pay:

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Ti 3:12)

No political hope

Limbaugh: “I have a headline here from the Washington Times: “White House Declares Total Victory Over GOP in Budget Battle.” That headline’s a misnomer. There was never a battle. None of this was opposed. The Republican Party didn’t stand up to any of it, and the die has been cast for a long time on this... The Republican Party is dead...”

http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2015/12/17/gop_sells_america_down_the_river

Paul Ryan has proved that he was the establishment’s “chosen one” before Boehner resigned. The establishment produced a lot of smoke and mirrors to make it look like Ryan was an outsider.

“By their fruits ye shall know them”, and his fruit shows that he was and is part of the crowd that is destroying this nation. The only difference between him and Boehner is that he talks with the “conservatives” in Congress. They are thrilled that he talks things over with them, so they supported the Obama/Ryan bill that went farther than Boehner’s, which they refused to support.

Among other things, this 2,009 page spending bill continues to finance the importation of the Syrian “refugee” army, fully funds “Sanctuary” cities for that army, continues to fund Planned Parenthood and its murder of the unborn, funds Obama’s war on oil and coal, and his climate change agenda, and pays for quadrupling the number of visas Obama wants for foreign workers, which further destroys the middle class. (Over 16% of the US labor force are foreigners.)

“Pelosi: ‘They [the Republicans] gave away the store”

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/nation/article/Pelosi-GOP-gave-away-the-store-in-spending-6708715.php>

Though Trump may well be a “false prophet” as he tells the people what they want to hear, the Obama/Ryan spending bill will drive the voters to him. It makes one wonder if all this smoke over Trump fits into the establishment’s plan to cause the people to overlook Cruz, whose track record proves he is the better candidate.

It appears that Cruz may be the Establishment’s final effort to stop Trump. http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/14/us/politics/ted-cruz-starts-to-crack-gop-establishments-wall-of-opposition.html?_r=0

Love Trump or hate him: He is forcing things into

public view that the establishment does not want seen. We certainly cannot trust the establishment’s “news sources” to tell us the truth, which is why the Drudge Report remains the number one news source in the world. The left is all over Cruz’s foreign birth like a duck on a June Bug, yet they gave Obama totally free pass on his foreign birth.

The New World Order agenda has been in place for many decades now. All congressional opposition to that agenda is now dead. Paul Ryan has made it obvious that there is no longer an opposition party in Congress. Both parties have joined in the destruction, and both are intent on getting their share of the spoil.

“White House and GOP Conspired on Education Takeover. Obama conspired with Republican leadership to pass an education bill that for the first time codifies his radical education agenda — including Common Core standards.”

http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/education/item/22258-white-house-and-gop-conspired-on-education-takeover?utm_content=ovid&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_medium=Email&utm_

[term=White%20House%20and%20GOP%20Conspired%20on%20Education%20Takeover&utm_campaign=White%20House%20and%20GOP%20Conspired%20on%20Education%20Takeovercontent](http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/education/item/22258-white-house-and-gop-conspired-on-education-takeover?utm_content=ovid&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=White%20House%20and%20GOP%20Conspired%20on%20Education%20Takeover&utm_campaign=White%20House%20and%20GOP%20Conspired%20on%20Education%20Takeovercontent)

The voting booth will not solve the problem in America, for that problem is sin.

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Pet 4:17)

Third: all the Western nations of the world are working to overthrow the Lord from his throne.

• CHRISTIANS IN CHINA FEEL FULL FORCE OF AUTHORITIES’ REPRESSION

A local government directive leaked to China Aid, a Texas-based Christian group, and reviewed by The Washington Post advises local Communist Party cadres that shutting down the church is necessary to “maintain social stability”— a catchall phrase often used to justify sweeping clampdowns. ...

But it also speaks to a broader pattern of religious repression that is playing out beyond China’s mountainous southwest, as the officially atheist Communist Party struggles to control the spread of religion amid a broader push to thwart dissent. ...

Unlike in many parts of the West, Christianity is thriving in China.

Because of tight restrictions on religious practices, reliable figures are hard to find, but the Chinese government

generally puts the number of Protestants (a group it calls “Christians”) at 23 million and the number of Catholics at more than 5 million.

Foreign scholars estimate that there are 67 million to 100 million Christians in China — compared with 87 million Communist Party cadres. Yang estimates that China will be home to 250 million Christians by 2030. Evangelical Protestants, like Su, are the fastest-growing group.

The Communist Party has a complicated, often contradictory, view of faith: The constitution protects the right to religion, but the state is unwilling to relinquish control. ...

But many of Living Stone’s faithful would sooner relinquish Christianity altogether than join a government church.

“When it comes to our faith, we do not want to submit ourselves to a political organization. Our only leader is God in heaven,” said Zhang Tan, a church member who used to work for the local government.

Su said he would continue to worship on his own terms, even if it meant holding this year’s Christmas service at home.

“Faith and love of God cannot be chained,” he said.

<https://www.facebook.com/emilyrauhala?fref=ts>

(“Living Stone” started in 2009 with a small group of 30. Growing to over several hundred, it took possession of a 7,000 square foot office area. That drew the attention of the officials, who after a year of warnings against the large assembly shut it down.)

China is in danger of being Christianized, conquered by Christ; not by any physical force, but by the gospel of Christ. The weapons of their warfare are not carnal, such as force of arms nor the voting booth, but the weapons of their warfare are mighty through God. The tyrants are fearful that their “strongholds” over the people will be pulled down, so they must do all they can to “control” those weapons. The tyrant might as well seek to control the sun, moon and stars in their courses, as to control the Spirit of the Living God, as he moves through the preaching of the Everlasting Gospel of Christ. (World changing Christianity has been changed in the West by Bible-denying religious leaders.)

The tyrant might kill the body, but he cannot kill the spirit of those who are controlled by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit gives to His people the desire to live a lifestyle that mirrors Christ, which shall result in persecution.

“Hyeun-soo Lim, the Korean Canadian pastor detained in North Korea since February, was today sentenced to life in prison with hard labor by the country’s Supreme Court. He was convicted of numerous charges, including an attempt to overthrow [subvert] the government...” (World

Watch Monitor, 12/17/15)

Totalitarian nations understand what Christians do not understand, or refuse to admit: The toleration of another law system by wicked leaders, *e.g.*, Christian, will result in the nation being subverted and overthrown for Christ. If left unchecked, that nation will become Christian from the ground up, and those on the top will lose their godhood, their power and authority. The conversion of a nation, as is taking place in China, is one person at a time converted to Christ and disciplined in the Christian manner of life.

Christian leaders do not make a Christian nation. Only a Christian people can produce a Christian nation, and that must start in true sound Biblical preaching and teaching from the pulpits.

The tyrannical state cannot be conquered by force of arms, *e.g.*, Oregon, for the state has unlimited funds to purchase the might to enforce its claim to be god on earth. God has given even the tyrant power and authority to oppress the people, and to put down any attempt to overthrow the tyrant: He is working his sovereign and predetermined purpose in history. He will show His power to subdue all worldly might, power and authority through His new humanity, the Gospel Church. (Ps 110:4, Ps 45.)

He will show the world that only the proper application of the gospel and all it entails can conquer the powers of darkness. The Kingdom of Light conquers the kingdom of darkness with the preaching of the cross, not with the sword. The tyrannical state cannot allow another law, neither man’s nor God’s, to gain a foothold, or it will be overthrown.

Remember, in spite of God’s promise, Jeroboam’s fear was that if he allowed his people to follow the true religion as practiced in Jerusalem, he would lose the kingdom. So he offered another and a “better” way to serve God other than according to the truth as revealed through Moses, the blood sacrifice. Thus, Jeroboam’s war was against the Law-Word of God, motivated by self-preservation. The whole world is against the Command-Word of the King of the New Jerusalem (which was sought after by Abraham and all the saints of old).

The tyrant must be defined as any authority exercised apart from God’s Law-Word and His authority, which includes all religious leaders who depart from God’s Word. If men overthrow a tyrant, it will be one tyrant in exchange for another. Whether in the home, on the job, or in civil authority, even “Christian” men (women also) who forsake Biblical law are tyrants, no matter

how “nice” they may appear in their public attitudes and actions.

Whether in the East or West, tyrannical governments realize that if they allow Biblical Christianity to prosper, God’s Law will be the law of the people, and their power to control will be undermined. The nation will be converted to a Christian nation, and the godlike intentions of the wicked will be undermined and destroyed.

Do some reading: The Northern bankers pressured Lincoln to go to war against an independent country, with the goal of destroying Biblical Christianity, “Calvinism”, in the South. We have dealt with this in the past.

I have met more than a few here in the US who claim to love God, yet they hate the idea of living in a society controlled by Biblical law. They reject the thought of a Biblical law-order as revealed through Moses. They make light of, and even mock any thought of the “reconstruction” of this nation under a Biblical law order, i.e. the Command-Word of God. In other words, it appears to me that even Christians would rather live in a world that “lieth in wickedness” and is ruled by the powers of darkness than work to disciple the nations by applying Christian law to their areas of influence. Is the problem the fear of man? is it the lack of self-control and discipline? or do they desire to live in a “world that lieth in wickedness” so they can be their own god?

No man can serve two masters, so when he refuses to serve King Jesus according to his revealed laws, that man chooses to serve the dark powers of this world. One will either live under a nation “constructed” in a Christian order, or by default, he will live under a nation “constructed” in an antichristian order---pure socialism, or maybe even pure Sharia Law. Whose law will prevail in the heart of man, which is the heart of the nation? God’s law, or man’s?

Fourth: since the turn of the Twentieth Century, there has been a major effort to unite the whole world under one central power, and turn the US into a Third World country. That effort was intensified after WWI and even more so after WWII. The purpose of “Wars” is to change the social structure of a nation, for people will accept dramatic change much quicker during “war time” than during peacetime, e.g., taxes. Thus the endless “war against terror”, which is no more a war meant to be won as was Viet Nam.

Moreover, the “white middle class”, more commonly known as “WASP”, is being systematically destroyed by opening the borders of “WASP” nations to the illegals,

thereby inviting in innumerable foreign workers, primarily from Muslim countries.

Many of us can remember in the 60s when it was openly stated that the US was to be changed from an industrial, wealth-producing country to a service and consumer society. Thus, the wealth producing capabilities have been sent overseas. (Some years ago, I read that the US education system is not producing high tech “service”men who can service the high tech service machines, so they must bring in foreigners who have been properly trained.)

The obvious conclusion was intentionally hidden that if the wealth producing jobs were sent overseas, how would people have money to spend? However, there are still a great many good paying jobs if one is dependable, willing to work with his hands and learn a trade. I know several in the trades, and they have more work than they can possibly handle.

Remember the slogan, “Our Strength is in our Diversity”? In the past, our strength has been in unity: a common God, common religion, common law-system, and even in a common language which foundation was the Geneva or King James English Bible. Those who knew what they were doing have destroyed those foundations, and we are now split in hundreds of ways, and we war among ourselves.

Over the years, the “taxpayers” have financed and provided the modern industry that is now the wealth-producing machines in China. Yes, they have the choking smog, but they have the wealth-producing industry. We cannot ignore the heavy burden that the EPA placed on manufacturing to force them overseas. Technology can clean up the smog.

Fifth: America, as well as the Western Nations, is intentionally being “Mohammedized”, exemplified by the “beer truck driver” incident above where Obama sided with Sharia Law, and the swearing in of a female Muslim judge with the Koran. We have already mentioned about the city in Michigan that is now “under” Sharia Law. As the nations conspire against the Lord and his Christ, they are willing to replace God’s law with Sharia Law, if that will help unseat the Lord.

Sixth: even now there is serious persecution in the “Western” nations against preaching sound doctrine from Scripture, e.g., pastors in Canada are being threatened with jail for preaching against sodomy. Though it has not reached its full force yet here at home, it is not far away. All manner of “free speech” is protected in the US, as long as it is not Christian. A Christian couple cannot refuse to make a sodomite cake,

but a sodomite bakery can refuse to bake for Christians.

There are several biblical conclusions we can draw from the above:

1) America is gladly rejecting the Lord God as quickly as the religious and secular leaders can lead it astray, and God is rejecting her. There are enough professed Christians in this nation that if they would simply live and vote according to their stated faith, the laws of King Jesus would still be the norm for this nation.

2) American “Christians” have rejected and are rejecting God’s law. The pagans are warring against God’s just and righteous laws. God will not allow chaos, so is he now submitting us little by little to Sharia Law? From what little I understand of Sharia Law, open fornication, sodomy and abortion are forbidden. And our antichristian Supreme Court has already ruled in such a way as to allow plural wives, as allowed under Sharia Law.

3) God is calling His army from the old Assyrian Empire to judge the Western nations, for they have apostatized from the faith upon which they were built, and which made them strong. As he did for his armies of old, Assyria and Babylon, he is paying them with the booty they can loot from the apostate nations as they murder, rape and pillage their way across Europe. The same thing will be happening here if Obama can disarm Americans.

The leaders of Germany, the home of the reformation, are leading the way in reformatting a once Christian nation into a Muslim nation. As we have mentioned, chaos is intentionally created to strengthen the central government.

Hosea 8:1 “Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.” 9:9 “They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.”

Today, God is visiting the sins of the once godly nations of the West. These marauders are from the nations that made up the old Assyrian Empire. The One who does “all things well” is sending His great pagan army against those who despise His command-word just as surely as He sent Assyria and Babylon against His rebellious people, national Israel.

“Nineveh.com” claims that the Assyrians (Semitic, of the tribe of Shem) are not Arabian, Kurdish, nor followers of Mohammedism. They claim they are Christians. Evidently, Barbarianism has taken over

their nations, and the barbaric army is being called from Assyria. <http://www.nineveh.com/whoarewe.htm>.

The West has forgotten her God, and every man now serves his own god, with few exceptions. Using Obama, the Lord is turning this nation over to the pagans:

“The Muslim Brotherhood Has Taken over the White House”. <http://freedomoutpost.com/2015/12/muslim-brotherhood-taken-white-house/>

The Lord is even flying in his Muslim army from Syria as “refugees”.

“Obama to Flood U.S. with thousand of Muslims from Syria every month

According to a statement released this month by the State Dept., Obama’s decimation of our country continues as he will begin importing tens of thousands of Muslims from Syria beginning next [this] year. But not to worry, we are assured that Muslim jihadists will be filtered out...”

<http://www.truthandaction.org/obama-flood-u-s-thousands-muslims-syria-every-month/>

All is going to the One World plan, for there is no effort in congress to stop the influx of the Syrian army. Congress is throwing a lot of dust in the air to make it look like “action”, but nothing is changing.

Observe 1. Israel forsook her God. Many years later, he sent his army from Assyria to judge his rebellious, disobedient and self-willed people. They refused to hear, repent and obey the many prophets God sent to them. His army showed no mercy as they destroyed and carried off His people. (2 Kgs 15:29-16:9) Is not the Lord now sending the Syrian army against the West at “taxpayer” expense?

Observe 2. The “Rape Jihad” is aimed right at the heart of where the Reformation started: “hundreds of women were assaulted, robbed, molested, and raped by 1,000 Muslim migrants [from North Africa, Syria] in several German cities during New Year’s Eve celebrations.” The leaders of Germany not only support the wickedness, but continue to bring in even more Syrian “Warriors”.

“Germany Sex Attack Suspects from Syria”
http://www.wnd.com/2016/01/germany-sex-attack-suspects-from-syria/?cat_orig=world

It has been admitted that what is taking place in Germany is “Rape Jihad”. Thousands of young men are being turned loose on the population in this “Jihad”. “Rape Jihad” is a very common means of warfare against their enemies, especially Christians, condoned by Mohammed in the “holy book”, making Islam very attractive to young men. When possible, the Muslims kill all the males who are old enough to grow hair

under their arms, then they take all the women for themselves, or for the slave market. Young blue eyed, blond Christian females bring the highest price at the slave markets. They young boys are then trained to be Jihadist. Where are the black leaders of the US who claim to be against slavery?

We have heard the term “Give them enough rope, and they will hang themselves”. That is exactly what God did to Old Testament Israel, and he has done and is doing the same today. The wicked peoples and the dark powers of this world desire to be their own gods, so the Lord has given and is giving them power and authority to be their own gods, as they vainly attempt to break and cast away the restrictive bands and cords of his law. He promises his wrath against those who refuse to submit to his command-word.

The tyrant is anyone, religious or non-religious, who operates outside of God’s commandments.

Judgment is upon the apostate West, and their open door policy allows the Syrian Jihad army of young, unspeakably evil men free entrance, and a free hand in destroying the nations. (Look at the eyes of these men; they are the picture of demon possession.)

“O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.” (Hosea 13:9) God gave rebellious Israel the rope, the power and authority, and they hung themselves with it.

Let me conclude the above distressing events against “the Lord and his Christ” with some points from Hosea 14. The New Covenant prophecies are so obvious in this chapter that there is no need to quote them. However, I will introduce two that clearly apply them to the new Israel of God, the Gospel Church.

“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26, 37:24, & c.)

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.” (1 Peter 1:2)

Hosea 14:

First, vv. 4, 5. The Lord says **“I will”** three times, showing us that the restoration of Israel will be His doing, and apart from anything man can do. “I will” can be nothing less than God the Spirit working working in the hearts of the Elect, giving them both the will and the power to do “his good pleasure.” The Thrice-Holy

God commits himself three times -- a very significant number -- to do what is prophesied in this chapter.

Second, v. 2. *“take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously:”* This takes place in the future by the Redeemer/Mediator/King who would remove all iniquity and present His people to the Father, who would receive them graciously for the Son’s sake. (Eph 1:7, Heb 8:12)

Third, v. 2. *“calves of our lips”,* the praise of thanksgiving for their redemption. (Heb 13:15)

Fourth, v. 3. *“neither will we say any more”.* The Elect will see they cannot save themselves, and will flee to the Redeemer for mercy. (Luke 18:13)

Fifth, v. 4 *“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.”* The Father’s wrath against the sins of His people would be placed upon Christ on the cross. It is the work of the Son that permits the Father to have mercy upon, forgive, heal, and freely love repentant sinners, who make up the new Israel of God. (Heb 8:12)

Sixth, v. 5. *“he shall grow as the lily ... and rooted”* as a result of the *“healings in his wings.”* (Mal 4:2, Eph 3:17)

Seventh, v. 6. *“branches spread, as the olive tree.”* The Elect would be grafted into the olive tree. (Ro 11, 2 Cor 2:14, 15, Philippians 4:18)

Eighth, v. 7. *“They shall dwell.. shall return, revive, grow as the vine.”* Christ is the vine, and the Elect would be called into the vine and as branches are called to bear fruit. (John 11:25, 12:24, 15:16, 2 Cor 15:36-38)

Ninth, v. 8. *“What have I to do any more with idols?”* God’s new race, identified as the new Israel of God, shall see the emptiness of their past service to the gods of this world, and renounce them. (1 Peter 4:3, 4.)

Tenth, v. 9 . *“Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them?...”* It has been given unto the Elect to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 13:11, 12, Luke 10:22, John 15:15, 17:17, &c.)

“So Asaph says that God’s dealings with the good and bad in this life were “too hard” for him to “understand, until” he “went into the sanctuary of God”; then “understood” he “their end.” {#Ps 73:16,17} In like way Daniel, at the close of his prophecy, sums up the account of a sifting-time, “Many shall be purified and made white and tried, and the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” {#Da 12:10}”

(Barnes’ Notes. The OT notes are actually by E.B. Pusey, 1800-1882, who lived during the rise of dispensational, rapture fever. Those promoting dispensationalism and the rapture did not like him, accusing

those who "followed" Pusey's teaching of being "Puseyites".)

Hosea tells us that only the wise can understand the actual dealings of God with man. Only they can understand the mercy and severity of God, his love for men, his desire to pardon, his long-suffering, his longing for our repentance, and what he has in store for his people in the mercies of Christ, and the many other things are found only in Christ as revealed in His Word. By faith the righteous understand God and his dealing with man in both judgment and mercy.

"Who is wise?" "Jerome on #Ec 3:21): "The word "who" is always taken, not for what is impossible, but for what is difficult." So Isaiah saith, "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the Arm of the Lord revealed?" {#Isa 53:1 }

Few are truly are wise, for few ask for wisdom from above, and then study His word to find that wisdom. (James 1:5) God wants his people to be wise, therefore he calls on them to search out his wisdom and knowledge through prayer and study. (Romans 11:22, 33) Paul also tells us that the wisdom of this world is foolishness, and those who are wise in the world's eyes consider God's wisdom foolishness.

In fact, we are seeing movements by the modern tyrannical state to convince doctors to declare all those who do not see eye to eye with the state insane so they can confiscate their fire arms.

Wisdom comes from God, and is only given to the "Covenant Law Keepers":

John 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." (See also Ps 107:4, Pro 1:5, John 8:47,

Thus, godly wisdom means doing what is right in God's eyes, "and the just shall walk in them."

Those who do not walk according to the "Covenant Law" of God "shall fall".

Job 34:11 "For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways.

Obadiah 1:15 "For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head."

Jeremiah 50:29 "Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel." (See also Rom 2:6, Ps 62:12, Pro 1:31, &c.)

Psalms 9:15 "The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. 16 The LORD is known by the judgment which

he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsaion. Selah. 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. 18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever. 19 Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight. 20 Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah."

The wicked have been given the rope, the power and authority to do their will, and they are in the process of destroying themselves. The Lord sits in the heavens and laughs, and invites his redeemed people to join him with the shout of victory:

Psalms 5:11 "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."

In other words, throughout history, the wicked are given enough rope to hang themselves, and with that rope, they proceed on the broad road to destruction into their final everlasting destruction.

However, Hosea could not be clearer in prophesying the coming of the Messiah, the Mediator King who would have all power and authority. All earthly powers would be placed under his footstool by the preaching of the gospel. Even those who refuse the gospel will one day confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father. The prophets of old saw Divine Providence working in His Kingdom, subduing his enemies to himself, e.g., China. In the name of Christ and by the Spirit of God, the promise is that all nations shall be discipled in the Name of our Redeemer King, and those who refuse will be turned into hell.

Psalms 110:1 ♪ « A Psalm of David. » The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

• A FINAL WORD FROM JOB:

Job 23:13 "But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth. 14 For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him. 15 Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him."

God has appointed us to our time in history. He promises his grace to face whatever comes our way, and that grace is being proved over and over throughout the world, as Christians stand for Christ even to the death.

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE WAR ON CHIPOTLE

ANALYSIS: Chipotle is a victim of corporate sabotage... biotech industry food terrorists are planting e.coli in retaliation for restaurant's anti-GMO menu

“There is absolutely no question that the biotech industry will resort to ANY activity necessary to destroy food companies that oppose GMO's. And yes, this includes acts of bioterrorism against Chipotle – something that's ridiculously easy for biotech industry operating to carry out with simple, low cost laboratory supplies sold online at places like Amazon.com. ...

To be clear, what's really happening at Chipotle is that biotech industry skills are deliberately contaminating Chipotle's food with strains of e.coli in a malicious attempt to destroy both the reputation and finances of the Chipotle food chain. This act of bioterrorism is entirely consistent with the known behavior patterns of the biotech industry which, for example, engaged in illegal money laundering in Washington state in order to destroy the GMO labeling bill there.”

http://www.naturalnews.com/052405_Chipotle_ecoli_outbreak_corporate_sabotage_biotech_bioterrorism.html

Search for “war on Chipotle” and you will find articles such as, “Consumer group goes to war against chipotle”, “why is Rick Berman attacking chipotle? Chipotle has drawn a line in the sand on GMO's with its “G-M-over it” campaign.”; “chipotles and Kai GMO “armed and dangerous” series irks farmers”.

Back in August, Chipotle planned a one day hire of 4000 workers. They dangled the possibility that high performing recruits would someday earn six-figure salaries; then came the biotech industries war against the fast food company that supported healthy, non-GMO eating.

IMMIGRATION

About every morning and before Hughes net satellite cuts back our broadband speed, I try to quickly go through news headlines looking for something worth pursuing. Sometimes, I quickly glance at a headline, and then pass on over it. Then I think about it, and wish I had copied down the URL for that headline. Such is the case with the headline that said we must have immigration or we will have no workforce. I searched, and could not find the article again. But if one does a similar search for immigrants and workforce, he will

find many reports that confirm the need of immigrants.

When we stop and think for a moment, we can think of several reasons for this need, the most obvious being abortion. Abortion has killed off the workforce in the West where it has been promoted and financed by the various governments. Another reason is that the god of “Mammon” has ruled since probably the 60s. That has resulted in the God-given desire for families and children being replaced with the fallen desires for a career and good money to spend on the lust of the eye, lust of the flesh and pride of life.

Thus, covetousness and greed have caused the Christian West to educate and breed itself out of existence, (money and “freedom” vs children) while the other religions, e.g., Mohammedanism, &c., want as many children as possible. They then train those children in their religion, and send those children out to conquer the world with the sword.

All that to say this: Our “chickens” have come home to roost, and we have no dependable “American” workforce. Obama's desire to change our religion to Mohammedanism has resulted in tens of thousands of Muslims being paid to come here. The need of employers for a dependable and hard working labor force has forced a very lax Mexixan border. We need those who will be dependable and hard workers that the Mexicans generally have proved to be. Therefore, we have open borders to the south.

Can we blame the employers who need dependable workers for pushing for immigration, legal or illegal, because the new crop of Americans don't want to work?

PERSONAL

We are getting settled here in OH, and actually have all the heavy furniture in place (for now). My goal is to have more time to study, which may be unreachable.

The x-rays on my spine for scoliosis revealed some disturbing facts. So we will probably spend a lot of time going back and forth to the V.A. in Chillicothe Ohio. It looks like my days of cutting and splitting my own wood are about over. Also, I hope to soon have cataract surgery, along with surgery for a deviated septum. I have major problems breathing through my nose. The V.A. hospital in Cincinnati must deal with that issue. We are between Cincinnati and Chillicothe, and I chose Chillicothe because 10 grandchildren are close to that hospital. When we go over, they encourage us to come spend some time with them.

Some years ago, I read that those who have had polio

are having re-occurrences after about 40 years. At my second duty station in Puerto Rico, (1962) I pulled a muscle in my back. Trying to find why my back would not heal, the doctor in Puerto Rico determined I probably had polio as a very young child. It left my left leg over an inch shorter than my right leg, as well as missing a major muscle. We tried everything to get it to heal, and it would not, so I was air-evacuated back to the Great Lakes Naval Hospital. The military made no effort with corrective shoes, nor did they discharge me. Rather, I was sent back to active duty in a Construction Battalion, which I enjoyed. 73 years with no correction attempted for my left leg has resulted in a serious case of scoliosis. The Chillicothe VA has a chiropractor available. He ordered x-rays on my back, and the lower back was in such bad shape he could not do any “manipulates” that have provided some relief in the past. The Chillicothe VA doctor has some suggestions to help relieve the pain, so we will see what happens. I told him I spend a lot of time at the computer writing, and he said that was no problem. We moved to Ohio to be close to family. For the first time in 10 or so years, we actually were able to have family with us for Thanksgiving. That is, three of the five children, and 15 of the 35 grandchildren. And we were able to spend Christmas day with the family of 10 children.

Those of you have been on the mailing list for some time, know that I had a “heart attack” in 1999. Then a few months later, my father died, and then my wife died, and a short time later, I had to have a “roto-rooter” for scar tissue in a stent. In 2005, I became so short of breath, they put in another stent. Shortness of breath appeared again last year, only that time it was the medication which slowed down my heart, making it hard to function. I asked Bettie what we could do special for New Years that year, and I ended up in the ER New Year’s eve, where they determined my medication was the problem. Well, I spent this New Years Eve and New Years Day in the ER in Chillicothe.

The VA there, after assuring me they could take care of heart patients, told me after I checked in that they had no cardiologist. So they sent me to the local civilian hospital. After many tests, it was determined that my heart does not relax properly after each beat. The normal result is a fluid build up in the lungs, but an x-ray of my lungs showed my lungs to be fluid free. Again, the problem was traced to over medication, which had slowed my heartbeat down dangerously low – 43-55 pulse. He prescribed another medication that

seems to have solved the problem for now. This time, the hospital was only about 20 minutes from the family with 10 children. So Bettie got to spend New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day with 10 of her grandchildren, while I spent it with the hospital staff.

The Lord is good, and his mercy endures forever.

As we get established here, and boxes unpacked, Lord willing, I will be able to get some time to study and write.

INTERESTING:

Growing number of police chiefs, sheriffs join call to arms.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/01/15/growing-number-police-chiefs-sheriffs-join-call-to-arms.html>

Notice the increasing war on law-enforcement! Since Freddie Gray and Ferguson, **subversive groups** (e.g., Soros financed BLM (Black Lives Matter) are calling for killing law enforcement officers. Within the past few days, two of three officers who were shot died. The officers were simply doing their duty in both cases.

- **CAN YOU BELIEVE?**

An estimated 10% of pedestrian injuries that put people in emergency rooms are due to distracted walking. That is thousands of people injured – sometimes killed. In San Diego, a distracted man walked off a 40 foot cliff. A mall security camera captured a woman focused on her phone as she walked straight into a fountain. Another video shows a man talking on the phone walking right off the train platform. 78% of Americans said distracted walking is a serious issue. Distracted walking injuries doubled between 2005 and 2010 to more than 1500. However, a lot of people do not admit they do, and the problem worsens as there are more and more features on these mobile devices. Those between the ages of 21 – 25 are the most likely to be injured. Common sense tells one to look where you are going.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/dangers-distracted-walking-research-national-safety-council/>

- **“IT’S TRUE: COLLEGE IS DRIVING YOUR KIDS INSANE”**

<http://www.wnd.com/2016/01/its-true-college-is-driving-your-kids-insane/>

AMOS 9:11-15

FULFILLED BY NATIONAL ISRAEL?

OR BY THE CHURCH?

By Thomas Williamson

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowmen shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed: and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.” (Amos 9:11-15)

When we read this passage, we have a tendency to regard it as being a prediction of the literal restoration of the nation of Israel in the latter days. Amos 9 is commonly used as a proof-text for an end-times restoration of national Israel. Jeremiah’s prophecies of the restoration of Israel cannot legitimately be used to prove a literal end-times restoration of Israel, since he stated that his prophecies would be fulfilled within 70 years after the destruction of Israel in 586 BC (see Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10).

At first glance, Amos appears to be talking about a second literal restoration of national Israel. The Jews, after being restored to their land in 536 BC as predicted by Jeremiah, were definitely pulled up out of their land and scattered by the Romans in 70 AD. So it would appear that Amos is promising another restoration that will be permanent, in which the Jews will be restored to Palestine, never again to be pulled out.

However, in Acts 15 we find out that Amos was not talking about a literal restoration of the Jews in national Israel at all. He was predicting the conversion of the Gentiles to the true God, a process that was taking place in the time of the Apostles, thus fulfilling Amos’ prophecy, and which has been taking place throughout the Church Age.

In Acts 15:13-18 we read, *“And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets, as it is written, After this I will return, and*

will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down: and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.”

The Scofield notes attempt to obscure the significance of this inspired apostolic interpretation of Amos’ prophecy, claiming that James is talking about “the final regathering of Israel.” Clearly this is not what James is discussing, nor was that subject under consideration at all in the Jerusalem Council. James distinctly states that the conversion of the Gentiles under the ministry of Simeon, or Simon Peter, as described in Acts 10-11, is the fulfillment of Amos’ prophecy. It was at this time that God first began to visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. Scofield says that the “residue of men” refers to Israelites, but in the original Amos passage, the reference is to “the remnant of Edom” - it is talking about Gentiles, not Jews as Scofield would have us believe.

The debate at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 did not in any way deal with the question of a future literal national restoration of Israel. It dealt with the question of how to incorporate the Gentiles, who God had begun to visit in a saving way, into the Lord’s churches. It was this ongoing conversion of Gentiles that James identified as a fulfillment of Amos 9.

Some may say, “What about the prophecy that the tabernacle of David would be restored? Does this not refer to a future literal temple in Jerusalem?” No, because the tabernacle of David was not a temple - it was a mere tent. Few if any prophecy writers would insist that the literal tabernacle, as described in Exodus, will be reconstructed in Jerusalem in the end-times. Scofield himself, in his note on Acts 15:13, spiritualizes the tabernacle of David, making it refer to the re-establishment of the Davidic rule over Israel. This is a totally non-literal interpretation. Scofield is correct to realize that not all Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled in a woodenly literal manner. But he is incorrect to assign the prophecy of Amos to a restoration of the earthly Davidic dynasty over national Israel, which is something that was not remotely mentioned, discussed or thought of during the Jerusalem Council.

The Jerusalem Council did not in any manner uphold any principle of racial or ethnic privilege for the Jews in a future restoration of Israel. On the contrary, such a possibility of racial privilege for the Jews was

specifically denied by the Apostle Peter when he said in Acts 15:8-9, *“And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us [Jews] and them [Gentiles], purifying their hearts by faith.”*

If we carefully consider the context in which James quoted Amos 9, it is clear that he regarded it as a prophecy of the gathering in of Gentile souls in the Age of Grace, which was already taking place in 52 AD. It was not a prediction of a restoration of the earthly Jewish political entity, which was not even a matter under consideration at this council.

Paul Sisco, in *“Scofield Versus the Scriptures,”* says with regard to the Jerusalem Council, *“After the disputing had subsided and the testimonies of the experiences of the apostles were related, it was necessary that they should turn to the O.T. prophetic scriptures for enlightenment and proof of their fulfillment in this new movement of the Holy Spirit. These men searched and knew the scriptures. They applied them correctly under the Holy Spirit’s leading, so in this instance, James speaking of Simeon’s or Peter’s testimony concerning God’s salvation of the Gentiles, turns to Amos 9:11-12 to prove that Peter’s ministry to the Gentiles was a fulfillment of this prophecy. . . Therefore, the prophecy that follows must agree with the situation then present, and not to some far-off future period.”*

Concerning Amos 9:11-12, Matthew Henry says, *“To him to whom all the prophets bear witness this prophet here bears his testimony, and speaks of that day in which God will do great things for his church, by the setting up of the kingdom of the Messiah. The promise here may refer to the planting of the Christian church, Acts 15:15-17. It is promised, that in the Messiah the kingdom of David shall be restored (v.11). . . . By Jesus Christ these tabernacles were raised and rebuilt. . . . In him God’s covenant with Israel had its accomplishment, and in the gospel-church the tabernacle of God was set up among men again. This is quoted in the first council at Jerusalem as referring to the calling in of the Gentiles and God’s taking out of them a people for his name.”*

Matthew Poole says concerning Amos 9:11-12, *“Now as it refers to Messiah’s kingdom, it is a prophecy of the conversion of the Gentiles, as appears Acts 15:16-17. . . . That this is a prophecy of setting up the kingdom of the Messiah, and bringing in the Gentiles, is very certain.”*

David Chilton, in *“Days of Vengeance,”* says, *“The prophet Amos foretold the subjugation of ‘Edom’ under the rule of the House of David (Amos 9:11-12), and the*

New Testament interpretation of this text explains it as a prophecy of the conversion of the nations under the government of Christ (Acts 15:14-19).”

Kenneth Gentry, in *“He Shall Have Dominion,”* says, *“Other passages illustrating how the Church fulfills prophecies regarding Israel are found in the New Testament. Citing Amos 9:11-12, James says God is rebuilding the tabernacle of David through the calling of the Gentiles (Acts 15:15ff).”*

Ron Smith in *“Apostolic Interpretation”* says, *“When the Apostle James quoted this passage in Acts 15:16, he seemed to be calling the church the tabernacle or house of David. God is now rebuilding this house that was fallen and bringing the Gentiles in ‘to boot.’ In Acts 15:14 James said that the bringing in of the Gentiles to the church was in fulfillment of the prophecy in Amos.”*

Willard Ramsey, in *“Zion’s Glad Morning,”* says, *“[God] has repaired the ‘tabernacle of David’(Acts 15:13-18), i.e. the House of God, now the church. . . . James says that the prophecy of Amos (9:11-12) agrees with God’s purpose to take out of the Gentiles a people for His name (Acts 15:14-16). . . . It has nothing to do with the second coming; James paraphrases Amos according to James’ own time-frame and says simply, ‘after this’ (after the ‘day’ of which Amos spoke, i.e., during the first advent of Christ). . . . James cited this verse to confirm the validity of what they were doing at that time through the church. If Amos’ prophecy is fulfilled only after the second coming, it did not confirm the work they were doing and had no relevancy to their problem.”*

Oswald Allis, in *“Prophecy and the Church,”* says, *“The words of Amos, ‘all the nations upon whom my name is called,’ clearly imply that Edom and all the Gentiles are to be incorporated with Israel as the people of the Lord. . . . James declares expressly that Peter’s experience at Caesarea, which he speaks of as God’s ‘visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name,’ was in accord with the burden of prophecy as a whole, and quotes freely from Amos in proof of it. . . . the words quoted by James apply directly and definitely to the situation under discussion, the status of the Gentiles in the Church, and that this is the reason that James appealed to them. The words, ‘I will raise up the tabernacle of David which is fallen’ do not refer to a future Davidic kingdom. . . . They naturally refer to the first advent and to the whole of the great redemptive work of which it was the beginning and which will culminate in the second advent. The only natural interpretation of this passage is that it refers to*

the Church age and to the ingathering of the Gentiles during that age.”

Calvin Goodspeed, in “Messiah’s Second Advent,” says, “James (in Acts 15:15sq.) interprets the prophecy of Amos (9:11sq.) . . . as affording proof that the Gentiles are to share in the promises to Israel, and as already in process of fulfillment in the conversion of the Gentiles as represented by the case of Cornelius.

“. . . For this reason, all commentators we have been able to consult on this passage, including Meyer, Wordsworth, Canon Cook, Plumptre, Lechler in Lange, Schaff, A.R. Fausset, Olshausen, Cambridge Bible, Abbott, Howson and Spence, Hackett, and Alford, interpret the prophecy quoted as referring to the reception of the Gentiles to the Gospel, and their subsequent salvation and gathering into Christ’s spiritual kingdom in the present dispensation. As Meyer says, ‘The prophecy has found its Messianic historical fulfillment in the reception of the Gentiles unto Christianity, after that thereby the Davidic dominion, in the higher and antitypical sense of the Son of David, was re-established.’ Bishop Wordsworth explains, Amos declares in these words, ‘that the true restoration of the tabernacle of David is to be found in the reception of the residue of the human family, and in the flowing in of all nations, into the Church of Christ.’ They all associate this prophecy with our Lord’s first coming, and make the building again of the tabernacle of David refer to what was to follow this coming of David’s greater Son.”

The references to abundant harvests, rebuilding of the waste cities, and being deeply planted in the land so as not to be uprooted, are predictions of the fruitful ministry of the Lord’s churches (Galatians 4:27) and the perpetuity of those churches to the end of time (Ephesians 3:21).

Matthew Henry comments thus on Amos 9:14-15: “The remnant shall return, and shall build the waste cities and inhabit them, shall form themselves into Christian churches and set up pure doctrine, worship, and discipline among them, according to the gospel charter, by which Christ’s cities are incorporated. The kingdom of the Messiah shall take such deep rooting in the world as never to be rooted out of it (v. 15): I will plant them upon their land. God’s spiritual Israel shall be planted by the right hand of God Himself upon the land assigned them, and they shall no more be pulled up out of it, as the old Jewish church was.”

We should not presume to appropriate any of God’s promise to Jews after the flesh, and apply them to the

Church, without scriptural and apostolic authority for doing so. But in this case, it is clear that James taught that the prophecy of Amos was being fulfilled by the spread of the Christian gospel message among the Gentiles, such as the Italians who were converted by Peter’s ministry in Acts 10-11. James, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has shown us how Amos’ prophecy is to be applied. It cannot be interpreted as a prediction of future national blessing for the Jews, not when the Holy Spirit has stated that it is a prophecy of the spread of the gospel among the Gentiles.

One reason why certain theologians in the Scofield mold are so anxious to deny that Amos prophesied of the Lord’s Church is because they teach that there are no Old Testament prophecies about the Church, or about the Gentiles being part of God’s people. They see the Church Age as a parenthesis, an afterthought in the mind of God - supposedly Christ failed to set up the promised Kingdom of God at His first advent, so that meant that God’s purpose of setting up a literal Jewish kingdom was temporarily set aside for thousands of years.

This pessimistic, defeatist theology teaches us that God’s real purposes will not move forward again until Christ’s Second Coming - until then, we are just to twiddle our thumbs, patiently waiting for the Rapture, until God’s “prophetic time clock” starts ticking and tocking again, and the real action resumes.

That is why some Bible teachers strain so hard to deny the plain meaning of Amos’ prophecy as interpreted by James in Acts 15. According to the Holy Spirit speaking through James, now is the time for God’s people to rebuild and inhabit the waste places - now is the time for the abundant Gospel harvest in which the plowman shall overtake the reaper. A proper understanding of Amos 9 will revolutionize our theology and our practice. It will give us purpose in life, a great cause to live and die for, as we labor for the increase of Christ’s government and peace - an increase which, according to Isaiah 9:6-7, already began at Christ’s first advent, at which time He successfully set up His Kingdom (Matthew 12:28, Luke 16:16, Colossians 1:13).

The notion that the Old Testament prophets never predicted that Gentiles would be one with the Jews, as part of God’s people, can be quickly and decisively disposed of by checking out the prophecy of Hosea 1:10, “And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.”

Now we go to Hosea 2:23, “And I will sow her unto me in the earth: and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people, and they shall say, Thou art my God.”

Now let us see how Paul applies these passages from Hosea in Romans 9:24-26, “. . . Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As he saith also in Osee [Hosea], I will call them my people, which were not my people: and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.”

There can be no doubt that Paul is talking about the conversion of the Gentiles, since in Romans 9:30-31, he says, “What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.”

Paul in Romans 9, in common with James in Acts 15, quotes Old Testament passages that we might have thought were applicable only to Jews after the flesh, but Paul and James apply them to the Gentiles. There is no reason why we should be shy about laying hold of these promises of God’s blessings upon the Gentiles in the Church Age - these promises are for us.

POWERBALL-TAX FOR BEING STUPID

• POWERBALL’S BIGGEST WINNER: GOVERNMENT

By Randy DeSoto

Ka-ching! Wednesday’s Powerball jackpot soared to \$1.5 billion as get-rich-quick mania seized America this week. But you don’t need to wait for the drawing to know who’ll score the royal payoff.

The biggest winner of the multistate numbers game is — drumroll, please — Uncle Sam.

Powerball is a government-sponsored gambling racket in 44 states, plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The feds automatically skim 25 percent off the top of a lump-sum cash award. Additional state withholding taxes vary depending on residency status. Mega-winners are taxed at the highest federal income tax bracket (nearly 40 percent); those who live in states with personal income taxes could pay up to an additional 9 percent. Local municipal taxes can add another 3-5 percent to the tax burden. (It is also “big bucks” for those who produce the tickets. Ed)

Government lotteries of all kinds raked in a whopping \$70 billion in revenue last year, according to the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries. Cash-strapped states pitch the rackets as civic enterprises by purporting to earmark a portion of proceeds for public education, economic development and mass transit, senior citizens’ programs, professional sports stadiums and environmental protection.

As I’ve noted during previous, high-stakes lotto crazes, the state bureaucrats who run these schemes for numeracy-challenged consumers are free to ban outside competition — including private slot machines, phone betting, instant pull tabs and card rooms. The feds help out by limiting sweepstakes and Internet gambling, as well as exempting state lottery marketing materials from Federal Trade Commission regulations that guarantee truth in advertising.

That’s right. While cracking down on ads on everything from cereal to toothpaste to cars, Washington protects states that spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year falsely promising “a dollar and a dream,” “everyone is a winner” and “somebody’s gotta win — might as well be you.”

In New York last fall, the attorney general outlawed fantasy sports league as illegal games of chance that deceptively hooked in the gullible — while the state lottery promoted its motto, “Hey, You Never Know.”

I know double-standards sanctimony when I see it.

If public lottery pimps were private corporate entities, they’d be charged with predatory behavior. To entice their at-risk target audience of elderly citizens and low-wage workers, state officials saturate the airwaves around the first of each month. Why? As a candid advertising plan for the Ohio Super Lotto directed many years ago:

“Schedule heavier media weight during those times of the month where consumer disposable income peaks. . . . Government benefits, payroll and Social Security payments are released on the first Tuesday of each calendar month.”

Billboards in Chicago slums claim lottery purchases “could be your ticket out.” The Illinois lottery lures players to “joy someone with holiday scratch-offs.” In Maine, an analysis by Cornell University and the Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting last fall found: “For every one percent increase in joblessness in a given zip code, lottery sales jump 10 percent, the original research shows. And people in Maine’s poorest regions spend as much as 200 times more person than

those in wealthier areas.”

“By enticing people to spend their money on fantasies,” veteran gambling historian Robert Goodman points out, “governments are preying on people’s ability to dream and hope. Rather than providing real hope for economic improvement, public officials are promoting the illusion of economic improvement— becoming deeply involved in finding new ways of manipulating people’s desire for a more secure future. They are enticing people into taking part in what should properly be called the ‘pathology of hope.’”

The government gambling industry spins lotteries as good, innocent fun that benefits the children. Always “For The Children.” But countless studies show two things:

First, a significant portion of lottery sales are driven by financial desperation and delusion, not by entertainment. During the 2008 recession, 29 of 42 states with lotteries saw huge spikes in lottery sales — with sales records set in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, where purchases are greatest in the states’ poorest counties.

“When people view themselves as doing worse financially, then that motivates them to purchase lottery tickets,” Emily Haisley, a postdoctoral associate at the Yale School of Management who researched lottery behavior, told *The New York Times*. “People look to the lottery to get back to where they were financially.”

Second, multiple investigations of states that divert a portion of lottery revenues to public education have shown that on average, those states spend a smaller proportion of their budgets on education than states that do not have a lottery.

Remember: All government revenue is fungible. Lottery funds end up supplanting regular income, not supplementing it. As players lose interest, the states must cut the number of prizes, make longer odds, inflate the jackpots and market even more aggressively (and deceptively) to make more money.

Government-run lottery monopolies are a regressive tax and a stupidity tax.

Inject this truth in inner-city Powerball billboard advertising: The odds are never in your favor.

<http://www.westernjournalism.com/powerballs-biggest-winner-government/>

POWERBALL

By Robert McCurry

Back in the almost forgotten era when gambling of all kinds was illegal throughout the country, it was argued

that gambling undermined the work ethic, allowing some to become rich without appropriate effort. And that was immoral and a sin. The idea of wealth without work has, to say the least, lost its stigma.

State lotteries are legalized gambling. State lotteries as we know them date only to 1964, when the Live Free or Die gang in New Hampshire came up with a new way to raise money without raising taxes. Today 44 states have lotteries. Among the states that do not have lotteries are Alabama, Mississippi, and Utah that cite religious objections and oppose any gambling game or activity.

The purpose of state lotteries is to increase state revenue.

The other big winner is the IRS -- the federal tax alone on a lump sum payment in the neighborhood of \$100 million.

As far as what happens to folks who win the lottery? CBS News’ research department learned that nine out of 10 burn through their winnings in five years.

The lottery is a tax on the stupid!

POWERBALL RENEWS INTEREST

IN STATE LOTTERY

“Supporters of the lottery say the state of Mississippi just was not reaping any of the benefits of the Powerball lottery frenzy... The attention created by the record Powerball payout has created new interest in the Mississippi Legislature for a state lottery.” Distressed because Mississippi missed out on the money generated by the lottery “for education”, there is now a renewed effort to bring in the lottery.

[\(http://djournal.com/news/powerball-renews-interest-in-state-lottery/\)](http://djournal.com/news/powerball-renews-interest-in-state-lottery/)

The latest Powerball winners were flown to NY for interviews, which will only increase the foolish hope that fortune or luck will be with the “players”.

LOTTERY & THE WORD OF GOD

Deuteronomy 23:17 “There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.18 Thou shalt not bring the {i} hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these [are] abomination unto the LORD thy God.”

(i) Forbidding that any income gained from evil things should be applied to the service of God, # Mic 2:7. (Geneva)

“Abarbinel understands it figuratively of a sodomite, comparable to a dog, for his uncleanness and impudence; see #Re 22:15; and the price of such an one the gain he

got by the prostitution of his body to unnatural lusts; and so as the hire of a whore answers to one in #De 23:17, the price of a dog to a sodomite here; and in this he is followed by some, nor is it a sense to be despised;...” (John Gill)

“The notion of probability was expressed by the Latin loanword chance, adopted in Middle English from the late 13th century, literally describing an outcome as a “falling” (as it were of dice), via Old French chance from Late Latin cadentia “falling”. Fortuna, the Roman goddess of fate or luck, was popular as an allegory in medieval times, and even though it was not strictly reconcilable with Christian theology, it became popular in learned circles of the High Middle Ages to portray her as a servant of God in distributing success or failure in a characteristically “fickle” or unpredictable way, thus introducing the notion of chance.”

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luck#Etymology_and_definition)

FORTUNA: GODDESS OF CHANCE & LUCK

Fortuna (Latin: *Fortūna*, equivalent to the Greek goddess *Tyche*) was the goddess of fortune and personification of luck in Roman religion. She might bring good or bad luck: she could be represented as veiled and blind, as in modern depictions of Justice, and came to represent life’s capriciousness. She was also a goddess of fate: as *Atrax Fortuna*, she claimed the young lives of the princes Augustus’ grandsons Gaius and Lucius, prospective heirs to the Empire.

Her father was said to be Jupiter and like him, she could also be bountiful (*Copia*). As Annonaria she protected grain supplies. June 11 was sacred to her: on June 24 she was given cult at the festival of Fors Fortuna.

Fortuna governs the circle of the four stages of life, the Wheel of Fortune, in a manuscript of Carmina Burana. Symbol: Globe, Cornucopia, Wheel, Wreath.

Good Fortune & Good Luck

Fortuna did not disappear from the popular imagination with the ascendancy of Christianity by any means. Saint Augustine took a stand against her continuing presence, in the City of God: “How, therefore, is she good, who without discernment comes to both the good and to the bad?... It profits one nothing to worship her if she is truly fortune... let the bad worship her...this supposed deity”. In the 6th century, the Consolation of Philosophy, by statesman and philosopher Boethius, written while he faced execution, reflected the Christian theology of casus, that the apparently random and often ruinous turns of Fortune’s Wheel are in fact both inevitable and providential, that even the most coincidental events are part of God’s hidden plan which one should not resist or try to change. Fortuna, then, was a servant of God, and events, individual decisions, the influence of the stars were all merely vehicles of Divine Will. In succeeding generations Boethius’ Consolation was required reading for scholars

and students. Fortune crept back into popular acceptance, with a new iconographic trait, “two-faced Fortune”, Fortuna bifrons; such depictions continue into the 15th century.

(Wikipedia)

The goddess of fortune and luck is very much with us today.

Gamble: “Take a risk in the hope of a favorable outcome”, hoping that “Lady Luck”, or that the goddess *Fortuna* will smile upon us. Clearly, the lottery is taking a risk, maybe only with \$1, and hoping that luck or fortune will smile upon us, and frown on others.

What is the difference between wasting money on the lottery vs wasting money on other activities?

I have wasted many thousands of dollars over the years, as I am sure you have. I have bought unneeded, worthless and useless products, high priced and fast cars (I was deep in the 60s Muscle Cars Craze, where we did wish bad luck to our opponents in drag racing) that appealed to the pride of life, invested in smooth talking “Christian” scoundrels, spent money pursuing failed ideas and dreams, wasted money on tools (a man’s weakness), on movies and on other “entertainment” adventures---the list can go on and on.

However, in these endeavors, the wasted money came from honest labor, and I was purchasing a product. I wasted money, but not with the faith that the goddess *Fortuna* would bless me and curse others who participated in the lottery. My wasted money was not with the faith that *Lady Luck* would bless me and curse others. One would not “play” the lottery if he had no hope of *fortune* or *luck* cursing others. The “player” bows down to *Fortuna*: “All Hail the Goddess *Fortuna*. Please curse my neighbor so you can bless me.”

• CONCLUSIONS:

Though Scripture does not say “Thou Shalt Not Gamble”, God has said many things that condemn the lottery.

First, the lottery, as is gambling of all kinds, is based on covetousness; it seeks to gain what belongs to others. “I hope he loses his money, so I can gain it.” (1 Cor 5:10, 11, 6:10, Eph 5:5)

What better describes international banks, “Wall Street” and the stock market? Purchasing stocks as a long-term investment is not the same as purchasing stocks with the faith that the other man will lose his shirt, so I can gain his shirt.

Second, hope in winning the lottery violates God ordained means of gaining wealth, hard work. (Gen 3:18, 2 Thes 3:10)

Third, the false hopes fueled by “Powerball” appeals to the slothful, as it destroys the work ethic. As poverty increases, lottery sales soar. (Pr 12:24, 27, 15:19, Col 3:23, 24)

Forth, like drugs and alcohol, the lust to win the lottery leads to taking money from the family, making the person worse than an infidel as he neglects his family. (1 Tim 5:8, 2 Cor 12:14, 2 Thes 3:12).

Fifth, the state’s promotion of the lottery equals state sponsored vice, which encourages greed, selfishness and subverts the Christian moral fabric. Thus, the state sponsored and promoted lottery violates Romans 13, where the state is to promote good, and suppress evil. God will destroy such a state. (Pr 9:17.

Sixth, the lottery, and gambling of all kinds, fans the flames of corruption at all levels.

1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money (particularly easy money) is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Lottery proceeds are what used to be called a “Sin Tax”. God makes it clear in Deuteronomy 23:17, 18, that the wages from unrighteous activity have God’s curse against them, and cannot be used for godly purposes. The same goes for those who make their living from ungodly activity of any kind.

The selling point by the state to promote that sin tax is “look how much good can be done with the proceeds”. The lottery sin tax is promoted for the sake of our children, and for the sake of the community. It builds bigger and better facilities, yet the dumbing down of the young people continues.

1 Corinthians 6: 9 “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

The Spirit of our God has sanctified his children. Our heavenly call is to work for and pray for God’s goodness and blessings upon their neighbors.”

Acts 2:39 “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words

did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward (perverse and crooked) generation.”

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST...

By Dan Burrell

Sometimes I hate to be right.

A decade ago, I wrote a series of articles on my blog (don’t look for them now, I took them down some time ago) on the problems facing the Christian Colleges largely supported by Independent Baptists. (I was still ensconced in that identity at the time.) It was a series of 3-4 articles wherein I very pointedly named about a dozen things they would need to change if they were to survive in the coming decade. It created a firestorm. The articles got 10’s of thousands of hits — particularly in cities like Pensacola, Tampa/Clearwater, Greenville, Chattanooga, Springfield, MO, etc... I was informed I was no longer welcome on the campus of one of my alma maters for daring to publicly challenge them. Another one banned faculty and students from accessing my blog. (Such childish reactions, fr.) Others accused me of being a rabble rouser.

Today, I heard that Clearwater Christian College is closing. This follows recent announcements from Tennessee Temple that this was their last year and they were “merging” with Piedmont (which has largely become an “online” institution) and also Northland International closed its doors. Prior to that, Calvary in Lansdale, PA had closed, as had Spurgeon Baptist Bible and Atlantic Coast Baptist. (Piedmont hoovered up their assets as the last two were closing.) Baptist University died. BJU has been hemorrhaging students in recent years as has Hyles — largely due to various scandals — and most other extreme right institutions affiliated with churches are barely functioning with the possible exceptions of Crown and West Coast which are both church-based colleges which will likely disappear when their founders die off or retire.

There are a handful of tiny ones run by churches, but they have never been credible. Cedarville does well, but they have moved more mainstream with excellent academics and a recent alignment with the SBC. Pensacola can afford to give away its education due to Beka Books, but otherwise would be struggling as they still don’t have credible accreditation. BBC/Clark Summit has changed its name as they struggle to find their niche and BBC/Springfield is on life support and I predict they’ll be one of the next 2-3 to close. Boston Baptist [BBF also] and Davis are about as small as a school can get before it collapses without

outside support. Liberty has sucked the life out of most evangelical schools as they have developed a world-class campus and a national student body base with nearly 100,000 students. Ironically, some of these schools once had robust student bodies numbers in the thousands at their peak.

(BJU/TTU/BBC-Springfield had 4,000+, HAC had nearly 3,000. BBC/CS had around 1,000.)

Years ago, I noted that if these schools wanted to survive they had to start thinking regionally, instead of nationally as Liberty and Cedarville took over the national market. I wrote that the right-wing schools had to get over the fixations with music styles, Bible versions, affiliations/associations, the hyper restrictive dating and dress rules, the lack of academic freedom, the incestuous over-hiring of alumni and over-control by alumni. They had to stop their foolish disparaging of any form of accreditation or their students would leave for more credible institutions. I was right. They refused. Called me a liberal and compromiser. They disparaged my ministry — PCC refused to allow us to recruit faculty from them and the Sword of the Lord magazine did a two-part series trashing my church, me and a conference we hosted.

I wish they had listened. Now it's too late. As has been the case with many fundamentalists I know, if they can't control something, they'd prefer to kill it. In their mind, they won by losing. It's really sad, if not pathetic. I was right. I wish this time I hadn't been.

I'll probably write more on this in a few days. Stay tuned.

<http://danburrell.com/?cat=22>

“Bible versions, affiliations/associations, the hyper restrictive dating and dress rules” and music, I must add. We have noticed, though we have not visited many churches here in Ohio, that the two churches made up of young families have very “relaxed dress” (for lack of a better term) which my generation would find as poor taste in the house of God. Nor does their music fit within what we would define as good Christian hymns, nor do they use the King James Bible. However, their messages are soundly “reformed” messages, and true to the Scriptures.

My wife and I, because of our age and dress, stand out like sore thumbs in those churches. But we go there because of the faithful preaching according to the entire Word of God. The “elders” are young, under 40, and we are greatly encouraged to see young men with moral courage being raised up by God.

However, we have visited “fundamental” churches

that have traditional dress and music, as well as younger families. (However, after using the Trinity Song Book for 10 years, their music seemed like children's music.) I used “fundamental” in the true sense of the word, for it seems they have built their congregation on fear; that is, “rapture fever”. It seems that they commonly have “rapture conferences” which keep the people coming.

SOCIETY FOR BIBLICAL & SOUTHERN STUDIES

Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg (President of SBSS) presents the following on Republican War Crimes:

What was it really like? What did the Republican Party do to the South and the individual Southern people? The answer to that question is given an answer in the material published in this article from the appendix of *Life in Dixie During the War*. Mary A. H. Gay in her book lets the Northern Generals tell much of the story which is so revealing of some of the crimes of the Federal Army. Mary lived through and wrote of life for a Southern lady during the time the Republican Administration sought to force their reinterpreted or perverted view of the Constitution on the Southern people. They were truly Attila the Hun's boys! What happened in the removal of the Confederate Flag in South Carolina by the Carpetbagger Governor recently proves the point! Please read the downloadable file if you want a first hand account.

Download the 1 meg file from from the Examiner Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u7s71aa9fwj21p0/>

THE TRULY LIBERATED WOMAN

by Bettie Need

When I was young, I used to chafe at being a girl. It seemed that boys got to do all the fun stuff and girls had to be prim, proper and ladylike. In my teens, I hated the “curse” of womanhood—monthly cycles of cramps and mood swings. Why I couldn't have been born a man, I wondered.

During my college years in the 1960s, feminists urged women to throw off the constraints of “patriarchal” definitions of womanhood. As the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries, I was shocked at the ungodly sexual liberties that so many women embraced, but the arguments for equality of opportunity seemed logical. After all, the Bible said that in Christ “there is neither male nor female” (Galatians 3:28, NASB). None of the churches I attended addressed feminist issues. I was blinded by my own desire for autonomy, and I cherished

my independence of thought and actions.

When we married, my late husband and I agreed that marriage should be 50/50; we later revised it to 60/40 in favor of my husband. After much study of the Bible, God's plan for men and women, and the way Christians should behave toward one another, my husband and I realized that we were each to give 100% and expect nothing in return. After all, Christ gave himself for us "while we were yet sinners" (Romans 5:8), incapable of giving back to God anything of worth!

We learned that we needed each other more than we thought. We needed to keep each other accountable for our relationship with God and for our actions and attitudes toward each other. We needed the different male and female perspectives on childrearing. We each had blind spots and learned to depend on each other to see and correct them.

We both agreed that our future children should be reared by us and not by day-care providers. God gives to parents, not to the state or anyone else. I began reading everything I could find to learn how to train children and how to be a biblical wife. There were not many good books around at that time, so we spent a lot of time studying what the Bible had to say about our roles as husband, wife, and parents.

In the Bible we discovered that a woman has a job description with a basic function that never changes: doing all she can creatively to help her husband in his job, whatever that may be. Women should never have to worry about what career to follow. The Lord calls some women to be single, but most women are called to marriage. A wife is designed as a helper suitable to her husband, a life-giver to her children, and a keeper of the home (Titus 2:4-5).

We learned about submission. We all submit to some authority, whether it is a boss at work or traffic signs on the roads. We submit to God, whether we acknowledge Him or not, because He created us and has the power of life or death over us. We submit willingly or unwillingly—but we all submit!

It was not easy learning to submit to my husband—he is a sinner with faults and failures. But I learned that as I submitted to God, who alone is wise, holy, and trustworthy, I could also submit to my husband. Through the many years during which we both were learning how to trust God and not mankind, God blessed us beyond our dreams.

At a women's Bible study, the ladies discussed what the Bible says about submission of wives to hus-

bands. There was quite a discussion about not being "doormats" and "being your own person." When I confessed that I loved submitting to my husband, a retired pastor's wife was horrified. She said, "Bettie, you surprise me! I have long considered you the most liberated woman I know!" I replied, "My point exactly!"

Submission to my husband gives me the tremendous freedom to be creative. I can sew, upholster, and teach my own children at home. I could never do the things I have done without submitting to my husband! I am infinitely freer to 'be my own person' at home than if I were slaving away at a job under another man's authority and still had to come home and cook and clean!

As a wife at home, I have had the freedom to design the home we now live in, as well as a small home for my parents next door. I have earned extra income for our family as a seamstress and upholsterer. I have designed and altered clothing. I have made dolls-86 of them the summer we built our home. I have been the beautician/barber for my family and others. I have grown gardens and canned foods. I have spent years as a landscaper. I have designed and directed the education of three children and am now doing the same for my stepdaughter. I have edited and spell-checked the writings of two husbands. (My first husband died in 1997, and I remarried in 2001.) I have been "child-care specialist" for my own children and for others, including my twelve grandchildren. What a privilege to sit and read to my grandchildren, build forts with my grandsons, and play house with my granddaughters!

My life has been so full! Someone asked me recently if I ever wished I had gone into architecture and design as a career. I told him that the stress of designing and making changes to designs for other people would have overwhelmed me. I am completely satisfied to have been able to design a home for myself. I have been privileged to have had so many "careers" as a submissive wife that my cup overflows with gratitude to God who so wisely designed me to "be my own self" and "do my own thing" in the security and comfort of my own home, with my husband as my protector!

Feminism's lie is that women "can have it all!" Working two jobs—one at the office and one at home—is not fun. There are women whose hearts are broken because they must leave their newborn babies and go back to work, leaving a caregiver to discover the first smile or first tooth.

A woman who is privileged to be a “keeper at home” is queen of her domain and a mover and shaker of the future. There is nothing like the joy of being a lifelong mate and companion to one man who cherishes and values you. Anticipating what he wants before he even thinks of it and providing comfort and counsel when he asks for it is infinitely better than being secretary to an important man who takes your work for granted.

In her own family, a woman has prestige, power, and praise beyond anything the outside world could offer. A woman at home who manages her time well can do most anything she desires in her sphere. Home decorating, gourmet cooking, “haute couture” from her own sewing machine, landscaping, painting (finger painting counts!), and upholstery. These are a few of the possibilities available from home. (Check your local library for “how to” books, and read these Scripture passages: Proverbs 31; Titus 2:3-5; I Timothy 5:10.)

The husband of a wife who stays at home also receives great benefits. He usually gets home cooked meals. He is greeted by squealing children who rejoice that “daddy is home!” He does not have to listen to his wife complaining about her terrible day at work and her terrible time preparing dinner with the kids screaming. Usually, the wife is ready to comfort and soothe his stressed nerves, grateful she has a hard-working husband and that she does not have to face the battles he does. The home atmosphere is generally more peaceful when the wife has had time to get her chores done and prepare a cheerful homecoming for her husband. The husband of a wife at home is a beneficiary of her freedom to be the queen of his castle.

The privilege of being a biblical wife at home cannot be measured. It must be treasured.

Bettie Need is a homeschooling, stay-at-home wife and mom who enjoys sewing with her daughters, gardening with her husband, and playing with her grandchildren in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Note: A friend was going through articles she had saved from the past, and she found the above article, and sent it to Bettie. So the above is an old article from “Family Reformation”, Winter 2004.

FYI

10 SURPRISING REVELATIONS

in the Lawsuit Against Bill Gothard and IBLP

Last week, I published a summary of the allegations included in an ongoing lawsuit against fundamentalist

guru Bill Gothard and the Institute for Basic Life Principles, which he founded in the 1980s and spent three decades running. The lawsuit focuses on Bill Gothard and IBLP’s negligence in failing to report abuse and failing to train their employees to recognize and report abuse, and at its center are allegations that Bill Gothard spent decades grooming, sexually harassing, and molesting teenage girls he employed at his organization’s headquarters....

<http://homeschoolersanonymous.org/2016/01/14/10-surprising-revelations-in-the-lawsuit-against-bill-gothard-and-iblp/>

Gothard is being defended by the Christian Law Association (CLA): “CLA has a national reputation of covering-up immoral actions by ministry leadership”.

• “PLAINTIFFS AMEND LAWSUIT AGAINST IBLP, ALSO SUE BILL GOTHARD

There has been a rather large development in the legal proceedings surrounding Bill Gothard and the Institute in Basic Life Principles (IBLP). This past Wednesday, January 6, 2016, Attorney David Gibbs III filed an amended complaint on behalf of ten women who allege Bill Gothard sexually abused and/or harassed them, along with a conspiracy by Mr. Gothard and the IBLP organization to cover up the behavior.”

Article found at, <http://www.recoveringgrace.org/2016/01/plaintiffs-amend-lawsuit/>

Gothard’s ministry’s, IBLP, estate is valued in excess of \$100 million, so part of the motivation for the suit could well be the prospect of Deep Pockets, and out-of-court settlements.

Our case in Louisiana was one of the first for Gibbs and Craze, CLA. Another interesting note sent to me by one who keeps up with these kind of things: “a few months ago David Hyles visited FBC-Hammond and was given an ovation - he has been officially rehabilitated and restored to minister in spite of his multiple adulteries.”

Is it any wonder that the world mocks Christianity?

THE WESTERN MORASS

By Peter Barnes

Rev Dr Peter Barnes is a Presbyterian pastor who lives in Sydney, Australia. He has served on the mission field in Vanuatu, ministered on the Nambucca River in northern NSW, and is currently pastor at Revesby Presbyterian Church.

Recent events have revealed - to those with eyes to see - how deep is the morass into which Western societies have fallen. There are conflicting views as to

what should take place, and the prevailing impressions left are those of moral confusion and disarray. The West seems to be under attack, and yet also is managing to undermine itself at the same time. The problems are both within and without.

First, there is a threat from Islamist terrorism. There have been hundreds of attacks in recent times. On 11 September 2001 four hijacked planes killed about 3,000 people after crashing into the Pentagon and World Trade Center in New York. More atrocities followed: the Bali bombings in October 2002 killed over 200; in November 2003 57 were killed in Istanbul; in July 2005 more than fifty persons were killed in explosions in the London Underground; the Boston Marathon bombings of April 2013 killed three and injured 183; while Paris has suffered a number of attacks, including the Charlie Hebdo murders in January 2015 and the deaths of 130 in the attacks of 13 November 2015. In the midst of all this, Europe especially has experienced tens of thousands of refugees, who are fleeing the Syrian crisis. To many in the West, religion is incomprehensible so it is not uncommon for its intellectual leaders to find no discernible pattern in terrorist assaults, and so they denounce any questioning of Islam as racist.

Charles Blow, writing for the New York Times on 23 November 2015, worked himself up into a lather of moral indignation in claiming that ‘Anti-Muslim is Anti-American’, and that this ‘slippery slope’ could lead to genocide. The ever-vigilant and unerringly imperceptive American Civil Liberties Union declared that ‘Laws that single out Sharia violate the First Amendment by treating one belief system as suspect.’ Moral neutrality demands that Satanism and evangelicalism be viewed alike, and that the Marquis de Sade be treated as the moral equivalent of Amy Carmichael. One gets the impression that the Islamists understand the secularists better than vice versa.

This takes us onto the secularist juggernaut which dominates the Western landscape at the moment. Secularists in general consider that Christianity is dangerous because of the Spanish Inquisition in the 1490s, but Islam is to be supported because it is perceived to be downtrodden. Since there are no moral absolutes in the sexual sphere, it is wrong to offend those who engage in homosexual behaviour. Child abuse is wrong, but not in the womb. Love is what matters, but few seem to know what it means. As a result, the culture is breaking down quickly, to the point where a reasonable level of public civility in public debate is becoming somewhat unusual. Even the Australian Broadcasting

Commission announcer, Richard Glover, who is not a believer, has asked: ‘When exactly did Christians become such a derided and ridiculed minority in this country?’ He considers that it has happened in his own lifetime, and laments that ‘Inviting a cleric onto ABC radio, as I do from time to time, brings a torrent of enraged correspondence.’

Christians have to respond to all this, which is not an altogether easy task. The naïve amongst us consider that the problem of Islamic terrorism can be solved by being moderate in religion (if we have to have it at all), and seeing the issue as really one of poverty, to be solved by economic aid. The fearful will try to close our borders to all and sundry, excluding the genuine refugee as well as the criminal. Because Western Christians have become rather more used to Enlightenment secularism than to Middle Eastern Islam, they are often tempted to embrace secularism as a political solution at least, not realising that no society can be built on a spiritual and moral vacuum.

The Christian message includes the claim that Christ is Lord of all, both church and world (Col.1:15-20). Neither Islam nor secularism recognises this, and so both contribute to the morass in different but almost complementary ways. It is as C. S. Lewis suggested: ‘Perhaps civilization will never be safe until we care for something else more than we care for it.’ It is the kingdom of God and His righteousness that we must seek first of all (Matt.6:33).

Forwarded to me by Ronald Rumburg

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

No. 786-13:697. A Sermon Delivered On Lord’s Day Morning, December 22, 1867, By C. H. Spurgeon, At The Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. {#1Ti 3:16}

“4. Let me also say that I do not perceive anything in this summary tending remarkably to exalt prophecy. I would not make this remark if it were not that there is a certain troublesome sect {d} abroad nowadays to whom the one thing needful is a perpetual speculation upon prophecy. All the bells in their steeple ring out “prophecy! prophecy! prophecy!” They plume themselves upon an expected secret rapture, and I do not know what vain imaginings besides. Where prophecy is preached

in connection with their shibboleth, there the gospel is preached, and all ministers besides their own, however honoured by God, are railed at by them as part of Babylon, against whom men are to be warned. They, truly, are wise men, and can afford superciliously to look down upon their fellow Christians as the slaves of sect and system, being, I venture to say, far more sectarian than the worst of us, and more bigoted to their system than Romanists themselves. My dear friends, if you have any time to spare, and cannot find any practical work for Jesus, study the dark places of prophecy, but do not read modern prophetic works, for that is a sheer waste of time and nothing better. Hold off as you would from a serpent from the idea that the study or preaching of prophecy is the gospel, for the belief that it is so, is detrimental beyond conception. The gospel which is to be vehemently declared is this: — “God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” As long as London is reeking with sin, and millions are going down to hell, let us leave others to prophesy, let us go with anxious hearts to seek after souls, and see if we cannot by the Spirit’s power win sinners from going down into the pit.”

(Online Bible)

MOST JEWS DO NOT AGREE

with John Hagee’s extremist Zionist views.

“A majority of American Jews say Jewish groups should not partner with vocal Texas megachurch pastor John Hagee or other Christian Zionists that support Israel based on end-times beliefs, a new survey revealed.

“More than 3/4 (78%) of the 800 American Jews questioned in a new J Street survey do not support Jewish groups working with Christian organizations that believe Jews must control the Holy Land before Jesus can return.

“In particular, critics complain about Hagee’s controversial views on the Holocaust - that it was God’s way to force Jews to settle in Israel - and his fierce opposition to the Mideast peace proposal that calls for Israel to cede land to form a Palestinian state.

“The survey results are very eye-opening. When presented with both sides of the debate over U.S. policy in the Middle East, American Jews strongly favor the United States using its leverage

to help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict,’ said Jim Gerstein, who conducted the survey, in a statement. .

“The survey found that 75% percent of respondents

view a two-state solution (Israel and Palestinian state) as necessary for Israeli security.

“In addition to Jews voicing differences with Hagee, dozens of prominent evangelicals last summer also did likewise and supported a two-state solution. The evangelical leaders wrote a letter to President Bush emphasizing their support of a two-state solution in order to combat the ‘serious misconception’ that all American evangelicals are against the creation of a new Palestinian state.

“‘Nothing could be further from the truth,’ they stated in the letter. ‘We, who sign this letter, represent large numbers of evangelicals throughout the U.S. who support justice for both Israelis and Palestinians.’”(Source, Christian Post, July 22, 2008)

Editor’s note: Some Christian Zionists demand support for their extremist views by saying, “If you do not agree with my views, it is because you are anti-Semitic and you hate the Jews.” However, as it turns out, most Jews do not support the views of the Christian Zionists. Jews in Israel and worldwide are well aware of the fact that many Christian Zionists are trying to bring about the fulfillment of the Armageddon Theology, which teaches that 2/3 of all the Jews must die in warfare in the Middle East in order for Christ to return.]

From the “Northern Landmark Missionary Baptist” newsletter.

Isn’t it strange how those who are against the ideal of “Christian Reconstruction” can support “Zionist Reconstruction.”

BEARDS

“Researchers found that clean-shaven men were actually more likely to harbour infection-causing bacteria resistant to antibiotics when compared to bearded men.” (The research was conducted at a hospital with clean shaven vs bearded staff members. The wonders of the Creator, who prepared men to be out in the world, and be exposed to more infectious diseases than women. Obviously, Adam was created with a full grown beard.)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/beards-good-for-health-more-hygienic-bacteria-resistant-than-shaven-skin-study-finds-a6823461.html>

A LEVITICAL MINISTRY

Is defined as a ministry dedicated to teaching God’s judgments and laws to the people of God---ministries

such as *The Biblical Examiner*, which started in the middle 1980s. (Deut 33:8-10) Most of the past issues are posted at www.biblicalexaminer.org, which desperately needs updating. Our goal has been and is to help cause God's people to understand God's judgments and law in areas overlooked by many teachers.

Moreover, God said that the teachers of the law are allotted income from the other people of God; that is, as part of the tithe. (Num 18:20-24, Deut 12:19, 14:27-29) Paul supported himself, but still received support from God's people. We thank the Lord for those who have found this ministry profitable enough to help support our efforts for the advancement of the Kingdom of God and his righteousness.

See <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/levite.html>

All articles by Bro Need, unless otherwise noted. Use with credit.

BOOKS

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

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

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

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footnotes. Sovereign Grace Publishers. \$25.95 post paid. \$20 post paid from The Biblical Examiner.

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

Past PDF issues of The Biblical Examiner from the first of the year are here. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u7s7laa9fwj21p0/AAADryPu6R6a0PsXkCuNoShxea>



"Believe it or Not" 12 new one pint Ball wide mouth canning jars in superior packing for \$1.99, original price at Agway years ago. Thanks to the FED's inflationary policy, it is now \$10, in the cheapest packaging possible.

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