

The Biblical Examiner

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

The Biblical Examiner. 5130 Danville Rd, Lynchburg, OH 45142
540.255.2243 ; Bro. Need, 740.637.4191 facebook.com/ovid.need
www.biblicalexaminer.org ; tbe@biblicalexaminer.org ; ovid.need@gmail.com
Sermonaudio.com/providence

Holding to the *1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith*

THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISM IN AMERICA.

[This entire article was in a letter Matt Stabler wrote to his supporters. Because of its importance, I am opening this issue of the Examiner with this letter. Elections have consequences, and the election of Democrat Marxists into positions of leadership in this nation is submitting America to Communism.]

GOVERNOR PRITZKER VS JESUS CHRIST

What happens when an American City threatens to seize and destroy an immigrant church simply for opening its doors? Read on to learn the insane lengths a mid-western governor and mayor took to try to punish our client's church. - Mat

Pastor Cristian Lonescu knows exactly what it is like to be persecuted for his faith. He grew up in Communist Romania where Christians were financially destroyed, their property seized, their bodies beaten and jailed, or worse for even sharing a Bible, let alone preaching the Gospel.

Pastor Cristian Lonescu never dreamed he would face similar persecution in America.

Pastor Cristian Lonescu is the head pastor of Elim



Which group represents the Democrat Party?

Election Special

Contents

The Fight Against Communism in America....1; Governor Pritzker vs Jesus Christ...1; The Political Myth....3; Religion and/or politics can save us....4; The Triumph of Christ...5; Virus Blessings...8; Christian Groups Prepare Parents...9; Why flee from the Temples of Satan?...10; All-out war against the Lord and his Christ...11; China Demands Churches Praise Communist Regime...12; Bitterness...13; Civil Liberty...14; Voting...18; Central banking similar to socialism...18; CDC: Six Percent of Coronavirus Deaths ...19; The Truth About Halloween...20; Lex Talionis...22; Update about my wife...24

Romanian Pentecostal Church of Chicago, IL. Like many of Elim's parishioners, he emigrated to America after escaping Romania's brutal Communist regime. And Pastor Lonescu says the playbook the Romanian Communist regime used against him and his people, is the same playbook now being used by radical governors and mayors in America.

Communists, wherever they are, always go after the church first...and the steps they take next will determine the country's future.

First, they scare you into compliance.

When the COVID crisis began, Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church willingly closed, out of an abundance of caution for its parishioners, as well as respecting the "two weeks to flatten the curve" mantra.

But when IL Gov. J.B. Pritzker began allowing big box retailers, abortion clinics and recreational marijuana stores to open while churches were still heavily restricted to just 10 people no matter the sanctuary size; the largely Romanian immigrant population of Elim Pentecostal grew uneasy. When Pritzker later announced that churches could be allowed to increase attendance to 50 people at some time in the distant future, but only after a mandatory vaccine was released in 12-18 months, Elim Romanian. Then they try to in-

cite hate against you.

In the early hours of the morning before Elim Pentecostal Church was to re-open. Mayor Lightfoot had every single neighbor's car towed for nine blocks around the church.

Those whose cars had been towed received an impoundment letter informing the owner their car had been towed because the church refused to close. But instead of generating hate against the church, neighbors stopped by with encouragement and even donations to keep the church going.

The church does not use street parking. So, before the evening service. Mayor Lightfoot sent three marked police cars to block every entrance to Elim's private parking lot. No matter, the parishioners simply parked farther away and walked to the church.

Then they threaten your freedom.

When it became clear the people of Elim would not be frightened away, stymied again. Mayor Lightfoot then charged Pastor Lonescu with two Disorderly Conduct charges, as if this humble pastor were some thug in a bar brawl. But Pastor Cristian's only "crime" was opening his church with more than 10 people. The church refused to close.

Then they try to talk you into joining their side.

After threatening Pastor Lonescu's freedom. Mayor Lightfoot demanded a "meeting" with the pastor. Pastor Lonescu told the mayor's office he would attend ONLY if his Liberty Counsel attorney were present on the call. The Mayor promptly cancelled the meeting. She intended to convince him to close. She was not interested in a dialogue.

Then they take your property.

Foiled again in her attempts to enforce Gov. Pritzker's illegal and unconstitutional church restrictions. Mayor Lightfoot doubled down. The church received an official notice from the Chicago Health Department declaring Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church to be a "nuisance," and as such the city threatened "Summary Abatement" - a process where the city could immediately and without notice SEIZE AND DESTROY ALL CHURCH PROPERTY.

Think about that a moment - a group of peaceful Christians worshipping the Lord within the confines of their own perfectly sanitized and structurally sound building were deemed a nuisance — for which the city

was threatening to bulldoze their church.

Pastor Lonescu says growing up in Romania was like growing up inside a tightening noose. The restrictions of freedom became worse and worse overtime. And this Pastor, who has witnessed the worst of communist persecution, sees the same noose tightening here in America.

In Romania, the Communists put the whole society in a mode of fear to encourage compliance. People will accept nearly any tyranny just to survive.

Those who refuse to comply are deemed a nuisance and targeted for "pressure."

If the pressure did not work, they would try to recruit you to their side, offering special meetings with high ranking government officials saying, "just work with us and it will all be fine."

And if the "nuisance" still refused to cooperate, their livelihoods were ruined, and their property taken by the state.

And if all that didn't do the trick, the Communists would simply eliminate you. Permanently.

In Romania, Pastor Lonescu and many of his parishioners didn't just see this kind of oppression of the church, they LIVED it. And now, all these years later and here in what is supposed to be a free land, with free people, and a government constitutionally barred from impinging on people's religious rights - Pastor Lonescu was facing the communists once again.

Our case representing Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church against Gov. Pritzker is this month pending before the Supreme Court. It may likely be the first church closure case to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. And we still have our cases for churches in Maine, Virginia, Kentucky, and California ongoing. This will be a long fight, but we are absolutely committed to fighting it to ensure America's religious freedom remains FREE.'

Dr. Phil Stringer shares this from The Heaven Rescued Land.

"To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoy. In proportion as the genuine effects of Christianity are diminished in any nation, either through unbelief, or the corruption of doctrines, or the neglect of its institutions; in the same proportion will the people of that nation recede from

the blessings of genuine freedom; When even the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government, and all the blessings which flow from them, must fall with them.” Jedediah Morse 1799.

“Blest with victory and peace may the heav’n rescued land praise the pow’r that both made & preserved us a nation.”

From the 4th Stanza of The Star Spangled Banner

From Larry Lilly’s Journal, Oct 2020.

Sadly, many of the Republicans in Congress have no courage. They are fearful of the radical left wing and what they might say about them, and thus lose their seat in Congress. Though the Republicans issue many nice sounding words to get elected, fear compromises them when it comes to key issues.

THE POLITICAL MYTH

In a review written in 1954, historian A.J.P. Taylor, not himself a Christian, said of socialism that it assumed the perfectibility of man by man, and “an indefinite expansion of productivity.” However, “Once admit that human wickedness and natural hardship are inevitable, and Socialism would have no sense” (A.H.P. Taylor: *Politicians, Socialism and Historians*, p. 16. New York, N.Y.: Stein & Day, 1982).

Given the Augustinian-Calvinist (Biblical) doctrine of man, it follows that socialism cannot work; man cannot remake man. The supernatural regenerating grace of God is required.

CHALCEDON REPORT, July, 1990. P.O. Box 158, Vallecito, CA 95251

In other words, Socialism looks good to the natural man in his imagination and on paper; however, when the reality of human wickedness, sin, is factored in, Socialism makes no sense; its end is death.

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* **Proverbs 16:25.**

God’s curse of death is upon Socialism’s dream of re-making man in the image of man. God’s curse of death is upon man using man centered laws to do only what the Spirit of God can do. That is, to make a new man.

DEPRAVITY?

The Scriptures clearly and dogmatically teach that man cannot remake man through revolution, religion nor politics; man is totally depraved in every area of his being. Only the “regenerating grace of God” can make a new man in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 14:3 *They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

53:3 *Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (As someone said, “All means all and that is all it means.”) 7:8 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:*

The Word of God could not be clearer as He tells us that not one person has any natural desire nor ability in himself to seek after God in any way. Rather, the natural man is always at war with God as he ignores, resists, or even rebels against the law-word of God. The natural man is convinced that he has a spark of good which enables him to seek after God, and even to make a decision for the Lord apart from the drawing conviction of the Spirit of God.

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

[Note John chapter 3:1-21. A man must be *born again* from above before he can believe in Christ. In other words, John 3:16 cannot stand apart from its context of vv. 1-15, which describes the Father drawing the individual to Christ. John 3:16 must be understood as a result of John 6:44.]

The contrast is evident. On one hand is the belief that **no man** has within himself the capability to seek after God and choose his own destiny, and that God must seek the sinner. **On the other hand** is the belief that man does in some way have the ability to seek after God, and thus control his own destiny, *i.e.*, Humanism or Socialism.

The belief that man is capable of choosing God is the faith of Humanism and is the same basic faith required in SOCIALISM, MARXISM. Both Marxism and Arminianism are centered in a faith that believes that man can chose his own salvation, whether that salvation is through laws (statist programs), or through the “Christian religion.” In both cases, the choice is man’s. That is, man can choose and establish his own future. (God can and does use whatever means that pleases Him to call men to Himself.)

Psalms 47:4 *He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.*

As the Augustinian-Calvinistic faith has been *set aside* for the Arminian faith that says man can control his own destiny through religion, politics, &c., Marxism has made tremendous gains.

Jeremiah 6:18 *Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts,*

Proverbs 23:7 *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

In other words, when men think they can control the future through any kind of self-effort, even deciding to be “saved,” they are actually humanist at heart. Their faith says that their own self-effort can save them, which is the political myth of Socialism, Marxism.

RELIGION AND/OR POLITICS CAN SAVE US.

Christianity appears to be under the delusion that what is believed and practiced inside the heart and inside the church by the individual has no effect on society. Hosea chapter four is clear. What is in the hearts of God’s people will be reflected in the hearts of the “gods” and society in general. God promises to reward His people after their thoughts and for their doings; Hosea says that the reward will come through their leaders.

Thus, when the man refuses to recognize God’s pronouncement that man is a sinner with no desire whatsoever to seek after God, and believes that he has within his own power and ability to seek after good and God, the natural result will be just what we see today, the rise of the faith of Socialism that believes man can remake himself better. God’s people cannot point an accusing finger at the Socialists, Marxists and condemn them for believing they can save themselves through human effort when they are convinced that they can save themselves through human effort.

Take note that the Socialists or Marxists must tear down the current society in order to rebuild it in their own image. On the other hand, Christians are to work at rebuilding a sin destroyed society through the preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God.

When total dependence on the sovereign grace of God is laid aside for a hope in what man is able to do, then the sovereignty of man replaces the sovereignty of God in every area. By **the sovereignty of God**, we do not mean sitting back and letting “whatever will be will be” take place. Faith in Divine sovereignty and Providence means humbly and faithfully doing God’s **word and work along with prayer**, and leaving the results

up to him. (Galatians 6:9, John 15:15, Exodus 20:6)

James 1:22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

How can we condemn the world’s crowd for believing that they can save themselves through politics and their socialist programs when the vast majority of Christians believe the same thing, except maybe in the matter of salvation and eternal life?

The doctrine of total depravity has been the historical doctrine of the Biblical faith, including the Baptist. (See the introduction page of vol. 38 of the Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Pilgrim Publications. Also C.H.S.’s comments in his sermon ELECTION, and The London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689.)

We must admit that the doctrine of total depravity and man’s inability to save himself is hated by the human spirit. The natural man refuses to admit that he cannot and does not control his own destiny, and that he cannot save himself through political means. When total depravity is resisted if not totally rejected, we must say that the Socialists are correct in their faith that man can make an intelligent decision apart from the working of the Spirit of God according to the word of God.

• **AN INTERESTING THOUGHT**

Matthew 5:15 *And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.*

It was demonic activity that causes the man to be “out of his mind,” and do many irrational things. It was only after he met Jesus, that he had “his right mind.” We are surrounded today by the idiocy of men and women whose minds are totally corrupt. Watch the face and eyes of the ungodly. Their countenance appears to be “demonic.”

We cannot have one without the other: We cannot expect sinful man to admit that he cannot guide and control his own future through Socialist programs, when the vast majority of God’s people will not admit that they cannot control their future. If history is not an act of a Sovereign God, then the Marxists, Socialists are right.

Again, the Scriptures are clear, history is the action of a Sovereign God without any help or advice from His creation, Romans 9:11-24, 11:34, 35, Isaiah 40:13, 14. The only control of the future that has been given to man is the obedience to His word, then the results come to pass according to His promises. See Deuteronomy

chapters 28-32.

Socialism has the faith that man can control his own future for his benefit. As the Biblical doctrine of total depravity is abandoned, we can most assuredly expect Socialism, Marxism to fill the void.

Concluding Comment:

• MARXISTS AND “FREEDOM.”

When Marxists use the word freedom, they mean freedom for the state, not for the people. For them, freedom means socialism. So that by definition, freedom is the socialist state. Now, Stalin could say with a straight face in his speech (I have a copy of the text which he delivered in the thirties), and he meant every word of it, the sincerity rings out, that the Soviet peoples were the most free people in the world, and he believed it. He truly believed it. He had put them through famine, he had put them through purges at the time, and he recognized that they had had difficulties, but in spite of that, they were the freest people of the world because they were communists, and communism is, by definition, freedom.

People fall for this because when we read the word “free” we have an entirely different concept and this is the way they think. They take our language and give it a different meaning. Now, freedom means different things for different people. For a Buddhist, freedom means to die because then you escape from the bondage of this world. So, true liberty is emancipation from this world, and that’s why Gandhi — because he was a Mahatma and he felt he was never going to be born again, he was going to be free from the cycle of Karma — and the Hindus like Gandhi have a similar freedom. He was never going to be born again, and he said so. Now, this is freedom for a Buddhist or a Hindu; death, ultimately. Freedom for a communist is for us, slavery. When we say freedom, when we say liberty, our conception is completely one that is born of the Bible, and take away the biblical faith and our idea of liberty is going to go down the drain.

R.J. Rushdoony, *Studies in in Political Philosophy*, RR124B3.

Origen, 185-230-254

THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST

Origen was a pupil of Clements of Alexander. Because of Origen’s prodigious learning, marvelous acuteness

and logical power, he is entitled to be regarded as the greatest of the fathers. He was a layman, succeeding Clement, “at the surprising age of eighteen,” as master of the Alexandrian Catechetical School, by the appointment of Bishop Demetrius.

“Origen is the most celebrated biblical critic of antiquity....” (**Prefatory Notice to Origen’s Works.** *Fathers*, IV.)

Origin and troubled times

In the year 202, in the great persecution of Christians under Septimius Severus, Origen’s father was arrested, his estate confiscated by Rome, and he died in prison. The brotherly kindness and unwearied affection Origen displayed to all the victims of the persecution drew upon himself the fury of the mob, obliging him on several occasions to flee from house to house to escape death.

When Emperor Caracalla visited Alexandria in 216 to personally direct vengeful, bloody persecution for some sarcastic verses composed against him for his murder of his, Caracalla’s, brother, Origen withdrew to Palestine, where, though still a laymen with no sacerdotal dignity in the Church, he was invited to deliver a discourse in the presence of assembled Christians. His bishop, Demetrius, was extremely displeased that such a thing should be done, *viz.*, a layman speaking in the presence of bishops. Returning to Alexandria at Demetrius’ command, he formed a close friendship with Ambrosius.

About 228, Origen was called to Greece to counter the prevalence of heretical views in the Church there; passing through Palestine, he was ordained to the office of presbyter by his friends, Alexander and Theocistus. His ordination greatly incensed Demetrius, who, in 231, called a synod, which declared Origen unworthy to hold the office of teacher, and excommunicated him from the fellowship at Alexandria. Not satisfied, Demetrius called a second synod where only bishops could vote, and degraded Origen from the office of presbyter. The synod notified various Churches of the sentence by encyclical letter, which was recognized by all except those at Palestine, Phoenicia, Arabia and Achaia. Demetrius died within a year, and a friend and former pupil of Origen, Heraclas, succeeded Demetrius. There is no record that Heraclas reversed Demetrius’ wicked deeds.

During the persecution under Emperor Maximin,

Origen was obliged to take refuge in Caesarea, in Capadocia, where he remained in concealment about two years in the house of a Christian lady named Juliana. There he wrote his *Exhortation to Martyrdom* expressly for the sake of his friends, Ambrosius and Protocetus, who had been imprisoned on account of their Christian profession. They recovered their freedom after the death of Maximin. However, on the outbreak of the Decian persecution in 249, Origen was imprisoned at Tyre. Though surviving his imprisonment, his health was destroyed, and he died at Tyre in 252 at the age of seventy.

Jerome said that Origen wrote more than any individual could read; and Epiphanius relates that Origen's writings amounted to 6,000 volumes, taking into account every individual treatise, both large and small. For our present purpose, let us quote parts of two chapters from Origen's treatise, with emphasis added, *Against Celsus*:

The treatise of Origen *Against Celsus* is, of all his works, **the most interesting to the modern reader.** It is a defense of Christianity in opposition to a Greek philosopher named Celsus, who had attacked it in a work entitled Greek word, that is, *The True Word*, or *The True Discourse*. ... This work was written in the old age of our author, and is composed with great care; while it abounds with proofs of the widest erudition. It is also perfectly orthodox; and, as Bishop Bull has remarked, it is only fair that we should judge from a work written with the view of being considered by the world at large, with the most elaborate care, as to the mature and finally accepted views of its author. [*Fathers*, IV.224-229, 233.]

The background of the following statements by Origen is important, for they were written by a man who had seen his father, pupils, close friends and fellow citizens die under the most horrible, bloody persecution imaginable. In fact, Origen himself fled for his life more than once. Not only did he face persecution from the state, but he faced persecution from those who claimed to love God and to be God's servants, e.g., Demetrius and almost all the churches of his day: Clearly, Demetrius was controlled by pride and the love for vain glory.

No doubt, Origen wept from heaven as he saw men using the minor discomforts of their day to excuse following doctrines of defeat, intentionally destroying the victorious gospel for which Origen and other early Church fathers gave their lives.

Chapter LXVII of Origen's treatise *Against Celsus*

reads:

Celsus goes on to say: "We must not disobey the ancient writer, who said long ago,

'Let one be king, whom the son of crafty Saturn appointed ;'" (5 Homer's *Iliad*, ii. 205.)

and adds: "If you set aside this maxim, you will deservedly suffer for it at the hands of the king. For if all were to do the same as you, there would be nothing to prevent his being left in utter solitude and desertion, and the affairs of the earth would fall into the hands of the wildest and most lawless barbarians; and then there would no longer remain among men any of the glory of your religion or of the true wisdom." If, then, "there shall be one lord, one king," he must be, not the man "whom the son of crafty Saturn appointed," but the man to whom He gave the power, who "removeth kings and setteth up kings," (6 Dan. ii. 21.) and who "raiseth up the useful man in time of need upon earth." (7 Eccles. x. 4 (LXX).)

For kings are not appointed by that son of Saturn, who, according to Grecian fable, hurled his father from his throne, and sent him down to Tartarus (whatever interpretation may be given to this allegory), **but by God, who governs all things, and who wisely arranges whatever belongs to the appointment of kings.** We therefore do set aside the maxim contained in the line, "Whom the son of crafty Saturn appointed;"

for we know that no god or father of a god ever devises anything crooked or crafty. But we are far from setting aside the notion of a providence, and of things happening directly or indirectly through the agency of providence. And the king will not "inflict deserved punishment" upon us, if we say that not the son of crafty Saturn gave him his kingdom, but He who "removeth and setteth up kings." And would that all were to follow my example in rejecting the maxim of Homer, maintaining the divine origin of the kingdom, and observing the precept to honour the king! In these circumstances the king will not "be left in utter solitude and desertion," neither will "the affairs of the world fall into the hands of the most impious and wild barbarians." For if, in the words of Celsus, "they do as I do," then it is evident that **even the barbarians, when they yield obedience to the word of God, will become most obedient to the law, and most humane; and every form of worship will be destroyed except the religion of Christ, which will alone prevail. And indeed it will one day triumph, as its principles take possession of the minds of men more and more every day.**

Origen continues in chapter LXX:

But if all the Romans, according to the supposition of Celsus, embrace the Christian faith, they will, when they pray, overcome their enemies; or rather, they will not war

at all, being guarded by that divine power which promised to save five entire cities for the sake of fifty just persons. **For men of God are assuredly the salt of the earth; they preserve the order of the world;** (3 [Comp. Cowper, *Task*, book vi., *sub finem*.] and society is held together as long as the salt is uncorrupted: for “if the salt have lost its savour, it is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill; but it shall be cast out, and trodden under foot of men. He that hath ears, let him hear” (4 Luke xiv. 34, 35; Matt. v. 13.) the meaning of these words. **When God gives to the tempter permission to persecute us, then we suffer persecution; and when God wishes us to be free from suffering, even in the midst of a world that hates us, we enjoy a wonderful peace, trusting in the protection of Him who said, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”** (5 John xvi. 33.) And truly He has overcome the world. and from His victory we take courage. Should He even wish us again to contend and struggle for our religion, let the enemy come against us, and we will say to them, “I can do all things, through Christ Jesus our Lord, which strengtheneth me.” (6 Phil. iv. 13.) For of “two sparrows which are sold for a farthing,” as the Scripture says, “not one of them falls on the ground without our Father in heaven.” (7 Matt. x. 29, 30.) And so completely does the Divine Providence embrace all things, that not even the hairs of our head fail to be numbered by Him. [*Ibid*, 665, 666.]

And a few words from Chapter LXXV:

... And if those who govern in the Church, and are called rulers of the divine nation—that is, the Church—rule well, they rule in accordance with the divine commands, and never suffer themselves to be led astray by worldly policy. ... [*Ibid*, 668. Origen went on to say that Christians should avoid public duties and public offices for, in his words, a more necessary service in the Church of God. Thus he too was victim of the Devil’s lie, *sacred and secular*, as he urged Christians to turn over public duties to wicked men. However, we should remember that he was a man of his times.]

Writing from the midst of bloody persecution, Origen makes several excellent points, a few of which are:

First, all power and authority comes from God, which He gives at times to wicked men.

Second, the Church is the divine nation of God, not a supposed renewed *Israel*.

Third, clearly laying the axe to the root of social chaos and rottenness, he points out that “Society is held together,” or, chaos is restrained, by Christians taking their stand in public. However, when the Christian testimony becomes corrupt, so does society, and Chris-

tians are cast on the dunghill to be trod under the feet of wicked men: persecution.

Fourth, the Lord alone permits persecution, and it comes to fulfill the purpose of the One Who has been given all power and authority:

Psalms 135:6 *Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.*

The wicked prevail under His control only as long as it pleases Him Who received power from the Father to overcome the world. He limits the actions of evil men to **1)** what brings praise to Himself, **2)** to what builds up His people into the image of Christ, **3)** to what advances *the kingdom of God* in this world.

Psalms 76:10 *Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.*

His good pleasure in persecution may be to form a new nation of men on earth, *e.g.*, America; it may be to keep His church pure; it may be to overthrow a world government, *e.g.*, Rome, or it may be simply to bring praise to His marvelous grace in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, for only His sovereign grace enables one to stand in the midst of bloody persecution, *e.g.*, Origen.

Romans 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

At this point in our lives, we may not see His enabling grace in us to stand in the time of the wrath of man against the church. However, we are promised that His enabling grace will be sufficient for His faithful people when the time comes, *e.g.*, Origen.

Hence, when His people stand faithful to their profession of Christ to the death (if needs be, Heb 12:4), God is glorified:

Ephesians 1:12 *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 3:9-11 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord... **Php 2:13-16** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in*

the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Fifth, from Christ's victory over the world, we take courage, for when the enemies come, we will say to them, "I can do all things, through Christ Jesus our Lord, which strengtheneth me." "So completely does the Divine Providence embrace all things, that not even the hairs of our head fail to be numbered by Him."

Sixth, He knows who and where His people are, and He is working His good pleasure in their lives on this earth (Rom 8:29), so that "the religion of Christ... will one day triumph, as its principles take possession of the minds of men more and more every day."

Away with the attitude of defeat! Might we again enjoy the victorious gospel that was at the heart of the early Church fathers who cried from the midst of the hottest fires of persecution:

"And indeed the religion of Christ will one day triumph, as its principles take possession of the minds of men more and more every day."

We pray that "its principles" will take possession of the minds of men.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that love us.

VIRUS BLESSINGS

(Select articles from Trendsjournal, 09.29.20)

Young People: No Partying Allowed

Last week, after a recent increase in cases linked to off-campus parties, the University of Colorado banned all public gatherings that include 18- to 22-year-olds after the Boulder County Health Department handed down new guidelines to help fight the spread of COVID in the area.

Matthew Parone, a senior at the school, told CBS Denver, "Everyone feels trapped." He called the guidelines "absolutely crazy" because they target "college-age students, whether you go to college or not."

As noted, the virus is known to be particularly dangerous for the elderly community, while college-aged individuals have little risk of serious infection.



The state's health department reported that the new coronavirus cases in the county originated at off-campus group homes. The department said it "has determined the majority of COVID-19 transmission within Boulder County is due to social gatherings among persons aged between 18 and 22 years in the city of Boulder, during which many individuals failed to comply with public health face covering and social distancing orders."

The order said the guidelines include all outdoor, indoor, on-campus, and off-campus locations. The guidelines went into effect on Thursday and will continue until noon on 8 October, when it will be reevaluated. In-person learning has also been suspended at the university for at least two weeks.

Phil DiStefano, the chancellor at the University of Colorado, told the students the school is going to focus on "virtual events that we can create for students, and any other support they may need while they are experiencing college life in such an altered way."

The *Denver Post* reported the school has seen a surge of students withdrawing since the beginning of the school year. The report said about 570 students – double the number compared to last year – have withdrawn from the school.

Todd Saliman, the school's chief financial officer, told the paper, "While the number of withdrawals are, thankfully, modest they're still impactful and it means the campus is going to have to take actions to address the budget gaps. The campus has plans to do that but no one wants to implement those plans because they're reductions."

The *CBS Denver* report said some of the students at the school say they feel like they've been scammed. "Our hands are tied, and there's nothing we can do, because we already paid for tuition," Parone said.

Comment: Partying shuts down colleges! Christians should rejoice young people are turning their backs on these **pagan temples** for any reason, even for "No Partying Allowed." Go to college to party, for indoctrination into Marxism, and come out with a useless education except in riots and teaching Marxism in the state schools.

Blame the Young

Last week, Governor Tony Evers – without a vote from the legislature who are fictitious representatives of We the People – issued an executive order mandating

face masks and declared the reason cases were rising was because they were going up primarily among 18- to 24-year-olds.

TREND FORECAST: *Once again, the same class of imbecilic school administrators who had kids hiding under their desks in case an atom bomb went off during the Cold War are making up useless rules to follow and regulations to obey during the COVID War.*

As we had reported in February, many once-thriving college towns will become Rust Belt ghost towns if the strict COVID War rules persist.

Beyond having online classes only and restrictions that keep young people inside and not allowed to go out and party... more teens and twenty-somethings will be unwilling to go deep in debt to get a diploma that will be useless in finding them a decent paying job.

Inside Higher Ed estimates 78 percent of colleges said they would increase recruitment of transfer students to make up for high attrition numbers for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The economic impact to small and large businesses in college cities and towns will worsen as enrollments decrease and financial pressures from the "Greatest Depression" increase.

EUROPEAN HEALTH OFFICIALS AGREE: MASKS DON'T WORK

The Trends Journal has been reporting for months that Sweden, the only European country to not order a strict lockdown, has been showing one of the lowest death rates on the continent since June....

COVID GOLD TEST PROVES TO BE "WORTHLESS"

On 29 August, *The New York Times* published an article with the headline: "Your Coronavirus Test Is Positive. Maybe It Shouldn't Be."

The *Times* analyzed testing data from Massachusetts, New York, and Nevada and concluded that "up to 90 percent of people testing positive carried barely any virus." The article goes on to state the growing concern among leading U.S. health officials that so many of those testing "positive" are misdiagnosed since they have such a small amount of the virus they are not contagious. ...

TRENDPOST: *Despite the inaccuracy of the virus tests, each day throughout the western world, the mainstream media leads off the daily news with the soaring*

amount of new virus cases, easily spreading more fear and anxiety to a lockdown society.

MENTAL STRESS IS GLOBAL

... On 9 April, the World Economic Forum published an article by Dr. Elke van Hoof, a renowned clinical psychologist and leading expert for the European Parliament. The article was titled, "Lockdown is the world's biggest psychological experiment – and we will pay the price." ...

[The global loss of the Christian faith which embodies love, joy, peace and long-suffering is revealing itself in the dramatic rise of "mental health" issues, depression, anxiety and suicide. The wise men of this world are left wondering what is taking place. Fear controls the unbeliever:

Proverbs 28:1 *The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.*

Sin reigns, and the Christian faith is the only cure for the sin-illness.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.]*

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast, the COVID War will ignite strong antiestablishment, anti-vaccine nationalist/populist parties throughout Europe and North America. Their strength will grow as the "Greatest Depression" worsens.*

TRENDPOST: *As we have reported, cases do not equal deaths, and, as the CDC numbers reflect, well over 99.7 percent of those who catch the virus recover. Moreover, Australia's Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety reported that 68 percent of all COVID-19 deaths were people in residential aged care.*

Again, who is dying from the virus? There were seven more deaths confirmed on Tuesday. One was a man was in his 60s, another in his 70s, two men and a woman in their 80s, and a man and a woman in their 90s. Yet, despite these facts, draconian lockdown rules are imposed on healthy people less likely to suffer from the virus rather than taking measures to assure those most vulnerable to the disease are protected.

CHRISTIAN GROUPS PREPARE PARENTS to Homeschool As Inquiries Soar

Parents across the U.S. and in many foreign countries are exploring homeschooling their children for the first time...as schools navigate reopening amid COVID-19

dangers and uncertainties.

Christian groups and churches are among those preparing parents to meet the challenge and to navigate home-schooling regulations that not only vary among the states but are changing amid the pandemic.

...HomeSchool Legal Defense Association senior counsel Mike Donnelly said,... “We are seeing unprecedented interest in homeschooling and it’s clearly a consequence of the plans that public schools are issuing for the return.”...

“...I’ve been in contact with a number of curriculum providers who have told me that they are selling out of some of their curriculum, that their sales are up 50 to 100 percent. And so it appears that there are millions of people who are looking at homeschooling now, that never have before.”

— baptistpress.com

WHY FLEE FROM THE TEMPLES OF SATAN?

Leaked Documents Reveal Disturbing New Sex Education Curriculum

On [his] radio program, Glenn Beck unveiled a series of leaked documents that show in shocking detail what schools throughout the country are putting into your children’s textbooks: the first revision to the sex education curriculum in 25 years. The content of this new curriculum is so explicit that it must be blurred out to be shown to you but has already been approved in many states for grades K-12.

“Our children are being targeted directly in the classroom. Comprehensive Sexuality Education is now being voted on in states all over the country. In some states, it’s already signed into law. It will be in your child’s textbooks. It is the most disgusting and explicit content I have ever seen. It is disturbing,” Glenn stated.

“We are about to lose our children and that threat is very real,” he warned. “Big Tech is brainwashing them, gaming is teaching them to kill...and then we send them to indoctrination camps, formerly known as public schools—and private schools and charter schools and

Christian schools that don’t have the spine or the spiritual insight to see the evil that is in Marxism and BLM.”

—theblaze.com

A Tennessee School District Tried to Ban Parents From Observing Their Kids’ Virtual Classes

A school district in Tennessee told parents they should not attempt to observe their children’s on-line classes and threatened that children of parents

who violate that policy could be removed from class, according to the Tennessee Star.

Appealing to academic privacy concerns for students, Rutherford County Schools sent a form to parents for them to sign and agree not to listen in on what their kids are learning

...[T]he form reads, “RCS strongly discourages non-student observation of online meetings due to the potential of confidential information about a student being revealed.”

The agreement includes a clause allowing for students to be removed from virtual class sessions if the agreement is not adhered to.

The letter apparently caused some alarm in the district, enough that a spokesman for Rutherford County Schools had to respond and modify the guidance about class observation....

While that new guidance allows some wiggle room, it indicates that parents could still be blocked from observing if teachers choose not to allow it....

...According to WZTV, roughly 20,000 out of the district’s 48,000 students are taking classes online.

—Aaron Colen, theblaze.com

EDITOR’S COMMENTS: This is Rutherford County, of which Murfreesboro is the county seat. To start with, you would think that someone in the county offices of the board of education would be sufficiently educated to know in advance that this was going to cause an uproar.

[Murfreesboro TN is the home of The Sword of the Lord. Back in the 1970s, I flew down and “candidated” for a position at a large church there. I do not remember the



name of the church, but the pastor was in “competition” with Franklin Road Baptist Church, which was one of the largest churches in the US at the time. My question is, With so many Baptist (and other) churches in Murfreesboro, why do they not have Christians in places of authority there, such as the School Board? The Christian school ministry was huge back then, so evidently parents did not think they need to be involved in the School Board.]

ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE LORD AND HIS CHRIST

Pastor Trieber and Others Fined for Having Church (California Freedom Crisis Continues)

Some people may think that what is happening to churches in our nation is not as bad as we report. Believe me, we have firsthand knowledge of everything we write about churches! Everything is public record. In California, for instance, churches and pastors are now being held in contempt and fined for having worship services. ALL WORSHIP is banned for most of the state. There are many shocking developments....

California has gone off the deep end when it comes to attacks on churches. On July 6, Governor Gavin Newsom banned singing and chanting. Then on July 13, he BANNED ALL WORSHIP; and this includes Bible studies and fellowship in private homes with anyone who does not live in the home.

Violations of Governor Newsom’s orders come with criminal charges of up to one year in prison and daily fines of \$1,000.

These orders are now being enforced against pastors and churches....

Santa Clara County officials sent “spies” to North Valley Baptist Church [Dr. Jack Trieber, pastor], looking for reasons to fine and close the church. The church was fined a total of \$10,000 for meeting and SINGING in each of the church’s two services [August 23]—\$5,000 for each service.

County officials posted a four-page letter on the front door of the church, in which the county admitted sending the spies into the church service and declared their worship “unlawful.”

Did you ever think America would reach a point at which singing... would be an “unlawful” act worthy of a \$5,000 fine per incident? Or that governmental officials would send spies into a church with the intent of shutting down that church?

North Valley Baptist complied with Newsom’s orders for a long time. But after 26 weeks, in a county with 2.1 million people, only 224 have died—a third of which were in nursing homes. The massive death toll Newsom and other scaremongers predicted never arrived.

During that time, North Valley Baptist

- * Stopped having in-person worship services
- * Closed the K4-12 Christian school
- * Closed the college that trains men and women from all over the country
- * Closed the bus ministry that has brought 1.5 million people to church
- * Closed the jail ministry
- * Closed the public-school ministry
- * Closed ministry to 14 rest homes
- * Closed door-to-door visitations
- * Closed hospital visitations
- * Closed all children’s ministries
- * Closed Sunday school

Pastor Jack Trieber said, “Little children and parents are weeping. They want to come to church. You can’t make laws against the church. We have the right to worship. But more than a right from the Constitution, we have a command from God.

“...Health is important, but spiritual health is supreme. And because we have been locked out of this county’s churches...suicide is up, domestic violence is up, drug addiction is up, homelessness and alcoholism are up. We need to get back to worshipping God. I am commanded to worship God. I plead with you....Back off! Open up the spiritual environment of this valley immediately.”...

Governor Newsom’s orders allow the church to feed, shelter and provide social services, but the same people in the same building cannot worship. In other words, nonreligious services are acceptable but religious services are banned.

People can receive food but not take communion. People can be housed overnight but cannot hold a short worship service [or] Bible study, or meet for prayer. People can receive counseling to find work but cannot be counseled on finding eternal life.

The same governor who encourages mass protests, bans all worship, even in private homes. The same governor who says the church can meet to provide secular services, bans the church from having religious worship....

No pastor or churchgoer should have to wonder if [he] will be criminally charged for attending worship.

There are many more churches being attacked, and likely many more fines and criminal charges to come—not just for the brave pastors and congregants I have mentioned, but for the growing number of churches that have decided to TAKE A STAND against California Governor Gavin Newsom’s illegal and unconstitutional restrictions against religion.

Here are the actual, verifiable facts about Newsom’s orders:

On March 19, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order and Public Health Order that “directed all Californians to stay home except to go to an essential job or to shop for essential needs,” which includes a total prohibition on religious worship services, regardless of the number attending or whether social distancing and personal hygiene practices were followed, including attendance at in-home worship services.

The governor does not consider religious services to be “essential” so people cannot leave their homes to go to church or to other homes for a Bible study.

On July 6, the governor issued yet another revised “Worship Guidance” document which states unequivocally, “Places of worship must therefore discontinue singing and chanting activities and limit indoor attendance to 25 percent of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees.”

On July 13, Governor Newsom banned ALL WORSHIP for any county on the County Monitoring List, which covers about 80 percent of the population. This “no worship” ban includes private homes with anyone who does not live in the home.

Governor Newsom’s orders affect all churches and places of worship, even home Bible studies and fellowships. It is now even worse than “no singing” because all in-person worship is banned, including home Bible studies and fellowship with anyone who does not live in the home.

Imagine this: it is criminal in California to go to your neighbor’s home to pray with them or have a Bible study.

-Matt Staver, LIBERTY COUNSEL

Sword of the Lord, 9/18/20

REOPEN)

At the height of the coronavirus pandemic, churches within China’s government-approved network were forced to shut their doors. Now, if they want to reopen, they must first agree to praise President Xi Jinping and extol his communist regime.

According to Bitter Winter, a magazine covering religious liberty issues in China, the Religious Affairs Bureau of Zhengzhou released a 42-item list of prerequisites for churches seeking to reopen to congregants.

—Tre Goins-Phillips, faithwire.com

Sword of the Lord, 9/18/20

Comment: My wife and I stayed in a motel for two nights, and were able to watch Fox News. We were amazed at the beautiful commercials prompting a beautiful Chinese city and China’s advanced microbiology research.

Newsom’s all out war against Christianity is identical to China’s all-out war against Christians.

CHINESE GOT LONG BEACH DEAL!

By Staff Investigative Journalists

LONG BEACH DESK - The Long Beach Naval Station was tentatively placed on the Military Base Closure-List by president George Bush in 1991. President Bill Clinton, closed the naval base last in 1993. That resulted in the loss to Long Beach, California of 17,500 military and civilian jobs. The economic impact of the of loss was \$52.5 million and drove the California economy into the tank. It has never recovered.

Between 1995-1996, during the heat of the Clinton-Gore Campaign fund raising activity, the Clinton administration actively intervened to make sure a Communist Chinese cargo container shipping interest got a too-good deal on a Long Beach, California, shipping terminal. ...

Clinton was so eager to push the deal through that he met twice with Long Beach officials and once at a White House meeting in 1995 that included his then-chief of staff and the Pentagon’s No. 2 official and others.

The deal finally approved by the Secretary of the Navy turns over control of the Long Beach Naval Station, with a value of at least \$65 million, free of charge to the City of Long Beach. The city has agreed to lease it to the China Ocean Shipping Co. of the People’s Republic of China. ...

CHINA DEMANDS CHURCHES PRAISE COMMUNIST REGIME (IF THEY WANT TO

Read the article to learn how the Clintons forced the issue to see that China got the base.

My brother Richard lives outside of Los Angeles. While in the Marines and stationed in California, he married a young lady and settled there. He and three of their four children presently live in California. The fourth works for Microsoft and lives in Redman, WA. When I asked him about the elections out there, he said that the two top vote getters in the primary then run off in the general election; therefore, there is no Democrat vs Republican runoff in the general election, but it is always Democrat vs Democrat because a Republican does not get within the top two. Observed that the communist countries that claim to have free elections do the same thing: it's one Marxist versus another Marxist.

Conclusion: California is now controlled by Marxists, the Chinese Communists. Starting with Democrat Bill Clinton, California has been turned over to China. Clinton's Marxist legacy is being carried on by the Marxists "gods" of California. China has gained a beach-head in California. California has disarmed its citizens, and everything has been prepared for an armed invasion by China. My brother has a CC, but there is a 6 month or so waiting list to renew that license. The elected "gods" in California are as much at war against both the First and the Second Amendment as any communist nation would be, e.g., China.

Draw your own conclusions

It was in the city of San Francisco that the Navy dishonorably discharged the sodomites before sodomy was authorized in the Navy. It is interesting that the Military is granting honorable discharge papers (DD214) to those who were dishonorably discharged over 60 years ago for sodomy. Since then, the sodomites found out that they were shut off from all VA medical care. The LGBT veterans pushed the issue and won. It is a "slap in the face" to all those who served honorably. <https://www.ebar.com/news/news/288378>

Amazon's new home security system, RING

Ring and Nest smart home cameras are easily hacked. In fact, Ring software hacks have become popular, and allow the hacker to fly Ring's camera around the house. Amazon has fired employees for viewing Ring data. Before even considering a Ring home security system, see

[https://thenewamerican.com/amazon-announces-innovative-automated-indoor-surveillance-drone/?ct=t\(EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_12_2_2019_15_37_COPY_01\)&mc_cid=12ec1c6b61&mc_](https://thenewamerican.com/amazon-announces-innovative-automated-indoor-surveillance-drone/?ct=t(EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_12_2_2019_15_37_COPY_01)&mc_cid=12ec1c6b61&mc_)

BITTERNESS

Years ago a boxing sensation, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was a top-notch Middle Weight boxer. He was falsely convicted of murder! For 22 years he was locked away. He finally had his case overturned and walked out of prison a free man!

When asked about how he handled the unfairness of it all, his answer is classic as well as supernatural:

"The question invariably arises, it has before and it will again. "Rubin, are you bitter?" And in answer to that I will say, "After all that's been said and done, the fact that the most productive years of my life, between the ages of twenty-nine and fifty, have been stolen; the fact that I was deprived of seeing my children grow up, wouldn't you think that I would have a right to be bitter? Wouldn't anyone, under those circumstances, have a right to be bitter?"

In fact it would be very easy to be bitter. But that has never been my nature, or my lot, to do things the easy way. If I have learned nothing else in my life. I've learned that bitterness only consumes the vessel that contains it. And for me to permit bitterness to control or to infect my life in any way whatsoever would be to allow those who imprisoned me to take even more than the 22 years they've already taken. Now that would make me an accomplice to their crime." Copied from Dr. David Jeremiah, *Slaying the Giant of Anger*, page 117.

Most people who have lived very long have had some "bitter pill," come their way. I know I have. One of the bitterest was in a severe dispute with our government and a group of fellow Christians; the IRS was more reasonable to me than the bible toting saints. During that time and after the same question that came to Rubin Carter was often asked concerning how I dealt with the pain.

My answer then and over these long 30 years has been the same. I learned to not only lean on but to desperately trust this grand passage:

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJV).

“Trouble can make you bitter or better. The choice is yours.”

Bitterness, resentment, anger is part of a myriad of outrageous conduct and Ideas. A glance at Esau, the man who was cheated by his brother Jacob, became a bitter person and his bitterness led to a profane heart set on sexual impurity. In most criminal activity, there is a touch at least of bitterness. Note Hebrews 12:15 in part: “lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble and by this many be defiled: lest there be any fornicator like Esau..”

With most things that have a destructive bent to them, we are given a choice, bitter or better? Which will you choose? In a modern society which has thrown God out, well-meaning “moralists” attempt to move the universe by removing all temptation, thus creating a flawless culture. Such efforts as Prohibition in the 1920s demonstrate the folly of such. Marijuana, long banned is now becoming OK, as the attempts to make the penalty for using it, despite long jail sentences have failed as did the banning of beverage alcohol. Our little Mid-Western burg is battling over a Casino Gambling hall, the arguments being such a place will increase sin. It will concentrate the folly in unique confines.

Remember Your Choices determine consequences! People choose to do any of the terrible things they Choose! Here’s the rub: Let those who make a choice pay the consequences thereof! That’s right; you make a choice; you pay the price.

God did not ban apple trees from the fair haven of Eden. Nor did God accept Adam’s weak excuse for disobeying the explicit instruction given by the LORD not to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree because his wife enticed him. God makes no excuse for drunkenness, drug addiction, or whatever because it’s there. Even though it’s there, you still have a choice to touch or leave it alone. One of the most ridiculous excuses ever is a 50-year-old man, pastor of one of the largest churches in the world, president of the college associated with it, and the leader of a school attempting to get a Federal Judge to lay the guilt on a 16- year-old student for “enticing him!”

Can, does, Jesus forgive such things? YES! When forgiveness is sought, and the Choice is reversed to as Jesus said in John 8 to the woman taken in adultery, “Go and sin no more.” In other words, exercise your power to choose the good over the evil.

Robert Louis Stevenson stated it like this:

“Every now and then we each must sit down to a plate of consequences!”

Sounds brutal, doesn’t it. Yet, the entire human race must face the consequence of one man, Adam’s, rebellious act. The “glamorous” gender sins of today are mentioned in the Bible as sins against God’s plan for marriage between one man and one woman. Paul makes this clear in Romans 1. He also deals with a practice that is verboten in modern times. It’s currently typed a “conversion therapy.” Each of the fashionable gender sins is mentioned in 1Corinthians 6:9-11, with this climactic statement:

“And such WERE some of you! But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” Conversion Therapy at its best. Worked then, works now, with positive eternal consequences!

The theme of this article is the importance of overcoming a root of bitterness, of internal rage, of conquering destructive inner drives toward that which is forbidden. The arguments, “God made me this way” have never washed with God or a well-ordered society. They now get a little mileage due to our community departing from God’s revealed will in such practices.

Any person anywhere engaged in anything can be the beneficiary of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ and experience the deliverance and joy of the Corinthians with the word “were” written after their name! This action includes whosoever will may come to Jesus. LML.

Larry Lilly’s Journal, Oct 2019. Larrylilly@larrylilly.net

CIVIL LIBERTY

and Natural Bondage

By Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg

Part I

“In the beginning God” (Gen. 1:1).

“Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:16-17).

Rev. William Lynn preached a sermon on May 9, 1798 called “A Discourse on National Sins,” wherein he declared: “But if they mean, that the love of country, the duty of citizens, and obedience to lawful government have no connection with religion, and that a

Preacher ought not to inculcate these, I have not so learned Christ. Religion, morality, and obedience to government are inseparably connected.” Later in that message he said, “No army need invade, if licentious principles abound. These will do the fatal business, and blast, by an untimely death, the American Republic, the last and noblest work of God.”

The Premise

God is the originator of the physical, spiritual, ecclesiastical, and governmental world. God’s revealed word, the Bible, begins where all must begin when seeking the truth—“in the beginning God.” We must start with our God and what He has revealed. Jehovah God took the man He created and placed him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and guard that garden. Then God revealed to that man a depiction of the realm of his liberty—“Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:16-17). The man and the woman were in a state of innocence—“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” (Gen. 2:25). Their liberty in the garden was lost when they ate the forbidden fruit and saw themselves naked before Jehovah God (Gen. 3:6 ff.). They chose death which means immediate spiritual death and the onset of physical death. Both of these conditions prevailed and were propagated by Adam to all his posterity. Not only does this reveal to us the reason men need to be saved by grace, but it also shows us why civil liberty and civil government have so many problems. E. C. Wines explained, “The true origin of civil government and its ultimate foundation, undoubtedly lie in the will of God. Government is, therefore, a divine institution” [Commentaries on the Laws of the Ancient Hebrews, 18].

In the light of what has just been revealed a profound question and its implications come to mind, “What is truth?” This is a foundational question. The sure foundation is the revealed will of God, which has been recorded by divine inspiration in the Bible. The special revelation of God (the Bible) is the only true source for such information! God has revealed what is necessary for our functioning in His world. This includes dealing with man when he is at cross purposes with his Creator and the creation. Every attempt to define truth is limited and corrupted by minds distorted by the fall. The effects of the fall extend to the power of reasoning. All truth is God’s truth, but the human understanding of

what is true may not be accurate at all!

As noted, the first revealed words from God to man were “In the beginning God created” (Gen. 1:1). These words of God are at the point between time and eternity. This statement reveals origin, it also reveals that visible communication entered time and space. One should think of God’s creation in terms of perfect beauty. However, there was one primary restriction on this creation. The Hebrew word “create” (bara) has a much more restricted view than our English word “create.” The Hebrew word for “create” was sanctified, which confined its use to describe a Divine work. This described creation in the true sense, for it was creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). However, any Christian view or any accurate view of any realm of thinking must begin at this point.

When God created man in the beginning He established certain unchangeable laws which were commonly called by some “laws of nature” by which man was to regulate his conduct in all things. These laws did not restrict man’s happiness but when violated the result was various kinds of conflict.

God must be seen as the source of all things.

Where must man begin to understand who and what he is and what is required of him? To form a Christian estimate of man that estimate must be based on God and not man. God is the source of all knowledge and possibility. This is a Biblical concept. Cornelius Van Til stated in his *Christian Theory of Knowledge*,

The ... doctrine of God requires that ... if God is self-sufficient, he alone is self-explanatory. And if he alone is self-explanatory, then he must be the final reference point in all human prediction. He is then like the sun from which all lights on earth derive their power of illumination. You do not use a candle in order to search for the sun. So the very idea of any fact in the universe is that it is derivative. God has created it. It cannot have come into existence by itself, or by chance. God himself is the source of all possibility, and, therefore, of all space-time factuality. [12]

Van Til gave the true reply describing epistemology or “how we know.” Any model developed on biblical grounds must take into consideration that God is the starting point in our knowing.

Our objective is to note the foundation needed for the development of a sound basis for understanding liberty. The Bible is the revelation of God, and man is God’s

creation thus God's word is the proper source of a true theory of man and his personhood. Man in his present state is in need of help. What must be known and done to help him? What is foundational in order to develop a philosophy life? What is the goal of change in relation to a problematic person? The helping of man must be done in a way that is compatible to God's glory, will and creation. What are the norms that God has set in place? These are to be found in the Bible alone for this is the way God has revealed His truth to us.

What is civil liberty?

We shall consider the answer to that question biblically and legally.

First, biblically civil liberty is defined in the Bible. We must start with our God and what He has revealed in His Word. Jehovah God took the man He created and placed him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and guard that garden. Then God revealed to that man the realm of his liberty—"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:16-17). The man and the woman were in a state of innocence—"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Gen. 2:25). They were at liberty to live and do as God provided for them with the restriction that they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil under penalty of the loss of spiritual, physical and social liberty. The tree test indicated that there is no such thing as absolute freedom among men in innocence or in sin. Only the sovereign God of the universe is absolutely free. Death was chosen by Adam for himself and his posterity.

Their liberty in the garden was lost when they ate the forbidden fruit and saw themselves naked before Jehovah God (Gen. 3:6 ff.). They chose death which means immediate spiritual death and the onset of physical death. Both of these conditions prevailed and were propagated by Adam to all his posterity. Not only does this reveal to us the reason men need to be saved by grace, but it also shows us why civil liberty and civil government are necessary but have so many problems. This reveals to us the reason for God's law to restrict and preserve liberty. We have freedom within the bounds set by God as was Adam.

The perfect law of liberty is described by James—"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and

continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:25). James, by the Holy Spirit's direction, spoke of "the perfect law of liberty." That which was perfect was the will of God as revealed in the Word of God. Thomas Manton commented, "The will of God in scripture is called a law" [*The Complete Works of*, Vol. 4, 161]. What is meant by "liberty?" The redeemed, regenerate, and repentant believer has true spiritual freedom which impacts his civil relationships. **Freedom or liberty has been defined as voluntary submission to rightful authority.** By faith we believe our God is the rightful authority and therefore we submit to His revealed will in the Bible in our personal Christian life, in our relationship to the Body of Christ and our relationship to the civil life. Thus there is a true recognition of the teaching of Romans 13.

A warning:

R. J. Rushdoony gave a warning relative to the nature of liberty.

By the twentieth century, in America as in Europe, the ideal social order and civil government was believed to be one which was dedicated to liberty, one which made basic to its purpose freedom of religion, speech, and press. But a society which makes freedom its primary goal will lose it, because it has made, not responsibility, but freedom from responsibility, its purpose. When freedom is the basic emphasis, it is not responsible speech which is fostered but irresponsible speech. If freedom of press is absolutized, libel will be defended finally as a privilege of freedom, and if free speech is absolutized, slander finally becomes a right. Religious liberty becomes the triumph of irreligion. Tyranny and anarchy take over. Freedom of speech, press, and religion all give way to controls, totalitarian controls. [*The Institutes of Biblical Law*, 581]

Second, legally we need to consider a definition of civil liberty. It has been well stated that the only liberty possible is civil liberty for the only alternative is anarchy. Civil liberty is not derived from the state but it is administered through the state according to the people settling this country who premised it on the Bible. Civil liberty places certain restraints on citizens so as to establish mutual liberties. As previously noted **total freedom means total anarchy.**

Most of our legal definitions for "civil liberty" are unsound. *Black's Law Dictionary* gives the following definition:

The liberty of a member of society, being a man's

natural liberty, so far restrained by human laws (and no further) as is necessary and expedient for the general advantage of the public. [*Fourth Edition*, 1065]

As is clear this definition attaches civil liberty to natural liberty and human law. Black's Constitutional Law has Civil liberty is the power to make available and to defend (under the sanctions of law) those rights which concern the relations of citizen with citizen and which are recognized and secured by the fundamental law of the state. [388]

William Blackstone in his *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, Vol. 1 explained:

Civil liberty ... is no other than natural liberty so far restrained by human laws (and no farther) as is necessary and expedient for the general advantage of the public. [125]

These are common definitions which essentially say the same thing. What these seem to be saying is that civil liberty is a part of our natural liberty secured by protective laws.

The question before us: Are these definitions sound or truthful or complete? Do we have imperishable truth here or just a semblance thereof? The vital question is, "What is truth?" What we want is not the authority of men but the wisdom and authority of God. There is danger and falsity related to natural liberty for there must be taken into account the depravity of man.

What is natural liberty from which these tell us civil liberty is a part? Blackstone noted that natural liberty consisted of acting as you see fit:

This natural liberty consists properly in a power of acting as one thinks fit, without any restraint or control, unless by the law of nature; being a right inherent in us by birth, and one of the gifts of God to man at his creation, when he endue him with the faculty of free will. [125]

What must be remembered is that the gift of God at creation was lost by the sin of disobedience to God. The will and pleasure of each individual became the rule of conduct, thus lawless anarchy was thus legitimized. Blackstone said that those under the state of nature have a right to do as they please. He lost sight of truth when he wrote:

Hence we may collect that the law, which restrains a man from doing mischief to his fellow-citizens, though it diminishes the natural, increases the civil liberty of mankind; but that every wanton and causeless restraint of the will of the subject, whether practiced by a monarch, a nobility, or a popular assembly, is a degree of tyranny....

[125]

William Paley also agreed when he wrote, "To do what we will is natural liberty: to do what we will, consistently with the interest of the community to which we belong, is civil liberty..." [*The Works of*, Vol. 2, 307]. They are telling us that natural liberty is to do what we will and not what God wills. We must ask, "Is this true?" No man has a right to do mischief to his fellow-citizens or to just satisfy his selfish will. **Without God there is no true liberty!** If there is no God then there is no difference between right and wrong; if there is no moral law in the universe then men do possess the natural right to do mischief or to act as they please. Thus right gives place to might.

If natural liberty is the foundation of civil liberty then you have arrived at the source of tyranny; then darkness is light and light is darkness. **A person's view of the origin of government determines whether it will be just or tyrannical.** All true government is founded upon the will of God. Romans 13 clearly revealed this point. True government is not limited to Christian civil government, but civil government must, in principle, fit the category of Romans 13. When most people think of government they confine their mind to the state, federal, or some other form of civil government in its political aspect. Yes, historically people differentiated between the kinds of government so as to be properly understood. The kinds of government were self-government, family government, church government, school government, business government, social government, and civil government. Romans 13 reveals God's supreme power to ordain earthly government. This passage says: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1). This verse establishes the principle that state or civil government has delegated authority and not absolute authority. The powers or authorities are ordained by God, who governs absolutely.

Ron Rumburg

Good Help Is Hard to Find

A young officer was working late at the Pentagon one evening. As he came out of his office about 8:00 p.m., he saw a general standing by the classified document shredder in the hallway with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Do you know how to work this thing?" the general asked. "My secretary's gone home and I don't know how to run it."

“Yes, sir” said the young officer, who turned on the machine, took the paper from the general and put it in.

“Now,” says the general, “I just need one copy.”

Thomas E.

VOTING

R.J. Rushdoony

Q. You know, when you had said that God will destroy the evil on the earth, now I don't know how this will come out, but in voting, with this election coming up, I know there are many of us that are very concerned with it, with the candidates. Do you vote for the lesser of the evils to hasten our destruction, or do we, as we always do, ask God to guide us in our voting, to help us to make the right decision, or do we just stay away from the polls when there are no candidates worth voting for, when you know what they represent and what they're going to do.

A. That's a big question. Now, I would say, and it's a good one, a very good one, we have to move in terms of this realization: in this world we don't always have our choice between good and evil. Sometimes it's only between better and worse, and sometimes it's between the lesser of two evils. As a result, we have to, sometimes, and we should vote, vote in terms of that hard realization that we're not getting anybody that's too good. In fact, if anyone were really what we, as Christians, want, he couldn't even be a candidate today, because there isn't the character in the people. So sometimes we have to face the realization. We vote for the lesser of two evils. On the other hand, sometimes we have to be practical and vote strategically. Perhaps, sometimes, if we vote for the lesser of two evils, we might make it harder to get rid of that evil. (Some years ago, Joe Morecraft proved this point: He ran as a Republican, and made his Christian ideas public. Though he was running in the deep south in the so-called “Bible Belt,” he lost. People profess they want justice, but that justice is for someone else,



not for them.)

For example, if you vote for a certain man, say a senator who represents ostensibly republicanism, but actually represents the opposition better, it's harder to get him out when he's your man than if you had someone from the opposition who might be a little worse and you could get out. So you have to weigh it in each case prayerfully, and that's about all you can do.

Q. But in other words, you do, I know we should vote, this is true, so we go ahead and do it and we're cutting our throats is what we're doing.

A. No, we're not necessarily doing that, because the scripture does tell us this: That God makes all things work together for good to them that love him, to them that are the called according to his purpose. So that God makes even our mistakes work together for good. So that we vote to the best of our knowledge and to the best of our understanding of what our conscience requires us, and we leave the results to God. We do our duty and the results are in God's hands.

(Our choice is low, lower and lowest.)

R.J. Rushdoony, Studies in in Political Philosophy, RR124B4. C. 1960-1970.

CENTRAL BANKING SIMILAR TO SOCIALISM

By Dr. RON PAUL

Former Congressman The Ron Paul Institute ronpaulinstitute.org

Last week, the Federal Reserve responded to Wall Street's coronavirus panic with an “emergency” inter-est rate cut.

This emergency cut failed to revive the stock market, leading to predictions that the Fed will again cut rates later this month.

More rate cuts would drive interest rates to near, or even below, zero. Lowering interest rates punishes people for saving, thus encouraging consumers and businesses to spend every penny they make. This may give the economy a short-term boost.

But it inhibits long-term economic growth by depleting the savings necessary for investments in businesses and jobs.

The result of this policy will be more pressure on the

Fed to indefinitely maintain low interest rates and on the Congress and president to create another explosion of government “stimulus” spending.

Boston Federal Reserve President Eric Rosengren has suggested that Congress allow the Federal Reserve to add assets of private companies to the Fed’s already large balance sheet. Allowing the central bank to buy assets of, and thus assume a partial ownership interest in, private companies would give the Federal Reserve even greater influence over the economy. It could also allow the Fed to advance a political agenda by, for example, favoring investment in “green energy” companies over other companies or refusing to purchase assets of retailers who sell firearms or tobacco products.

Mr. Rosengren’s proposal to allow the central bank to “invest,” in private companies seems like something one would hear from democratic socialists like Senator Bernie Sanders. This is not surprising since the entire Federal Reserve system is a textbook example of socialism.

The essence of socialist economics is government allocation of resources either by seizing direct control of the “means of production” or by setting prices business can charge.

Federal Reserve manipulation of interest rates is an attempt to set the price of money.

Federal Reserve attempts to set interest rates distort the signals sent by the rates to investors and business. This results in a Fed-created boom, which is inevitably



followed by a Fed-created bust.

Economic elites benefit when the Federal Reserve pumps new money into the economy

because they have access to the money created before there are widespread price increases.

Artificially low interest rates also facilitate the growth of the welfare-warfare state.

The Federal Reserve’s inflationary policies harm the

average American by eroding the dollar’s purchasing power.

This forces consumers to rely on credit cards and other forms of debt to maintain their standard of living. Many Americans are unable to afford their own homes because they are saddled with student loan debt that can even exceed their income.

Since the bailouts of **2008**, there has been a growing understanding that the current system is rigged in favor of the elites and against the average American.

Unfortunately, popular confusion of our system of Keynesian neoliberalism with a free-market economy, combined with a wide-spread entitlement mentality, has led many Americans to support increasing government control of our economy.

The key to beating back the rising support for socialism on both the left and right is helping more people understand that big government and central banking are the cause of their problems and that free markets in all areas - and especially in money - is the solution.

It is important that the liberty movement put pressure on Congress to cut spending and rein in or, better yet, end the Fed.

Highland County Press, 3/21/2020

CDC: SIX PERCENT OF CORONAVIRUS DEATHS WERE SOLELY FROM COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published a report stating that just six percent of COVID-19 deaths listed the only cause of death as coronavirus and no other comorbidities.

“For six percent of the deaths, COVID-19 was the only cause mentioned. For deaths with conditions or causes in addition to COVID-19, on average, there were 2.6 additional conditions or causes per death,” the CDC website reads....

Based on the CDC’s data, 94 percent of people have died with coronavirus along with one or more other underlying health issues. The CDC’s Aug. 28 update stated that there were 167,558 COVID-19 total deaths, which means 10,053 died solely of coronavirus alone with no other health conditions....

— Paul Sacca, theblaze.com

Note the wording: “With coronavirus,” not “Of coronavirus.” The change of one word means that anyone who dies with any trace of a coronavirus is offi-

cially listed as a coronavirus death. The hospitals are being paid extra to list the death as COVID-19. Politics requires all truth to be laid aside. Used Oct 2016

THE TRUTH ABOUT HALLOWEEN

by Robert McCurry, who has since met his maker.

Excited Children masquerading as witches, ghosts, goblins, demons, and other grotesque characters skipping through the neighborhood knocking on doors chanting “trick or treat” while holding out a sack in which one is to drop a piece of candy or other goodies ... the party at school, or church, or Sunday School where they bob for apples, tell fortunes, or go through “haunted houses”... decorations of jack-o’-lanterns, witches on brooms, and black cats with arched backs ... It’s “Halloween”--one of the strangest days of the year.

Are Halloween activities really just the simple, innocent holiday fun most people believe them to be? Where did this holiday originate? Why is this holiday celebrated?

History provides the answers. Though it was the Roman Catholic Church who designated the October 31st date as All Hallows Eve, or “eve of the holy ones” day, in prelude to their November 1st All Saints’ Day, it was earlier pagan peoples who gave the annual holiday the sinister meaning and traditions it still holds.

“The American celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs which can be traced in direct line from pre-Christian times. Although Halloween has become a night of rollicking fun, superstitious spells, and eerie games which people take only half seriously, its beginnings were quite otherwise. The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain, lord of the dead, whose festival fell on November 1st.”¹

“It was a Druidic belief that on the eve of this festival, Saman [Samhain], lord of death, called together the wicked souls [spirits] that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals.”²

“The Druids, an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain, believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches, and elves came out to harm people. They thought the cat was sacred and believed that cats had once been human beings, but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds. From these Druidic beliefs come the present-day use of witches, ghosts, and cats in Halloween festivities.”³

Halloween “was the night for the universal walking about of all sorts of spirits, fairies, and ghosts, all of whom had liberty on that night.”⁴

The pagans believed that on one night of the year the souls of the dead returned to their original homes. “There was a prevailing belief among all nations that at death the souls of good men were taken possession of by good spirits and carried to paradise, but the souls of wicked men were left to wander in the space between the earth and moon, or consigned to the unseen world. These wandering spirits were in the habit of haunting the living ... But there were means by which these ghosts might be exorcised.”⁵

To exorcise these ghosts, that is, to free yourself from their supposed evil sway, you would have to set out food--give the demons a treat--and provide shelter for them during the night. If they were satisfied with your treat, it was believed they would leave you in peace. If food and shelter were not provided, or if they were not satisfied, these spirits, it was believed, would “trick” you by casting an evil spell on you and cause havoc.

TRICK OR TREAT

“The modern custom of ‘Trick-or-treat’ began in Ireland hundreds of years ago ... A group of farmers went from house to house begging food for the village Halloween festivities in the name of their ancient gods. Good luck was promised to generous donors, and threats were made against those who would not give.”⁶ Thus these ancient pagan traditions continue today as youngsters, masquerading as ghosts, skeletons, and demons go “trick-or-treating”--begging in a sense for food while promising to refrain from evil deeds.

OCTOBER 31

“It was the Celts who chose the date of October 31 as their New Year’s Eve and who originally intended it as a celebration of everything wicked, evil, and dead. Also during their celebration they would gather around a community bonfire and offer as sacrifice their animals, their crops, and sometime themselves. And wearing costumes made from the heads and skins of other animals, they would also tell one another’s fortunes for the coming year.”⁷

“The celebration remained much the same after the Romans conquered the Celts around 43 A.D. The Romans did, however, add a ceremony honoring their goddess of fruit and trees, and thus the association with apples and the custom of bobbing for them.”⁸

JACK-O'-LANTERN

The apparently harmless lighted pumpkin face or "Jack-O'-Lantern" is an ancient symbol of a damned soul. Jack-O'-Lanterns were named for a man called Jack, who could not enter heaven or hell. As a result, he was doomed to wander in darkness with his lantern until Judgment Day."⁹

"Fearful of spooks ... folks began hollowing out turnips and pumpkins and placing lighted candles inside to scare evil spirits from the house."¹⁰

HALLOWEEN "CHRISTIANIZED"

Since Halloween is unmistakably pagan in its origin and practice, how did the professing church come to accept and keep such a day? Again history provides the answer. Ever since the time of Constantine--who made Catholicism the state religion--the Roman emperors realized how essential it was to have a unified empire, where as many as possible would be of one mind. The civil and religious leaders saw how important it was for the sake of unity to allow only one religion within the Roman domain.

A stringent state policy was implemented to force all non-Christians to accept the state religion. The condition for "conversion," of course, made it easy for the pagan population of Rome and elsewhere to "accept" 'Christianity'. Since "acceptance" of 'Christianity' was made simple, refusal was made difficult. This plan resulted in large numbers of the heathen population within the empire to flock into the membership of the church. These people brought with them many pagan practices and celebrations, Halloween merely being one of them.

How could the church deal with this problem? The church realized that to excommunicate these pagans would only reduce the membership of the church. This they were unwilling to do. The church had also learned in past times that it was not possible to force the people into discarding all their heathen practices and adopting Roman ones.

There remained only one other way.

It was reasoned that if a pagan practice or festival could not be forbidden, let it be "Christianized." Let the recently converted pagans keep certain of their heathen festivals, such as Halloween or All Souls' Day--but label it "Christian." Of course they were asked not to pray to their ancient pagan gods on this day. They would now use this day to commemorate the death of "saints."

"In the A.D. 800's, the [Catholic] church established All Saints Day on November 1st so that people could continue a festival they had celebrated before becoming Christians. The mass that was said on this day was called All Hallowsmas. The evening before became known as All Hallow e'en or Halloween ... It means hallowed or holy evening."¹¹

"The celebration of Halloween is a survival of ancient pagan beliefs. When the early [Catholic] church was unable to stop pagan practices, it accepted them and gave them a religious tune."¹²

HALLOWEEN TODAY

Most of the ancient symbols and traditions of Halloween still exist today. Youngsters still dress in costumes and go trick-or-treating, begging in a sense, for food while promising to refrain from evil deeds. And, too, they still light their candles, although much smaller than a torch, and place them inside their pumpkins.

"It is the one night of the year in which a child experiences the emotion of fear, fantasy, and mystery."¹³

In advising on what to do on Halloween, The Good Housekeeping Book of Entertainment says: "Orange, black, and red, the devil's colors, are the colors associated with Halloween, and this scheme should be carried out as far as possible ... Have paper streamers and lanterns hanging from the ceiling, or if you would like to have something less usual, you could make a giant spider web with black and orange strings, or in narrow strips of crepe paper coming from the four corners of the room, complete with a large spider--one of the devil's followers."¹⁴

INCONSISTENCY OF PROFESSING CHRISTIANS

Bible-believing Christians cringe and shudder at the thought of Satan worship and occult rites. But how many of these same people will dress their children as witches, ghosts, skeletons, or devils and send them out to "trick-or-treat"? How many smile approvingly at the church or Sunday school and youth organizations that have Halloween parties and sponsor "haunted house" activities?

Can any Christian give any scriptural--or even logical--reason for participation in, or approval of, that which is unmistakably associated with paganism, devil-worship, witchcraft, and Romanism?

GOD'S PEOPLE GOVERNED BY THE

SCRIPTURES

The 18th chapter of the book of Deuteronomy, (vv 10-13) very explicitly forbids Christians to have anything to do with witchcraft, spiritism or the demonic. In verse 10 of that chapter we read:

“There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire (this has reference to the worship of the pagan god, Moloch, which was state worship), or that useth divination (a false and pagan counterpart of prophecy; the art or act of foretelling secret knowledge, especially of the future), or an observer of times (astrology), or an enchanter, (to cast under a spell; charm; enrapture; to chant [magic words]), or a witch (divinations in connection with the worship of idolatrous and demoniacal powers), or a charmer (a fabricator of material charms or amulets to be worn especially around the neck as a charm against evil or injury), or a consulter with evil spirits (an inquirer by a familiar spirit), or a wizard (a false prophet, especially a conjurer; one who summons a devil by oath, incantation or magic spell), or a necromancer (one who in one form or another seeks to find information by consulting the dead).”

“Thou shalt not learn to do after their abominations ...” (Deuteronomy 17:9). Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I Am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:31).

It is obvious that the elements, symbols, and traditions of the Halloween observance with its emphasis upon goblins and demons, witches, and skeletons, ghosts, and apparitions rising from cemeteries constitute a dabbling with the very things which Scripture forbids to God’s people and an open invitation to demonic activity.

It is at this point that many will say, “But we don’t worship demons or Halloween. It doesn’t mean the same thing today as it did in the past. It’s now just a harmless, innocent time of fun for the children and the young people.”

Yet, history clearly shows that Halloween is unmistakably a “religious” (pagan and Roman) holiday. Religion is the adoration, obedience, and service rendered to the object of one’s worship. It presupposes profession, practice, or observance of whatever belief and practice--in this case Halloween--as required by some superior authority. It is indisputably clear that Halloween is not commanded or sanctioned by the Lord God--the true

Christian’s Superior Authority--in the Scriptures.

“Abstain from ALL appearances of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

“And many that believed came and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men” (Acts 19:18,19).

“Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do ALL to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

References:

1. *Halloween Through Twenty Centuries*, Ralph Linton, P. 4.
2. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th Ed. Vol. 12 pp. 857-858.
3. *World Book Encyclopedia*, 1959 Ed. pp. 3245-6.
4. *Highland Superstitions*, Alexander MacGregor, p. 44.
5. *Folklore*, James Napier, p. 11.
6. *Holidays of Legend*, Mildred H. Arthur, p. 87.
7. *World Book Encyclopedia*, quoted in *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*, Associated Press, October 6, 1977.
8. *ibid*
9. *World Book Encyclopedia*, 1977 Ed., Vol. 9, pp. 24-5.
10. *The Book of Festival Holidays*, Marquieite Ickis, pp. 125-6.
11. *World Book Encyclopedia*
12. *Holidays of Legend*, p. 87
13. *The Book of Festival Holidays*, pp. 125-6.
14. *Good Housekeeping Book of Entertainment*, p. 168.

Permission to reprint if source and author’s name included.

LEX TALIONIS

Eye for an eye; tooth for a tooth; breach for breach; like for like, or the *lex talionis*. Is “the law of retaliation” (Webster) valid for modern Christians? Did the Lord do away with Lev 24:17-22, breach for breach? Is it now wrong to expect evils to be made right through repayment? Obviously, *lex talionis* also includes capital punishment. See Ex 21:24. Observe our Lord’s words:

Matthew 5:38-42 *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.*

It appears that the Lord told His followers that they should roll over and play dead as the wicked walk over them. But did He? Not hardly! The problem He dealt with in Matthew was the idea that evil actions could be retaliated against by, or returned for evil actions, that is, rendering evil for evil:

He shows that contrary to the doctrine of the scribes, that the sum of the second table must be so understood, that we may in no wise render evil for evil, but rather suffer double injury, and do well to them that are our deadly enemies. (Geneva)

Christ did not void *lex talionis*; rather, He said that it is better to suffer double injury than to retaliate—return evil for evil.

Moreover, *lex talionis* was given to civil authority, not to individuals nor to the church, Rom 13:3. Examples:

1) If an individual is robbed of \$1,000, he is not given the right to break into the thief's house and take \$1,000, nor to go after the thief with a gun. If he is injured by the carelessness of another, he is not permitted to do likewise against the careless. 2) If a drunk driver kills a child with his car, the parents of that child are not permitted to run down the child of the drunk. No matter how tempting it might be, no matter how indifferent civil authority is to the murder committed by the drunk driver, the individual must not seek his own vengeance against the driver.

The insurance industry is built upon the failure to enforce *lex talionis*—the individual must pay substantial rates to cover himself from the failure of the civil authority to make the offender pay the one he wronged for the wrong he did. The Lord, in Matthew 5:38-42, is dealing with the religious leader's corruption of the Mosaic law, permitting personal vengeance against an evil doer. He forbids His people from that vengeance.

The next *Ye have heard* in Matthew confirms the point: The corruption of the Mosaic law in v. 43 was just that, a corruption, for the law never said love your neighbour, and hate thine enemy,

Exodus 23:4, 5, *If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him. Leviticus 19:18* *Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.* (The parable of the Good Samaritan defined who is the neighbour.)

Leviticus 24:17ff., *Breach for breach,* immediately follows the previous conflict over the name of the Lord. The Ten Commandments are divided so that the first table protects the sanctity of the Lord, and the second protects the sanctity of our neighbour.

Commenting on Leviticus 24:20, Adam Clark said:

Equal laws, where each individual receives the same protection and the same privileges, are the boast only of a sound political constitution. He who respects and obeys the laws has a right to protection and support, and his person and property are as sacred in the sight of justice as the person and property of the prince. He who does not obey the laws of his country forfeits all right and title to protection and privilege; his own actions condemn him, and justice takes him up on the evidence of his own transgressions. (*Clark's Commentary*, I.590.)

“Same protection and the same privileges...” The fallen nature, whether professed Christian or not, wants the benefits of God's Commandments, e.g., “a sound political constitution,” without the responsibilities of keeping those Commandments. The denial of God's *lex talionis* results in an unsound political constitution. No constitution of any state nor nation can bring stability and equal protection when the people of that state or nation deny the validity of *lex talionis*: Clark rightly points out that those who deny the validity of God's law also forfeit “all right and title to protection and privilege” of the law. That is, the deniers forfeit any claim for “justice” in the civil legal system, for the very basis of justice has been denied. Ex 21:12ff., gives the details of *lex talionis* as the Lord God Himself establishes true thorough restitution.

• **OBSERVE:**

First, our God and King rules over all:

Psalms 103:19 *The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. (Psalms 66:7, Proverbs 16:32)*

Though the Lord is in heaven and man is on earth, we have the law-word of our King for our guide. (See also Dan 4:17, 25.)

Second, His rule is just:

Leviticus 24:22 *Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.*

It matters not one's nationality nor social standing. Our King has given one law for all men for all time. His righteous justice is revealed as He rules with impartiality in the affairs of men.

Third, the Lord cares as much about man's safety as He does His own name:

16 And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall

certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death. 17 And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.

I am afraid we are far more interested in our own well-being and protection than we are for the well-being and protection of others. However, the Lord has the same high fence around His own name and around man's safety, as shown by the close connection between the name of the Lord, v. 16, and man's safety, v. 17. Also note the order in which they are given: first, the safety of the Lord's name, then the safety of man. Clearly, man's disregard for the life of others is a direct result of a disregard of the name of the Lord. In other words, there can be no justice among men, vv. 17-22, without proper regard for the very name of the Lord God, vv. 14-16. When men, society in general, disregard the holy name of God, the natural result is injustice among men.

Fourth, differences between men are to be settled by fixed rules, not by emotions, circumstances nor race. God establishes the laws and everyone is held accountable, v. 22.

Fifth, v. 16 gives the penalty for injuring the name of the Lord; v. 17 gives the penalty for injuring one's fellow man. In fact, in the same breath as the Lord protected His name, He protected man.

Sixth, the Breach for breach law reveals God's grace toward men. He builds a fence around life. This law follows the death of someone who blasphemed His name. Thus, He shows the same concern for man's life as He does for His own name. The penalty of violating both is death.

Obviously, the institution of *lex talionis* by civil authorities would solve 90% of our crime problems. This law saw to it that crime did not pay. Life is precious to the Lord: Twice He says the penalty for killing another is death. The only time this penalty is not in effect is accidental killing (for which the cities of refuge were provided, Ex 12:13), self-defence and military action (see 1 Ki 2:5). Actually, righteous military action is in self-defence.

Killeth especially means premeditated murder, and also includes killing by

biblicalexaminer.org
5130 Danville Rd
Lynchburg OH 45142

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

carelessness and drunkenness. (Ex 21:12-360)

Matthew 5:38 did not do away with *lex talionis*. Rather, it forbade seeking vengeance or using the law for one's own purpose. The Lord was very firm in saying that the same law applied to everyone who was in the land.

When Matthew 5:38-42 is misused to void God's *lex talionis*, an "unsound political constitution" must develop regardless of what is written down on paper. The resulting unstable judicial system will turn loose the most wicked people on technicalities. But the general population will not tolerate the political and judicial instability forever. Unless Christians unite in saying and acting like the Lord God meant what He said in His *lex talionis*, the next step is anarchy followed by tyranny.

A short personal word from my wife: Ovid and I had a good meeting with the oncologist at UC Barrett Cancer center on Tuesday. The first thing I have to do is get a Covid-19 test Oct. 1; then my surgeon will place a catheter-port on Oct. 6; and the Her2+ I.V. treatment will begin Friday, Oct. 16. That first treatment will require me to remain in the hospital for at least 6 hours to make sure I do not have any adverse reactions. The oncologist is starting with two medications without chemo for a few weeks. Then she will evaluate the progress of tumor reduction and possibly add chemo if needed. I will be having treatments every three weeks on Fridays. The usual experience with cancer treatments is that the first week after the I.V. will produce weakness, and other side effects; then taper off until I will feel great the week before the next Friday's visit. I have heard from many cancer patients that not everyone feels nausea, but the nurse assures me they will give me anti-nausea pills if I need them!



2020 endorsements

We are at peace and grateful for our praying friends and family! God bless all of you!
Bettie and Ovid

Catheter-port is in place. Lord willing treatment starts Oct 16 which should give time for her to regain enough strength to work the polls November 3.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Remember, the USPS seldom does and the internet never notifies us of your change of address.

All articles by Bro. Need unless noted otherwise.