

The Biblical Examiner

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

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

*This month will be a month of tremendous turmoil unlike anything seen maybe since Lincoln invaded the South; we may well see shootings for control of the streets. If the left has their way, it will also be an all-out war against the Lord and His Christ. **The goal with this issue** is to assure us all that Christ is in control, and His purpose is being accomplished. **Isaiah 40:1** "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God."*

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

THE GREAT OVERTURNING: EZEKIEL 21

Christmas Already! I am confident that there are those who are yet in bondage to Christmas past as they struggle to pay old bills.

Ezekiel 21:25 *And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, 26 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. 27 I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.*

This month, we celebrate the birthday of *the one whose right it is to have dominion over all the earth as promised by the prophets of old*. He even now is exercising His dominion as we see the various kingdoms of men in destructive turmoil.

Ezekiel's prophecy in 21:27 speaks of the great overturning or overthrow by the One whose birthday we celebrate this month. Then Ezekiel prophesies of the new beginning or the new creation that Jesus Christ would bring about, and even now is bringing about.

We see in Ezekiel that

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there is far more to the coming of Christ than what is normally offered at this time of the year. The promise in **Ezekiel 21:25-27** is especially needed in our present day when God has allowed the whole world to lie in wickedness. (John 5:19) In our text, we understand that *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy, or overturn, the works of the devil*. (1 John 3:8)

He came to overturn the works of the devil. **He came to overturn** all powers and authorities that are in opposition to Him, and subdue them under *his footstool*.

See **Haggai 2:6-9** which is quoted in **Hebrews 12:25-29**, where we are told that in the *last days*, God is shaking all things; that is, He **is in the process of overturning everything that is in**



opposition to His kingdom on earth, the Church. In Psalms 2, the wicked are warned to kiss the Son lest He be angry. In **Isaiah 40:1-11**, God encourages His disquieted people with the promise that in the last days, all nations will be subdued to Himself.

Acts 2 tells us that when Peter was in the temple, he healed a lame man. A crowd gathered to see what was going on. He told the Jews in the temple that they had used Pilate to kill the *Prince of life* as foretold by the prophets of old. Peter said that the *Prince of life* they killed was now in heaven: Acts 3:21 *Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

“**Restitution.** C. [*apokatastasis*] in the NT. The reference in Ac 3:20-21 is strictly to the restitution of that of which the prophets have spoken, or the establishment of what they have spoken. Grammatically the conversion of persons cannot be intended. The relations of which the prophets spoke are restored to the integrity of creation while their promise is itself fulfilled. The times of refreshing mark the beginning of the transformation through the messianic work of Jesus. The text has no bearing on the question of universalism with which it is often linked. Judaism holds out no such hope, and if Paul stresses the comprehensive work of the second Adam [Ro 5:18 1Co 15:22 Col 1:20] he also says that judgment will have a twofold outcome, [Ro 2:7ff] while God’s being all in all will be through the overthrow of opposition. [1Co 15:25ff]” (*Theological Dictionary Of The New Testament*)

Must receive... That is, Jesus Christ had to return to heaven where He sits at God’s *own right hand in the heavenly [places], 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:* He waits there as all things are *put under his feet*, and will not return until all is fulfilled. (Eph 1:20-22.)

Peter spoke of a required period of time between the ascension of Christ to His throne of all power and authority until His visible return, which has lasted 2000 years thus far. During this time, the Tri-Une God shall fulfill all the Old Testament prophecies as He overturns all anti-powers, and subdues all things under the Son’s footstool. The agreement among the Trinity was made before the creation of the world. (1689 London Baptist Confession, chapter 8.) The agreement was that through the preaching of the gospel, the Spirit would subdue all things to the Son. (Matt 24:14).

1 Corinthians 15:24 *Then [cometh] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.*

Calvin: When all things are subdued, then will the end come.”

Revelation 11:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

Jesus Christ told his disciples that He had to go back so the Spirit could return to fulfill the Messianic prophecies of old. It is from His heavenly throne that He directs EVERYTHING to its predetermined conclusion. He will not return until *all enemies* are placed *under his feet* by the *Comforter*. The work of the Spirit is to completely overturn the corrupt world anti-Christ system, and replace that chaos with godly order. The overturning will be by obeying **Christ’s command in Matthew 28:19, 20.**

(To save time and space, I will only sum up some comments on Acts 2:21 as found in Peoples New Testament Notes, JFB [Jamieson, Fausset, Brown], Calvin, Barnes, Pulpit Commentary, &c. All are found on Online Bible, 5.50. Available from us. \$45.00)

Quoting Barnes:

In this sense the passage means, that the heavens must receive the Lord Jesus until all things spoken by the prophets in relation to his work, his reign, the spread of the gospel, the triumph of religion, etc., shall have been fulfilled. It also conveys the idea of the predicted recovery of the world from sin, and the restoration of peace and order; the *consummation* of the work of the Messiah, now begun, but not yet complete; slow it may be in its advances, but triumphant and certain ill [sic] its progress and its close. (Barnes)

Ezekiel’s threefold **overturning** spoke to his present time, and looked forward to the time of the Lord’s absence in Acts 3:21; that is, **from the time of His resurrection**, ascension and the seating in the heavens where He has all power and authority **to the time of His visible return** at the end of the *last days*. During this period of time and through obedience to our Lord’s command, the Spirit will *overturn, overturn, overturn* the anti-Christ social order. (Illustrated by our Lord in the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven.) **Peter did not say that all people would be saved;** however, the prophets of old promised that

the **Messianic Kingdom of Christ would displace the kingdom of man**, e.g., Psalms 2, 110, &c. The “Great Commission” assures us that the nations of this world shall be subdued under *His feet*. As the Spirit enlarges the community of the Elect who will desire to obey the Word, the pagan social order shall be overturned, and replaced by a Christian social order. (Cf. Ezek 37-39. We are now living in the Messianic kingdom, for the Messiah came 2000 years ago and established His kingdom. Matt 3:2, 4:17, 10:7, Mk 1:15.)

The Christmas prophecy in Ezekiel 21:25-27.

FIRST: Ezekiel speaks to a Hebrew king, Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. Shortly after Ezekiel’s prophecy, the city of Jerusalem fell as recorded in the book of Isaiah. Jerusalem fell to Babylon, and 70 years later Haggai (2:6, 7) gives his prophecy of the coming *desire of all nations* and the glory of the Kingdom of God on earth that He will bring.

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it [is] a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry [land]; 7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

King Zedekiah was taken captive to Babylon where his sons were killed before his eyes, and then his eyes were put out. The Babylonians treated Zedekiah as a traitor for having violated the treaty between Judah and Babylon. (Ezekiel 17:13-15, 2 Kings 24:17-20. As mentioned in the November Examiner, America is a traitor having violated the treaty between our founders and Almighty God. Judgment is here! Note dates: Mayflower Compact signed Nov 11, 1620. Corrupt election 400 years later, Nov 3, 2020.)

In Ezekiel 21:25, the Lord calls Zedekiah **a profane wicked prince of Israel**, whose day of judgment had come.

21:26. **Two things are removed** as judgment against of Zedekiah’s sin, the **diadem** and the **crown**, and all of Zedekiah’s mighty men were greatly humbled.

The crown belonged to King Zedekiah. The **crown represented the royal power** which was removed from the Hebrews and the line of David.

The diadem belonged to the high priest, who was the **intercessor** between man and God. It represented the forgiveness of sins and fellowship with Israel’s God, which was the foundation of God’s blessings.

God removed both the crown and the diadem when He sent **His army, Babylon**, against Israel.

Thus, Israel was abandoned by God for her apostasy and sin. The casting off by God of Israel would remain in effect until the arrival of the *One whose right it was to wear the crown and the diadem*. He would rule as God’s appointed King and be God’s High Priest as the only mediator between God and man. In the meantime, between this destruction by Babylon when the crown and diadem were removed, and the coming of the **One whose right it was to wear the crown and diadem**, there would be a **total revolution**: absolutely everything would be overturned to where nothing would remain the same.

Quoting *The Pulpit Commentary on Ezekiel 21:27*:

“I will overturn, overturn, overturn it.” “I will overthrow. ...”

A. The Lord thus declares his determination to overthrow again and again the government of the Jews, until the coming of the Messiah, their rightful Sovereign.

B. These **revolutions are not accidental; they do not occur by chance**. They are brought about under Divine arrangements. God being the great “Ruler over the nations,” they cannot take place, to say the least, without his permission. Being Supreme, all things are either originated or allowed by him. The sacred Scriptures assert this. “Neither from the east, nor from the west, nor yet from the south, cometh lifting up. But God is the Judge. He putteth down one, and lifteth up another;”

“He bringeth princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity;” “The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will;”

“His kingdom ruleth over all. He removes the leader of a nation’s affairs, and disorder, disturbance, and immense change follow. He sends the light of truth to oppressed peoples, and they arise and claim their freedom. But what shall we say of dark and terrible changes? Let us take an example – the carrying of the Jews captive into Babylon. Whether we look at the sacred temple, or the celebrated city, or the fertile country, or the favoured people, how dark and sad it was! But look again. It saved the people, of whom the Messiah was to come, from idolatry, and so from utter ruin. Viewed in their Divine aspect, these revolutions are benevolent. Holy beings may advance calmly and evenly towards perfection. But disordered, sinful beings need great changes and rude shocks to banish hoary superstitions, and abolish cruel despotisms, and prevent ruinous inaction. **While sin is here there must be unrest and change.**”

Observe:

1) “revolutions are not accidental; they do

not occur by chance. They are brought about under Divine arrangements,” and, we must add, revolutions are also brought about under Divine management. The revolutionaries, or anarchists are under the Lord’s total control. (Ps 76:10)

2) revolutions can be benevolent. Brought about or permitted by God, we know that they are for His greater good. (Rom 8:28ff.)

3) “While sin is here there must be unrest and change.” Though revolutions by the wicked against any Christian law order are distressing to say the least, they are to be expected as they work to fulfill God’s plan. (Isaiah 57:20.)

4) Revolution is required in order for restoration to take place. The wicked plan and work for chaos in order to overthrow a social order. However, God uses revolutions to bring about his godly social order.

Ezekiel 21:27 could read *A ruin, ruin, ruin, I will make it. There shall not even be a trace of it (the old throne of Israel) until He comes whose it is, and to Him will I give it.*

Three is an interesting number. Three stands for that which is solid, real, substantial, complete, and entire. All things that are especially complete are stamped with this number three. (Isa 6:3, Rev 4:8) Thus, Ezekiel speaks as though the complete overthrow or ruin has already taken place.

At this season of the year, we celebrate the coming of the **One whose right it is to wear the crown** and the **diadem**. From His heavenly throne, He is even now overthrowing or ruining all the anti-Christ powers of this world.

The reference here in Ezekiel and in Haggai is to the three-fold overturning of the world’s social structure that exalts the wicked. The exalted shall be humbled, and the humble shall be exalted. (See Matt chapter 5.)

Luke 3:5 *Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;*

To use modern terms, both the apostate, anti-Christian church and the anti-Christ state shall be overturned to make room for the rightful and true Civil Ruler and the true High Priest, Jesus Christ.

SECOND: Ezekiel 21:27, *whose right it is.* The word **right** means more than simply a right to do, say or to possess something. It means right in the term of

JUSTICE. Jesus Christ is Justice incarnate in the flesh. He represents justice. He alone can bring justice, and He will enforce justice and overturn the wicked, **Isaiah 11:1-5 & John 5:22, 7:24.**

Ezekiel 21:27 *Until he come whose right it is -* He came 2000 years ago. **Right** is a word used here in contrast to the wicked Jewish rulers who had previously worn the crown of the throne of David; it is used here in contrast to the wicked Jewish men who had worn the diadem of the high priest. It especially refers to wicked Zedekiah.

We cannot understand the implications of the Lord’s birth apart from the Old Testament prophecies.

His coming **reversed history** from its downward path toward total destruction. If we do not recognize that Christ came to reverse history, we are in danger of reducing the birth of Christ to no more than a nice pleasant, and expensive, gift-giving event, rather than the history changing, earth-shattering event that it was.

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know

that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?

This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?

Did you know

that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

Mary did you know..

The blind will see.

The deaf will hear.

The dead will live again.

The lame will leap.

The dumb will speak

The praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?

Did you know

that your Baby Boy is heaven’s perfect Lamb?

The sleeping Child you’re holding is the great “I am”

Jesus Christ’s mother, Mary, understood exactly what would take place with the birth of her Son, Jesus.

Months before her Son would be born, she knew that He would overturn, upset, change and reverse the history of fallen man according to the ancient prophecies.

Luke 1: 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, **47** And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. **48** For he hath regarded the low estate of his hand-maiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. **49** For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. **50** And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. **51** He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **52** He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. **53** He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. **54** He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; **55** As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

Observe:

V. 48, she makes mention of the exalting of the low.

V. 50, she did not restrict His foretold work to Israel. The promise of His overturning wickedness is for all who fear Him and against all who are proudly against Him.

Vv. 51, 52, she tells of this great overturning of the Lord against the wicked as He brings down the exalted.

V. 53, she tells of the reversal of the rich and poor, or the proud and the humble.

V. 52, she expands the mercy of God to all people everywhere who have the faith of Abraham.

In the past history of the Church, the rulers of this earth forbade the use of Mary's song because they correctly saw that it was a revolutionary song. **By banning Mary's song which celebrated the overturning of the mighty of this earth, the earthly powers were able to change the emphasis of Christmas from a time of celebration of the coming of the King of kings who would overturn all of the kingdoms of men in due time, to a sentimental emphasis of worldly peace and good will.**

Accordingly, we see that the purpose of His coming involved exalting the low and putting down the high. It involved shaking up and overthrowing the world's social order. According to Peter, Christ had to return to heaven from where He would send the *Spirit of*

truth. (John chapters 14, 15.) **In John 16:7-11**, Christ told His disciples that when He returned to heaven, He would send the Spirit. The Spirit would not only comfort the Elect, but He would reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He would subdue the nations to Jesus Christ.

“Joy to the world” is proclaimed because the Lord has come. He is now in the process of completely overturning all the works of the enemy of all righteousness, and advancing the Messiah's kingdom over all the earth.

Ezekiel 21:26 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. **27** I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.

In Ezekiel 21:26, 27, we see 1 Corinthians 1:19 to 2:5 in action. Paul tells us that Jesus Christ **overturned** the might, wisdom and the power of this world.

Hebrews 12:25-29 tells us that from the time of the giving of the law at Sinai **through** the time when the King was born in Bethlehem, to the time of the fall of Jerusalem in the Roman-Jewish war of 66-70 AD, there was a great shaking of men and nations.

All of the great powers of the past were **overturned**, or *ruined* by the shaking of God from His heavenly throne.

The author of Hebrews 12, goes on to say that the second and final shaking, or overturning is now under way. It started with the birth of Christ and will continue until all **anti-Christ men and nations are overturned**.

The supernatural coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and His ascension promises us that He is now overturning all things made by man. All things that can be shaken will be overturned because they are not established upon the rock, the Word of God. What God establishes cannot be shaken, whether nations, churches, families, communities, societies, &c. (Matt 7)

Only by faith can we rejoice that we live in a tumultuous day of shaking. The shaking shall **overturn** all that is opposed to the Kingdom of God on earth.

1. The prophet Haggai spoke during the apparent downtrodden condition of the church. He promised that the coming King would subdue the whole earth to Himself through a series of “earthquakes,” *I will*

shake, 2:7.

2. History is shown to as a continual earthquake. And the name of this earthquake is Jesus Christ, the One who was born 2000 years ago. Everything that is outside of Him shall be **overturned before His visible return.**

Isaiah 60:6-10 & 61:6 promises that the wealth of the nations and all their glory will, in God's time, be brought into Christ's kingdom. Our God is a consuming fire, and He will destroy the false structures of history, and make the whole earth His kingdom.

3. The joy of our Lord's birth is the knowledge that God has invaded history in the person of His Son. His army, the Gospel Church, is on the march with the world-wide proclamation of the Prince of Peace, His atonement, His Kingdom and His law.

His people must see history as Christ's march to victory against the **gates of hell** which started 2000 years ago in the humblest way in a manger.

4. Our Lord is declared to be the One "*whose right it is.*" He alone has the right to judge, and His justice is on the march.

Based upon the promises of men and men's laws, the world is a place of bitter, cruel injustice, masquerading as justice and right. The promises of men are only empty words because man has no means to accomplish his promises. All of their proclamation of peace and good will are only clouds without water as bondage and hatred continue to grow without Christ.

Hebrews 7:2 tells us that Christ alone is the Prince of Peace; He alone can bring peace and justice to this sin-cursed world of fallen men.

Acts 3:15, Peter identifies Jesus as the *Prince of Life*, who is even now reclaiming what Adam yielded to the *Prince of Death*.

Christ's reclaiming started in the manger and continues on with the earthquakes. These earthquakes, or judgments, allow no peace to fallen man without Christ, no matter how hard he tries to put the pieces back together.

Earthquakes are in individual lives, and in the nations of the world. The songs that we sing at this time of the year speak of the joy and peace that only Christ can bring, e.g., "Joy to the world."

History shows us that when one side in a war realizes it is facing defeat, it enters into its most bitter conflict. **Revelation 12:12** tells us that **the devil**

knows that his time is short; therefore, the battle that is being waged by the enemy is the "hottest" since his defeat by the conquering King at the resurrection.

Colossians 2:15 *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

"He whose right it is." Christ is Justice incarnate in the flesh. He will make right all wrong, and He will bring history to its God-appointed purpose and conclusion. We are told of this great conclusion of history in **Revelation 21:3**

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

[Read and note that the tabernacle of God is identified as Jesus Christ. Those in Christ are in the tabernacle of God.]

Is it any wonder that the angels who knew these things openly rejoiced with singing.... "*Glory to God in the highest...*", or that the shepherds returned from Bethlehem glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen?

Is it any wonder that the powers of this world have replaced the victorious babe in the manger with nothing but sentiment?

The first church was a persecuted church, an illegal church which had its members being hauled off to be killed in the sports arenas, yet it was encouraging its members to give to one-another and to the needy. How could they do this in the face of death?

Because they saw themselves through the victory of the **Great Overturner**. They saw themselves as kings, priests and prophets in Jesus Christ. In anticipation of that victory, they were to recognize their calling to manifest the royal virtue to be generous. The example of giving was the giving of the Son of God to an undeserving people.

The confidence in the Son of God, the conquering King of kings gave the feeling of such great wealth, even in poverty, that they gave readily to others in need and for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Even though the birth of Christ is celebrated without a command from Scriptures, it was seen by the early church as the day that ruled over all the seasons, because without the birth of Christ, there was no

Resurrection (Easter), no ascension into the heavens to be at the right hand of God, no intercessor between God and man and no Overturer to return the world to its rightful King.

Even the most hardened sinner must follow the time that is governed by His coming so many years ago. History moves toward His ordained conclusion. We are in Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords. His people are called to be kings, priests and prophets in His kingdom. We do indeed have great tidings of comfort and joy to sing about. Not only to sing about, but to tell the world about.

We need the confidence of the early Church, a Church which was persecuted and slaughtered like sheep all the day long. It was an illegal and underground organization, yet they rejoiced so much in their calling in the victory in the Great overcomer, Jesus Christ, that they celebrated His day with the giving of gifts to the needy and to one another. They shared what they had with those around them.

We celebrate the birth of the One who even today is **overturning** the great Antichrist kingdoms of the world.

We should be singing “Glory to God in the Highest, and Peace on earth and good will toward men.”

Our Redeemer-King came 2000 years ago to overturn or overthrow the kingdom of darkness, and to establish His kingdom of light. There is no reason to be captive to sin nor discouraged concerning the turmoil around us. The very *gates of hell* cannot withstand the kingdom of *the Lord and his Christ*, for the prophets of old have assured us that our Lord and King will overturn the dark kingdoms of this world, and He shall return and reign forever and forever.

Bro Need

JAY ADAMS

By Pastor Ron Rumburg

Jay Adams entered into his eternal rest with his Lord on November 14, 2020. He was 91 years old.

Adams was best known as the founder of the modern Biblical counseling movement, launched with the publication of his groundbreaking book *Competent to Counsel* in 1970. He was a champion for the cause of biblical sufficiency and against the encroachment of secular psychology into the counseling rooms of pastors and Christian laypersons.

Early life and conversion

Jay Edward Adams was born on January 30, 1929, in Baltimore. His father was a beat cop and his mother a secretary. Neither of his parents attended church, and he received no instruction in spiritual matters as a child.

Adams was a precociously bright youngster and skipped a year of high school to graduate when he was just 15 years old. His first consideration of any spiritual matter occurred when a neighborhood friend complained to him about a book he had been reading by a man who denied the Scriptures. Adams wondered why his friend, a believer, was so exercised about the Bible and decided to investigate. He found the Gideon New Testament his father had been given as a soldier in the Great War and began to read. By the time he finished reading the Gospel of John, God opened his heart and he came to believe what he was reading was true.

His friend invited him to his church where he heard the Scriptures preached by a pastor who was a skilled expositor, and he began to grow. Following graduating from high school, he asked his pastor where he could go to learn the Bible better. His pastor pointed him to the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia, where an exception had to be made so Adams could enroll as a 15-year-old student with no undergraduate degree.

The next three years were rigorous for Adams, who had no previous familiarity with the Scriptures. He learned quickly and soon developed a love for the study of the Scriptures in the original languages. Upon completion of his graduate coursework, he enrolled at Johns Hopkins University and majored in classic languages. Upon graduation in 1952, he was awarded both his undergraduate and graduate degrees on the same day.

During his Seminary and College days, Adams did street preaching and preached at country churches and rescue missions. He served as director of the local Youth for Christ chapter and sang in a men’s quartet. But most importantly, he met and eventually married Betty Jane Whitlock on June 23, 1951.

Early Ministries

In 1952 Adams became the pastor of a United Presbyterian church in Eighty-Four, PA, and soon became embroiled in denominational conflict. He opposed a proposed merger with a liberal

denomination and was chosen to debate the merger's leading proponent. The debate did not end well for his opponent, who tried to deny the existence of liberalism in his denomination. Adams had done his homework and caught his opponent in a number of lies by quoting back to him his earlier writings.

Adams pastored several other small churches while taking further studies at Temple University, where he studied homiletics under Andrew Blackwood, who impressed Adams deeply and instilled in him a love for preaching.

In 1958 Adams moved to Kirkwood, MO and became the director of Home Missions for the Bible Presbyterian denomination. While traveling, he often had discussions with pastors who asked about his understanding of eschatology. Because he was asked so frequently, he decided to put his view into a small book, which he entitled *Realized Millennialism* (a term he preferred over "amillennialism"). Most pastors in the denomination were premillennial, however, and his book generated a degree of controversy. Not desiring to be a cause of division, he resigned to focus on his Ph.D. studies at the University of Missouri.

By this time in his academic career, Adams had a mature grasp on his theology and was an accomplished Greek scholar. But his burden for the state of preaching he observed in churches grew, leading him to focus his Ph.D. work on learning to communicate effectively. For three years while he did his Ph.D. work, he preached on weekends, bagged groceries at a local market, read law books onto tape for blind students, and taught classes at the university as an intern.

Learning to Counsel

In 1963 he moved to New Jersey, became the pastor of an Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and was invited to teach homiletics part-time at Westminster Theological Seminary. As the newest instructor, he was assigned a course that none of the other teachers wanted to teach, a course entitled "Poimenics" (more commonly known as pastoral theology). As a part of that course, he was expected to teach something about pastoral counseling.

Adams had no experience teaching counseling and limited counseling experience as a pastor, so he simply taught the notes the previous teacher had given him. He found no theological substance in what he had been handed and determined to study and do better

before he would have to teach the course again the next year. As he studied, however, he found nothing to help him. He pored over everything he could find written from a Christian perspective and found only Freudian and Rogerian dogma. He studied secular texts and sought to find useful material for the Christian counselor. "I began to conclude that I was too obtuse to understand what I was reading in those books," he recalled later. "All the other seminaries were able to integrate these secular, pagan concepts in their curriculum, but I could not see how to do it."

In 1965, Adams was offered the opportunity to accompany O. Hobart Mowrer for six weeks. Mowrer was a past president of the American Psychological Association and had written a book Adams had found to be provocative. In it, Mowrer, an atheist, asked the question, "Has evangelical Christianity sold its birthright for a mess of psychological pottage?"

Adams watched Mowrer confront his counselees about their actions, urge them to take responsibility, and not hide behind psychological labels. This was an unusual tack for a secular psychologist to take, but Adams watched Mowrer find far more success with it than his contemporaries. Mowrer was an iconoclast who challenged the common conclusions of those in his discipline. While Adams was grateful for the opportunity to observe Mowrer that summer, he stood far off from Mowrer's behavior. Mowrer was skilled at throwing stones through the psychologists' windows," Adams would later say, "but he had nothing to replace the broken glass to keep the bugs out."

That summer with Mowrer was eye-opening for Adams. The reason he could not make secular psychological concepts integrate with the Scriptures was because they did not integrate! As a result of this epiphany, Adams was able to set aside the current psychological dogmas and focus on what the Scriptures had to say about people and their problems. Mowrer provided the bulldozer Adams needed to clear the site upon which he could build a counseling system from the building materials of the Scriptures. Adams began to schedule more and more counseling and used each session as an impetus to search the Scriptures for specific solutions to the problems that were presented. He invited students to sit in on counseling sessions and then debated with them how best to proceed after each session and how

the Scriptures met the need. In 1968 he formed the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF) to serve as a kind of laboratory for his studies.

As he studied counseling issues, Adams began to form a counseling system. He knew every system of thought— theological, philosophical, mathematical— eventually got tagged with a label. He was loath to think that anyone would ascribe his name to his system in some way, so he decided to use an anglicized form of the Greek word Paul used for counseling and coined the word “nouthetic.” That system began to crystalize into a set of notes Adams wrote for his seminary class, which made their way into the hands of a publisher who asked Adams to work them into a book.

Before publication, however, the publisher arranged for Adams to forward his manuscript to a half dozen men who were teaching counseling in other seminaries and invite their critique. These men met with Adams at an airport hotel and reported their conclusions. Most were in agreement with Adams’ basic thesis, that secular psychological concepts had invaded the church, and that something should be done about it. Adams’ book, however, was not that something. It was too sharp, too accusing. The tone was all wrong and should be more irenic.

Adams weighed the criticisms carefully but asked himself, if these men agreed he was fundamentally correct, and that changes needed to be made, what were they doing to effect change? They all had platforms from which they could advocate change. What were they accomplishing? As a result, Adams concluded his manuscript was not sharp enough, and he worked to toughen it up even more.

Competent to Counsel

When *Competent to Counsel* was published in 1970, it turned the Christian counseling world upside down. In it, Adams demonstrated how the three primary secular psychological systems—those of Freud, Rogers, and Watson/Skinner—stood in opposition to the Scriptures and must be rejected by Christian counselors.[1] He unpacked the Greek word *nouthesia* and demonstrated how the Apostle Paul engaged in the kind of counseling he was advocating, taking the title of his book from Paul’s statement in Romans 15:14,

I am convinced about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and competent to counsel one another.

The years that followed the publication of *Competent to Counsel* were a whirlwind of activity for Adams. Conservative pastors received his book enthusiastically, but those who were invested in the secular psychological systems Adams condemned savaged it. Invitations to lecture and explain his approach poured in, and because Adams was well trained as a public speaker, audiences found him to be a powerful advocate for the use of the Scriptures in counseling. Adams was glad to defend his views, but he quickly realized that while it was necessary to be polemic in *Competent to Counsel*, it would be necessary to provide solid, practical help with the many counseling issues that confronted pastors. To meet this need, he published *The Christian Counselor’s Manual* in 1973.

The Millhouse

By 1976 Adams had traveled the world, explaining his views and exhorting pastors to minister the Word fearlessly in the counseling room. He continued to teach at the Seminary, he and his followers had formed the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors, and he had published fifteen other books. But it was a schedule that was taking a toll on his body. He developed heart problems brought on by exhaustion, and his doctors and family urged him to slow down. So he resigned from the Seminary, turned the administration of CCEF over to a co-worker, and moved his family to rural Georgia. He bought an old grist mill and went to work remodeling it into a home.

Adams continued to travel and teach, but at a much slower pace. For the next six years, he was able to devote much more time to writing. From the peace and seclusion of the Millhouse, Adams produced some of his most important works, including his translation of the Greek New Testament, which he published with extensive counseling helps as the *Christian Counselor’s New Testament*.

Back to the Classroom

In 1982 Adams accepted an invitation to establish a D.Min. program in Homiletics at Westminster Theological Seminary in California. Because he could teach his classes in week-long modules, he would have the freedom to travel and continue to write. Adams generally disliked the strictures of academia, but he found the freedom that Westminster offered to be compelling. As a final project, students were expected to write something busy pastors would find

to be practical, and they were required to get their project published. As a result, many helpful books were published by Adams' students, several of which are still assigned reading in other homiletics programs.

Church Planter

Adams gave Westminster a five-year commitment. He believed he could have the program established and would be able to turn it over to another. He stayed longer, but in 1990 he moved to the upstate of South Carolina, where a friend in the ARP denomination invited him to plant a church in a growing suburb of Greenville where the ARP church had secured a prime piece of property. His son-in-law, a recent seminary graduate, joined him, and together they planted the Harrison Bridge Road Presbyterian Church in Simpsonville. The Adams purchased a small rural acreage near Enoree, SC where they continued to live until his death.

Adams enjoyed the return to pastoral ministry, preaching every week, and doing regular counseling once again. Also, in partnership with a friend, he established Timeless Texts, a small publishing company whose primary purpose was to publish his books.

Retirement

Adams retired from his church in 1997, at which time the Governor awarded him the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor awarded by the state of South Carolina. Retirement afforded him the opportunity to devote more time to writing, and Timeless Texts allowed him to get things into print much quicker. His *Christian Counselor's Commentary* was a product of these years.

Retirement also afforded him time to teach. Adams' son-in-law, who was now pastoring the Redeemer ARP church in Moore, SC, invited him to establish a counseling training center in his church. Requests quickly came for video and audio of Adams' lectures. Rather than send out recordings in a haphazard way to all who asked, he decided to form the Institute for Nouthetic Studies (INS) and build a structured curriculum that would include all he considered essential in a training program. By then, new technology allowed him to make the lectures more readily available to students.

As the years took a toll on his body, Adams began to consider the future of his retirement ministries. Donn Arms, the director of INS, had developed a

relationship with Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis and they approached Adams with the prospect of merging the Institute with the Seminary. This was accomplished in 2015. After Adams' partner at Timeless Texts died, he assigned the copyrights to his books to INS, which began the process of bringing all of Adams' books back into print.

Jay Adams, the Author

A wag once introduced Adams as "a man who has never had an unpublished thought." With over 100 books to his credit, few authors have been as productive as Jay Adams over a lifetime. While many books dealt with counseling issues, other books covered a surprising spectrum of issues including theology, hermeneutics, Christian living, a devotional book, preaching (including a book for laymen on how to listen to a sermon), pastoral ministry, fiction, aging, guidance, eschatology, church conflict, and commentaries.

Adams labored to be clear when he wrote, a style that led critics to accuse him of being simplistic. For Jay, complexity was often the cover for error while clarity was the cousin of truth. Through its Institute for Nouthetic Studies, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary is working to bring all of Adams' books back into print so generations to come will be able to study and learn from Jay Adams.

Jay Adams touched the lives of millions of believers around the world through the students he taught, the books he wrote, the counselee's helped by nouthetic counselors, and his lectures, podcasts, and videos. By God's good provision, His church will be able to learn and profit from the ministry of Jay Adams for generations to come.

[1] He used the term "Christian" counseling rather than "Biblical" counseling as it did not occur to him that anyone would think Christian counseling could be anything other than biblical.

SHERIFF WARD

Here is a wonderful and encouraging e-mail I received last month from the Hardy County WV sheriff. I share it with you as a note of encouragement that our Providential God does exalt godly men as pleases Him.

Hello Ovid,

I hope this note finds you and Bettie well. I continue

to pray for her healing and her resilience only means that God is not done with her yet.

I'm nearing the end of my career in law enforcement and beginning a new chapter as a state legislator. 55 years old and I've never owned a suit; I'll be doing some clothes shopping in the coming weeks so that I can comply with the dress code in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

This email ... will cease at the end of the year. Please continue to share the Examiner and any other correspondence to Cheryl and I to our family email: ...

God put me into this new responsibility and I intend to glorify Him as I do the work of a law maker. Your prayer and guidance will always be appreciated and useful.

Please give Ms. Bettie a hug from me and let her know she's in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely, Bryan

Comment: I met Sherriff Ward when I was recording the Commissioner's meetings for the local TV station in Morefield WV, and we became good friends. When we had time, I was able to go on patrol with him.

I asked him to tell a little about himself for this article:

I grew up in Beltsville, Md, attended the carpenter's apprenticeship school there and would rather have the label "CARPENTER" on my tombstone .. just as my dad, and Father was. I moved up here to the hills in 1988 and met my wife .. never went home.. and she still wakes up to me every day :) I worked as a carpenter here for a few years and answered an ad in the paper for deputy sheriff 14k a year and must have own pistol !

I took the pay cut and never regretted it. I worked my first fatal crash in 1993 and felt helpless to help others



injured at the crash, as a deputy, before the ambulance arrived. I took an EMT class and started volunteering for Fraley's ambulance service (In Moorefield, WV, ed)

on my off time. I was working an arson investigation in 1994 and met many volunteer firefighters during the investigation. The investigation led me to lock up one of the volunteers for an arson but I ended up becoming a volunteer. In 1998 I went back to college to become a better EMT (EMT-P Paramedic) and shortly thereafter, was hired as a professional firefighter/paramedic for the city of Cumberland, MD. I worked there from 99 to 2011 until I was medically retired for hearing loss.

During those 12 years at Cumberland Fire Dept, I worked 2-24 hour shifts a week there and continued to work 4-10 hour shifts per week as a cop. Folks would ask me "how can you work so much" and, of course, my response was "I've never worked a day in my life" ... it's awesome to get paid to do something you love and helping folks. (How true! Ed.)

When I was retired from the fire dept, I felt like I got kicked in the gut because the guys I worked with there were a family. I pouted for a couple of weeks and then it dawned on me that I'd missed the first 5 years of my daughter's life because I was always working. I ran for sheriff (Hardy Co, WV, ed.) in 2012 and the rest is history. I was re-elected in 2016 and sheriff's in WV are limited to two consecutive terms. I had NO intentions of ever being on another ballot ... but after so many calls I kind of got shamed into running for the state house. I was elected with 72% of the votes and my term will start the instant that my term as sheriff ends at midnight on December, 31.

Hope you're not asleep yet !! That's probably the most condensed version of my biography I could muster. I'm always just a shout away though for any follow up questions and available by phone anytime. ...

Come visit us if ever you get out this way. Give Miss Bettie another hug from me !

Comment: What a wonderful and encouraging account of a man who has sought to glorify God in whatever area of life God placed him.

Galatians 6:9 *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

WALKING BY FAITH

WHEN WE SEE ONLY PROBLEMS

Mark Rushdoony

For we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7)

How do we walk by faith? Even Paul had just referred (2 Cor. 4) to darkness, troubles, perplexity, persecution, death, and affliction.

He could not "see" the the obvious. The apostle acknowledged the very real problems he and others faced in preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of

Heaven, which to most in the Roman Empire was irrelevant, if not nonsense. He walked by faith, but he did in fact see the troubles swirling around his ministry.

To “walk by faith” does not preclude us from using our sight. To use a common expression, Paul could “not help but notice” the obvious. When we hear this admonition to “walk by faith,” we must never assume it means we are to be oblivious to the obvious that we observe “by sight.” The Greek word walk Paul uses refers literally to “walking at large,” or figuratively to how he lived or deposed himself. He had already revealed his frame of reference a few lines earlier when he contrasted the “seen” as temporal versus things “not seen” as eternal (2 Cor. 4:18).

WHAT DO WE SEE?

When we observe our world we see one mess after another. It is well that we recognize that man in sin does make a mess of things. It is necessary to see the world and people as they are. The Bible gives us no reason to have illusions of man’s goodness. The sins and failures of even its saints are clearly laid out. Paul was pointing us to his worldview perspective. He could not help but see the problems of confronting the unbelieving world with the claims of the gospel and he knew what he experienced was “pushback.” His statement was that he lived in terms of his faith, his worldview of the eternal.

We are not lacking faith if we see and address the problems of our day. Ours is only a weak faith if we live or deport ourselves in terms of such temporal matters rather than our faith. Our faith in what God is doing must give us perspective and direction.

In the mid-1970s my father (R.J. Rushdoony, ed.) noted that men’s faith in salvation by politics was making them impatient with the failures of government to create the wonderful future they promised in each campaign. He suggested it would lead to more one-term administrations. He was partly right in that neither Ford nor Carter were re-elected. The impatience he noted has since turned into a very divisive political climate which now seems to have permanently entered every area of society. Our country is in a civil war, though thankfully without armed conflict.

We would be foolish to ignore the issues of our day that are obvious to any observer. Our challenge is to

“see,” or understand these issues in terms of our faith, and to live and deport ourselves in terms of the eternal issues rather than just the temporal ones. Paul had temporal needs and concerns that were very real, as do we. His faith did not require him to ignore or dismiss problems, but to understand them; he had to see issues in terms of the world and life view his faith in Christ gave him.

THE END OF THE AGE OF STATISM

My father frequently referred to our current crisis as the end of an age. The post-Enlightenment world, he felt, had run its course and the age of humanism and its statism was, so to speak, running on empty. Its death throes would be violent and dangerous, but it was nearing an end. We see one area of our civilization after another in disarray: law, politics, currency, morals, education, the arts, and more. The problems cross national borders.

Within the United States, we have political chaos. Whoever emerges the victor in the presidential election by the time you read this, will, next year and thereafter face more political dogfighting. The political campaign will continue. When I was in high school it was common to hear comparisons of the U.S. to the Roman Empire in its decline. That was typically a reference to the moral decline of America and its “bread and circuses” welfare mentality, but it is now more analogous to compare the current treachery within Washington, D.C., to the murderous plots for control of the imperial throne during its latter stages of decline.

Humanism has run its course and the bright future liberalism promised as late as the 1960s now seems transparently impossible. But you cannot merely remove a philosophical worldview and expect a void to rule the day. Humanism must be replaced by something else. Walking by faith will lead us to see clearly that the “something” our world needs is the gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is little common ground in our culture. Fifty years or more ago it was a truism that one could only talk with strangers about sports and the weather. Now those options are gone. Sports have gone from tribal-like loyalty to symbols of political correctness and “woke” thought. Discussions of the weather now revolve around the political cause of “climate change.”

Humanism has not united mankind, because

it cannot. The words *common*, *community*, and *communion* are related. In order to have *community* there must be a *communion*, something in *common*. There is precious little we now have in common that binds us as a people. Both Darwinism and Marxism have embedded the idea of an inescapable “conflict of interests” ie “conflict of interests” into the modern mind. All of life and relationships are now seen as a dog-eat-dog struggle for control, race vs. race, men vs. women, labor vs. management, children vs. parents, haves vs. have nots, etc. Modern man is now paranoid about what others are doing to him, and that irrational fear causes him to feel justified in “doing unto others before they do unto you.” We no longer even agree on a common history, as history has been taught as a social science to ideologically manipulate recent generations. References to history are now only made to cut off appeals to the past by a condemnation for evils real or imagined. Without a communion based on a common faith, there can be no community, so the next four years will see disunity and conflict. With no moral standard in a common faith, every man will do that which is “right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6; 21:25). That is not just a reference to moral lawlessness. We must take the statement that they were right in their “own eyes” at face value. Every lawless (by a righteous standard) man believed in the certainty of his own virtue and stood proudly in terms of it. It is describing a proud, self-righteous lawlessness, much like our own situation. Satan offered Adam and Eve the power of making their own decisions over “good and evil” (Gen. 3:5) determinative. All sin seeks to establish itself as the legitimate norm.

THE LUST FOR POWER

The problem with politics is that it is the means to acquire and maintain power in our statist culture. An alternative means to power is wealth (also subject to great abuse), but politics attracts those without even the real skills to develop power by legitimately creating wealth.

It attracts those whose only ability is demagoguery.

Politics (often in the form of political correctness, a form of censorship) now controls the media, entertainment, courts, academia, and most recently, sports. It is seen as a vehicle to establish one’s power over others, so it increasingly dominates every aspect of our lives to define justice, rights, progress, and

freedom. Now even religious groups are being ordered to conform.

THE ALTERNATIVE TO SALVATION BY POLITICS

Our culture is dysfunctional because statist humanism is failing, just like Rome’s corruption and infighting hastened its weakness and eventual collapse. It was replaced by Christendom, but that took centuries. When a system collapses, one must exist to take its place or a dangerous void exists. The authoritarianism of the Soviet Union collapsed but was only replaced by another authoritarian regime and corrupt, crony capitalism.

The alternative to political salvation is salvation by Jesus Christ and the making of all things new (Rev. 21:5;

Isa. 65:17; 43:19). This was the faith of which Paul spoke. The Kingdom of God involves all that is in heaven and earth and is associated with power, glory, and victory (1 Chron. 29:11). The model of the kingdom in the old covenant was the kingdom of Israel, but the reality now is the Kingdom of God (or Heaven), where the reign of God (Isa. 52:7) is now represented by the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom of God was announced by John (Matt. 3:2) and preached by Jesus after Herod’s attempt to silence him (Mark 1:14; Matt. 4:17). Jesus said this gospel of the Kingdom would go forward despite the coming judgment on Jerusalem, the apostate center of the old covenant model (Matt 24:14). Citizenship in the Kingdom of God was by the new birth, or regeneration (John 3:5) based on the redemption purchased by our Lord’s atonement (1 Cor. 1:13–14). Therefore, we are to seek, before all else, that Kingdom and the righteousness commanded by God (Matt. 6:33), and that duty means we must, as good citizens, obey its commandments (Matt. 5:19).

We should look around us and truly see the end of the age of humanistic statism. The coming years will likely be unpleasant in many respects, but the change is necessary. The first Christians lived through the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. A later generation lived through the fall of Rome itself. The problems presented in our day seem, at this point, small in comparison. The crises of history come and go, but the Kingdom of God survives and grows. This process continues. We do not have the advantage of foresight to see exactly how the crises of our day will play out,

but our eschatology must point us to the certainty that all will resound to the glory of God and His Christ. His Kingdom will advance and know no end, and we are heirs with Christ of its eternal glories (I Cor. 6-9:10, c.f. Rom. 8:14-19).

(Arise & Build. A Mi-Monthly newsletter of the Chalcedon Foundation. November 2020)

SOCIALISM WILL NOT WORK

Gary North

Economic Calculation in the Socialist Commonwealth

This is the essay that overthrew the socialist paradigm in economics, and provided the foundation for modern Austrian price theory. When it first appeared in 1920, Mises was alone in challenging the socialists to explain how their pricing system would actually work in practice.

Mises proved that socialism could not work because it could not distinguish more or less valuable uses of social resources, and predicted the system would end in chaos. The result of his proof was the two-decade-long “socialist calculation” debate. This edition contains an afterword by Joseph Salerno, who applies the calculation argument to contemporary problems like environmentalism and business regulation:

The significance of Mises’s 1920 article extends far beyond its devastating demonstration of the impossibility of socialist economy and society. It provides the rationale for the price system, purely free markets, the security of private property against all encroachments, and sound money. Its thesis will continue to be relevant as long as economists and policy-makers want to understand why even minor government economic interventions consistently fail to achieve socially beneficial results. “Economic Calculation in the Socialist Commonwealth” surely ranks among the most important economic articles written this century....

Introduction by Ludwig von Mises (1920)

There are many socialists who have never come to grips in any way with the problems of economics, and who have made no attempt at all to form for themselves any clear conception of the conditions which determine the character of human society. There are others, who have probed deeply into the economic history of the past and present, and striven, on this basis, to construct a theory of economics of

the “bourgeois” society. They have criticized freely enough the economic structure of “free” society, but have consistently neglected to apply to the economics of the disputed socialist state the same caustic acumen, which they have revealed elsewhere, not always with success. Economics, as such, figures all too sparsely in the glamorous pictures painted by the Utopians. They invariably explain how, in the cloud-cuckoo lands of their fancy, roast pigeons will in some way fly into the mouths of the comrades, but they omit to show how this miracle is to take place. Where they do in fact commence to be more explicit in the domain of economics, they soon find themselves at a loss—one remembers, for instance, Proudhon’s fantastic dreams of an “exchange bank”—so that it is not difficult to point out their logical fallacies. When Marxism solemnly forbids its adherents to concern themselves with economic problems beyond the expropriation of the expropriators, it adopts no new principle, since the Utopians throughout their descriptions have also neglected all economic considerations, and concentrated attention solely upon painting lurid pictures of existing conditions and glowing pictures of that golden age which is the natural consequence of the New Dispensation.

Whether one regards the coming of socialism as an unavoidable result of human evolution, or considers the socialization of the means of production as the greatest blessing or the worst disaster that can befall mankind, one must at least concede, that investigation into the conditions of society organized upon a socialist basis is of value as something more than “a good mental exercise, and a means of promoting political clearness and consistency of thought.”¹ In an age in which we are approaching nearer and nearer to socialism, and even, in a certain sense, are dominated by it, research into the problems of the socialist state acquires added significance for the explanation of what is going on around us. Previous analyses of the exchange economy no longer suffice for a proper understanding of social phenomena in Germany and its eastern neighbors today. Our task in this connection is to embrace within a fairly wide range the elements of socialistic society. Attempts to achieve clarity on this subject need no further justification.

<https://mises.org/library/economic-calculation-socialist-commonwealth/html>

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE—TIME

The following is more personal musings concerning time than a serious treatise on time; maybe something more serious in the future.

This month is a reminding of the passage of time and man's inability to control time. In Ecclesiastes, the Preacher makes a statement about time that has become well-known. He speaks of time and its proper use.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. 9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? 10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.*

With two statements worthy of our attention, the Preacher opens his dissertation about time:

First, *To everything there is a season...* Like so many other statements in Scripture, this must be taken in the context of the entire revelation from God: there is a time for everything, but there is never a time for sin.

Second, *a time for every purpose under heaven.* Nothing avoids time. *Every purpose under heaven* has a proper time which is established by the God of heaven.

The Word of God clearly tells us that the Tri-une God created time out of eternity. Furthermore, the Book of Ecclesiastes plainly tells us that the Lord is the One in control of all time—time answers to Him—and He can change time at His will. (Joshua 10, 2 Kings 20:11, Isaiah 38:8) One of the hardest facts for man to face is that he cannot control time in any way; all he can do is learn to live in subjection to time. Ecclesiastes 3, however, is more specific than just time in general. Who can deny that time moves according to God's eternal purpose?

Vv. 2-8 speak in specific terms. 26 times the phrase, ***A time to***, and 2 times, ***A time for***, is used.

Then the rest of the book develops the fact that God controls "**What time it is.**" The 28 events listed in vv. 2-8 cover every area of life, showing that the Lord controls the timing of all events that come upon the world, and that come into our lives. (Acts 15:18)

These verses tell us that no event takes place apart from God's timing. Men can complain about the timing of events; they can make every effort under the sun to change or control God's timing of events, but all such efforts are vanity. As we shall see, His people are instructed to pray for the Lord to move in time and to control events which will accomplish their particular requests. (Philip 4:6)

We will examine the 28 **TIMES** listed by the Preacher. We will only look at a point and some sub points. The goal of this short essay is **to remind us that the Lord controls time**, and man can only subject himself to time and learn to use **his** time effectively. Man can either **be grateful** for God's timing of events, or man can fuss and complain over the Lord's timing. Either way, man can do extremely little, if anything, about the timing of events.

NOTICE the first mention of "time to" is v. 2. First mention establishes the absurdity of man thinking he has free will with which he can control his own destiny and be his own god. *A time to be born* is an event that is completely beyond the control of any man. No man controlled the time of his birth, his parents, his family heritage, his name, his hair or eye color, his gifts, &c. However, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, controlled every detail of His birth. V. 2, *a time to be born* is the basis for the rest of the "**time to**" showing that those times are all controlled by God alone. Starting with ***A time to be born***, there is not one event among the 28 listed where man can control the **time**. According to the Preacher, God even brings about ***a time of war...*** (Dan 4:35, Rom 11, &c.)

Man's rebellion against God's control of time is seen in the escalating suicide rate. Death is the only event that rebellious man thinks he can control, which is why suicide doctors are sought. Suicide is man's final attempt to control his own destiny.

Man does not control his birth nor death; **there is a time established by God to be born and to die, and he will not be early or late for his appointed time for either event.** Man might think he controls planting, but man cannot control the time to plant. God established the seasons and controls the weather that

permits planting. “Well, man controls weeping.” That is not what the passage says. The passage says, *A time to weep*. Example: Weeping is something with which we can all identify. The word of God establishes the time to weep and time to refrain from weeping.

Romans 12:15 *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.* **James 4:9** *Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and [your] joy to heaviness.* **5:1** *Go to now, [ye] rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon [you].*

The Lord is the One Who controls the time and events that come together, and that call for weeping or rejoicing. (Passing into heaven is a time to rejoice.) We can say the same thing about all of the 27 other events. The Lord controls the timing of the events that bring about man’s response of weeping, dancing, rending, speaking, loving, embracing, warring, gaining or losing wealth, &c.

Example: How many times have we worked to bring about certain events of joy only to have all those carefully laid plans come to naught? We did our best to control the proper time, but in the end, time refused to be controlled.

An illustration of man’s response is in Ecclesiastes 8:5, 6. A wise man will keep the command-word of God, and be delivered from the problems which come upon the disobedient and rebellious. The wise man knows that there is a **time of judgment coming** when all will be made right.

Note what David said, Psalms 31:8.

Spurgeon places this psalm at the time of Absalom, v. 1. David talks about the efforts of his enemies against him as he pleads for the Lord’s assistance. V. 8, David tells us that the Lord protected him from his enemies. To me, the key phrase is *My times are in thy hand...*, v. 15.

As we think of David’s situation with Absalom, we remember that several times over, David saw what was happening just in time to flee for his life. David faced many grievous situations concerning Absalom’s efforts to overthrow the throne and kill him. Those events and their timing were totally out of David’s control, but they took place in such a timely manner that David’s life was spared.

In other words, the Lord controlled the timing in such a manner as to spare David and his throne. David faced a time of war, but the Lord controlled the timing

of war.

Throughout his book, the Preacher develops the 28 “TIMINGS” that are found in vv. 2-8. The Preacher starts by developing the time of one’s birth. He points out that God determined the time, place, surrounding events and the parents of one’s birth. In the Preacher’s case, the result of God’s timing for his birth was a time of great military might and wealth and all that went with it.

Chapter 6, the Preacher laments that without the inner good and the peace of God with the wealth, it would be better to be born at another time apart from the wealth, for all go to a common place, the realm of the dead. The inner good and peace is better than the wealth with trouble which might be brought about by God’s timing of one’s birth into great wealth. Many things about time are developed throughout the book.

I. The timing of events in our lives is of the Lord, and our responsibility to discern the timing and act properly in that time. We could call the following, God’s Providence at Work.

A. God was in control of the timing of events that brought things to a head so they had to be dealt with in our lives.

B. God controlled the timing of events that may have caused us to lose our job.

C. God controlled the timing of events that brought a particular man and woman together and later married.

D. God controlled the timing of events that caused us to lose the money, or miss the good deal.

I knew a man in Louisiana who was always in the right place at the right time. He was retired AF, and he made a good extra income by being at the right place at the right time. He could buy what **we might consider a piece of “junk,”** tinker with it, paint it, park it beside the road, and double his money. The Lord gave him the talent to take that “junk” and make something of value of it. The Lord also worked the timing of events so he could get the “junk” at a good price. The man could have ignored the timing of the events that made the “treasure” available, but it would have cost him the reward being provided by the Lord.

God controls the timing of events that permit one to get the good job, or that permits one to find the good deal on a particular item. He is the One Who sees that one is in the right place at the right time.

E. God controlled the timing of events that forced

us to make a decision which we may now look back on with regret. Each of us can look back over our lives and see how the timing of events was completely out of our control. But that series of events is what brought us to the present point in our lives. We can get even more specific: many times, the timing of events was right down to the split second. If the event had taken place 1/2 second either way, we would not be here today. Years ago, a motorcycle pulled out in front of me, and my split-second decision spared both our lives.

F. Sadly, He is the One who controls the timing for us to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, and we lose our “shirt.” How many tens of thousands of dollars have we lost by being at the wrong place at the wrong time?

Proverbs 16:33 *The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof [is] of the LORD.*

There are no coincidences in life, so we must say here with David, ***My times are in thy hand...***, we are not left a helpless victim of time.

II. Note what Daniel said in 2:20-22.

*Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: **And he changeth the times and the seasons:** he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what [is] in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*

In addition,

James 5:16-18, *Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

Through God’s command to pray, Elias changed God’s timing of planting and reaping by withholding rain upon the wicked.

God’s word assures us that the prayers of a righteous man do not go unheard. Man is to pray that God would control time, or even change the timing of events and to work events for glory of God.

At what point are God’s times, as recorded in Ecclesiastes 3:2-8, firmly established and cannot be changed? We have no way of even speculating. All we know is that the God Who established time hears and

answers the prayers of His people. In God’s answers, He works time according to what pleases Him and according to what is best for those who love Him and are the called according to His purpose. God always works time according to His divine purpose and for the good of the Elect.

The Book of Job clearly shows us that the Lord controls the timing of all events that come into our lives. The Devil himself may bring the events to pass, but he only operates within God’s timetable.

Yes, the timing of events may seem very poor: “If only the timing would have been a little different, I would not have missed out on the good deal.” Or, “If only these two events had not taken place at the same time, things would be different.”

But look at the other side:

“If the timing had been different, I would not have met the one I am married to,” or “I would not have the job I now have,” or “I would not be converted.” The list is endless as we think back over the timing of events.

The Preacher tells us that it is a vain thought to think we can control time, and make events turn out according to our plans. Thus, all is vanity. Another thought also surfaces: “If the only reason for working and making money is to enjoy life because one cannot take it with him, then what is the use?” James also tells us that it is vain boasting to think we can control the timing of things we plan. **James 4:11-16.**

If one does not follow the book of Ecclesiastes through, he will miss the whole point the Lord is making with the apparent vanity of all things. In fact, as I read the book through, I must keep the end in mind, or I would quit. Yes, God controls the timing of all events, or He would not be God. Our responsibility is not to fret over the timing of events, either past, present or future. We cannot change God’s time, for He alone determines what time it is. Is it time to plant? If so, He brought that time about, and we will be held accountable for our faithfulness of using the time properly to plant. We are commanded to pray for God to work time for His glory. If one waits for the perfect time to do something, that something would never get done. I have perfected the art of procrastination, so if you need a few excuses, let me know.

Time is God’s creation; time moves in perfect obedience to its Creator. Man can understand neither God’s timing nor His use of time to accomplish His

glorious purpose in our lives and in history. It is impossible to see events from His perspective, so most of the time, there appears to be neither rhyme nor reason to the timing of events. So, what option is left for man? Is all vanity as this book appears to teach? Is every effort of life vain because the same thing happens to all men and the timing of events is out of man's control? This book, which seems to paint a very grim picture overall, does not leave man hopeless.

In conclusion: Though there are many statements scattered throughout the book that answer the difficulties of vanity and time, we will only look at two:

1) Ecclesiastes 8:5 *Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. 6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man [is] great upon him.*

The wise man will understand what time it is. He will not try to reap in the time of sowing; he will not laugh in the time of mourning, nor will he mourn in the time of laughing. The discerning person will not try to hang on when it is time to let loose; nor will he love when it is time to hate nor make war when it is time for peace.

In our day of prolonged life due to what God has provided through medical science, we especially need God's discernment concerning proper time. All 28 times must be viewed as a responsibility to discern the time because we will be accountable to God for its proper use.

2) Ecclesiastes 12:13 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil.*

At God's proper time, we must sow, make war, laugh, mourn, kill, heal, repair and mend. The list is quite extensive, and the Spirit of God gives us the discernment to know what time it is.

1 Chronicles 12:32 *And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;*

As the Preacher told us, life can be empty and vain to the rich and poor alike, for all go to the same place when life is over, so what's the use? All is vanity.

No one can understand God's working in time; we are not required to understand those things that are as high above us as the heavens are above the earth. But

we are most certainly given a responsibility within the time God has provided: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism was agreed upon in 1648. Its first question is,

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, [a] and to enjoy him for ever. [b]

[a]. Ps. 86:9; Isa. 60:21; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 6:20; 10:31; Rev. 4:11

[b]. Ps. 16:5-11; 144:15; Isa. 12:2; Luke 2:10; Phil. 4:4; Rev. 21:3-4

(All Reformed Catechisms pretty much follow the Westminster Catechism.)

Our times are in the hands of the Lord; therefore, we are assured that He works the timing of all events that come into our lives for our good and for His praise, honour and glory. **Our responsibility** whether we eat, drink, drive, work, play, preach or whatever we do, **is to use** our short amount of time to glorify God by keeping His commandments, or our time on this earth will have been in vain.

Bro Need

PERSONAL

BY BETTIE NEED

How do I know God loves me so much?!?!

In 1563, God encouraged godly men to write the Heidelberg Catechism, knowing full well that on a certain date in 2020, a woman fighting breast cancer would read a certain portion of it on Sunday, November 22 as part of her church's CONFESSON of FAITH read corporately by the congregation.

Can you imagine her surprise - and laughter--when 20 hours after she discovered her hair was falling out, she read the words in answer to the question: "What is your only comfort in life and death?" Answer: "That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ..... (who) so preserves me that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed that all things must work together for my salvation."

WAIT, God!! How did the pastor know to put this question in the bulletin TODAY!? REALLY, God!? You are AMAZING!!

I could not wait for the service to be over to share God's love letter to me from 1563! Of course I have read that scripture countless times in my life, but our

“sense of humor God” wanted to send it to me as a special “in time” love letter on Sunday!! Is it even remotely possible that I could doubt God’s special love towards me!?!??

Love and thanks to all of you praying for me!

Note: As those who have gone through the cancer scenario know, sickness, weakness and many trips to treatment centers are part of the battle. The treatment center (Barrett Cancer Center, University of Cincinnati) is over an hour from us, plus the time for the treatment. A treatment day takes a whole day, so they are very time consuming. Remember us as we spend much time on the road.

A MASK RANT

FEAR RULES

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT was signed November 11, 1620. The last remnants of that compact were overturned November 3, 2020. God has and is fulfilling the judgments that were committed to God the Father of Jesus Christ by our fathers who held to and supported the doctrines of the Reformation.

We now live in a nation of cowards as we see Leviticus 26:14-31 now being fulfilled in our lifetime. V. 36, *the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them;* that is, those who have forsaken the law-world of the God of the COMPACT, have forsaken the orthodox Christian faith and have lost the boldness that was typical in our founding fathers. We are now a nation of cowards.

Jeremiah 22:8 *And many nations shall pass by this [nation] city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour; Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great [nation]city? 9 Then they shall answer; Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them.*

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

Comment: **Wicked**, those guilty of sin against God or man. **Righteous** in conduct and character.

1 John 5:19 *[And] we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

Those who **are of God** understand that Christianity has been replaced by covetousness even under the color of godliness, e.g., *gain is godliness*, 1 Timothy 6:5. It appears that the whole nation is now in the clutches of the wicked one as we pursue the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life.

Reason for this short “rant.”

Returning from our small rural town to get needed items, I was greatly distressed by what we saw and experienced in our town. It was evident that though our nation was once known as “the land of the **free** and the home of the **brave**,” it is now the land of **bondage** and home of the **cowards**, and no one seems to care as long as they can drive their new car, live in a nice house and have their beer.

One store manager asked me to please put on my mask because the governor of OH will shut his doors if his customers do not “maskup.” What have we come to?

Lamentations 5:16 *The crown is fallen [from] our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!*

Those who **are of God** realize this nation will never again be “the land of the free and the home of the brave” without a return to the freedom our fathers had, which is only found in Jesus Christ, and return to the covenant-law of God. Only the Spirit of God can produce such universal freedom.

The so-called mask mandate is not a law at this point, but it may soon be under a Harris-Biden administration. Though masking up is not a law, people are fearfully obeying the fiat word of various governors. People are fearfully obeying the empty “laws” as though there were a death penalty attached.

The Marxists have been trying to overthrow this nation for many decades, and they have found their three-fold magic formula: **1) fear, 2) intimidation, and 3) numbers.**

1) Fear has been instilled by the media into the population over the past year – fear of catching a flu which has been traced to a US funded lab in China. The virus got here in time to throw the 2020 election to the Marxists by convincing every one that to be safe, they must use mail-in ballots. See TBE, May 2020.

(<https://nypost.com/2020/04/29/dr-fauci-backed-controversial-wuhan-lab-studying-coronavirus/>)

Fear has permitted the public to accept the total shutdown of the American economy, and is allowing China to become the number one economy in the world. As we have mentioned in past Examiners, the goal of the “powers that be” has been to establish their one world government. They have sent the wealth producing manufacturing to China, and thus transferred the wealth of the West to China. The stated goal was

to cause discontent in the Chinese people who would then overthrow the Communist leadership. How has that worked out?

See **Bill Clinton's** statement, <https://world101.cfr.org/global-era-issues/trade/what-happened-when-china-joined-wto> and **Joe Biden's actions**, <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/media/20-years-ago-today-joe-biden-votes-to-give-china-most-favored-nation-trade-status/>

2) Intimidation: We will burn your cities down if you do not fulfil our demands.

3) Vastly inflated numbers of deaths from the flu.

The Marxists have learned they need no army to conquer and control America. **False numbers and fear has accomplished** what they have sought to do for generations. By using the unions (NEA especially, and the USPS), the statist education system, elections and government programs, they have accomplished their long-standing goal of dominance in the US.

Numbers: Watch the wording: Died **with** COVID vs died **of** COVID. It is common knowledge that the COVID death rate has been highly overstated by mislabeling various deaths, and hospitals are even paid a bonus for saying a patient died from COVID.

A generation of fear. Americans now cower in the corner with their mask on, which has been many times proven to be useless. (Exposure of the foolishness of masks has been banned from social media, though. However, the various governors are not about to give up the power they gained with the advent of COVID. We have seen that neither masks nor lockdowns have been effective in stopping nor slowing the spread.)

The Marxists learned that manufactured fear can leave a people helpless, even willing to lose the freedom gained by the lives and fortunes of the founding fathers. No doubt, our fathers look down in astonishment from above over how cheaply their posterity is selling what cost them so much.

In addition, the media and the tech giants have hidden any evidence that the masks are worthless. Moreover, the Biden crew plans to make Hydroquinone illegal, evidently to support the big drug manufacturers as they make their expensive and unproven vaccine.

How absurd to think that a piece of cloth or a sheet of plastic between people will stop the spread of any air-borne virus between two people. The public has been programmed to believe that that piece of plastic is like an airtight bubble that allows no air to exchange

between people.

With my wife's cancer treatments, we have been in several hospitals. To get in the door, one must answer the COVID questions and have their temperature taken. However, go into the cafeteria, and everyone removes their mask. My answer is to start serving food in every department, for the virus cannot invade anyone who is eating. (I have seen people in waiting rooms snacking on something with no mask. Evidently, eating is as good as any vaccine.) Can no one see the utter foolishness of "masking up?" But the local gods like the power that has been granted to them because of fear.

The small print on the box of blue masks commonly worn:

Jointown Face Mask: "These masks help protect against certain particulate contaminants but do not eliminate exposure to the risk of any disease or infection." This past May 21 before they became "wear your mask" advocates, the New England Journal of Medicine published this on their site:

"We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety (*i.e.*, **fear**) over the pandemic."

In addition, air will take the path of least resistance, and that path is around the edges of the mask.

Cloth Mask Problems Known for Years

On 22 April 2015, the British Medical Journal (BMJ) published an article titled, "A cluster randomized trial of cloth masks compared with medical masks in healthcare workers."

After presenting hard data, the authors concluded:

"This study is the first RCT (Randomized Control Trial) of cloth masks, and the results caution against the use of cloth masks. This is an important finding to inform occupational health and safety. **Moisture retention, reuse of cloth masks and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection...** as a precautionary measure, cloth masks should not be recommended for HCWs (health care workers)."

(From TrendsJournal, Nov 3:2020.)

Vaccine?

They have been working on a flu vaccine for several decades, and annually encourage people to get the flu shot, yet tens of thousands die annually from the flu. The public has been foolishly led to believe that within a few months an effective vaccine has been developed for COVID or any other strain of flu. What kind of dream world do people live in to think a vaccine developed in a few months can effectively stop any flu virus, when the vaccine they have been working on for generations still will not work?

It all boils down to power, money and public perception.

FYI, check out “**Institute lists COVID vaccines that rely on aborted baby cells.**”

https://www.wnd.com/2020/12/institute-lists-covid-vaccines-rely-aborted-baby-cells/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm_campaign=dailym&utm_content=newsletter&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS KOWTOW TO MARXIST AGENDA

The fall semester...in California [is] pretty much all online, distance learning. This has been enormously helpful—in an awakening kind of way—for parents, also still stuck at home, to observe the increasingly anti-American, anti-Semitic and frankly Marxist curricula being force-fed to their children. The flagship courses for that indoctrination go under the label of “ethnic studies.”...Lest anyone think that ethnic studies in California will be just a broad-based neutral overview of American diversity (the E Pluribus Unum kind), a look at what is actually contained in such curricula already this year will be instructive.

...Former FBI agent W. Cleon Skousen told us about Communist Goals for America back in 1958, the year he published *The Naked Communist*. The content of that book, and especially those 45 goals found in chapter 13, were compiled from testimony by former Communists....Number 17 of that list of Communist Goals for America stated: “Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers’ associations. Put the party line in textbooks.”...

...The Vermont Essex Westford School District Board voted unanimously in early August 2020 that all of its schools will fly a Black Lives Matter (BLM) flag through the 2020-2021 school year. The BLM flag will

fly alongside LGBTQ flags—no mention of whether an American flag or Vermont State flag will also be flown....

One set of parents summed up their dismay this way: “We were horrified to see a dangerously deceptive, radical political agenda disguised as an English + Ethnic Studies class. The SBUSD [Santa Barbara United School District] is deceitfully and purposefully recruiting our children behind our backs with symbols of communist hate. We are in disbelief that four weeks of this class focuses on ‘protest’ followed by three weeks of ‘intersectionality.’ Clearly, they are recruiting our sweet, innocent children for radical rioting like we see in Seattle and Portland and grooming them for lawlessness behind portals made accessible only to the students.”

—gopusa.com
Sword of the Lord, 11/13/2020

THE CHURCH’S REAL THREAT: FEAR

Mychal Massie warns America is under attack from the inside

By Mychal Massie

Americans, and specifically Americans who claim to be Christians, are quick to blame politicians and other public figures for the state of affairs today.

But these blamers are blind to the painful truth. It’s not the public figures, it’s we the people who are to blame, specifically those who claim to be Christians. Which brings me to my point.

The real threat is not a flu virus that has a nearly 99% rate of recovery. It’s fear and the lengths to which churches will go to satiate same.

As a minister, it’s troubling that so many supposed believers are paralyzed with fear by this manufactured global hysteria called COVID-19. I cannot stress strongly enough that God’s Word is immutable, i.e., it’s unchangeable. God doesn’t say one thing in the Bible and authorize disobedience to it in our daily personal lives. I find nowhere in Scripture that disobedience to God’s Word was given an OK because of fear. As born-again Christians, our first allegiance is to God, and we’re to let nothing and no one prevent us from obeying God.

Fear has caused the church to betray God. Biblical atheism has done the rest and is rampant among churchgoers. A biblical atheist is one who claims to believe in heaven, hell, God and Christ but not the power of God. They’re quick in claiming to pray, but

praying without belief is powerless.

Moses stood on the bank of the Red Sea with an uncrossable expanse of water in front of him and Pharaoh's horde behind him. But armed with faith,

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

he confidently told the Israelites: "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD which he will show to you today" (Exodus 14:13 KJV). Hours later, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, specifically because they trusted God.

The Apostle Paul writing to the Corinthian church admonished them: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV). Paul reminded Timothy: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV).

In God we trust is more than a saying on our currency that reprobate atheists find objectionable. It was the essential belief of our Founding Fathers as they labored to create a "nation under God, with liberty and justice for all."

At a time when the people of America need the witness and testimony of the church, its leadership and people are cowering in the corner, afraid of their own shadow.

Out of an abundance of caution, I'm unable to share the name and location of the following missionary work; but suffice to say it's had many years of faithful ministry in a foreign country under Muslim interlopers. The missionaries and those to whom they minister are under intense threat to their very lives. The country's government has unleashed an onslaught of terrorism in an effort to silence this ministry. But as the missionary families refuse to succumb to fear and intimidation they've seen God answer their prayers

and sustain them in miraculous ways.

In some countries people face death for even owning a Bible, not to mention for going to church. Yet Christians in these countries won't be deterred.

They trust and believe God and are committed to being obedient to his Holy Word.

How many churches in America have closed their doors without even a whimper? The church in America has allowed the progeny of Satan to dictate how services are conducted and who can attend. Instead of displaying obedience to God, many invoke pablums [drivel, garbage] justifying disobedience to God's Word.

America is indeed under attack, but it isn't an attack from outside. America is being overrun because the one constant against tyranny has been neutered by fear. The church, which should be the shining candle of hope, is being shuttered because of fear.

Throughout the ages and specifically in America the church has been a place of refuge, moral authority and a symbol of the work and ministry of God. No longer can that be said.

The late Bible teacher Dr. J. Vernon McGee once famously declared: "In olden days we had wooden ships and men of steel; today we have steel ships and paper dolls."

This isn't a call for a social ministry; it's a call for the church to be what God intended. As a man of God, my example will be fearless obedience to God's Word. World Net Daily, Nov. 30/20. <https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/churches-real-threat-fear/>

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

As I left the hardware store the other day, I was fumbling for my car keys and could not find them.

They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My wife has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. She's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized she was right.

The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car and that it had been stolen.

Then I made the most difficult call of all to my wife:

“I left my keys in the car and it’s been stolen.” There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard her voice. “Are you kidding me?” she barked, “I dropped you off!”

Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, “Well, come and get me then”.

“She retorted, “I will, as soon as I convince this cop that I didn’t steal your car!”

“Welcome to the Golden Years”

Another

MY DOCTOR ASKED IF ANYONE IN MY FAMILY WAS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS.

I SAID; “NO, WE ALL SEEM TO ENJOY IT”.

FROM NATURALNEWS.COM

*** Court rules Covid-19 tests worthless, media rejects science**

(Natural News) A European lawsuit has solidified the fact that the widely used PCR test for detecting the Wuhan coronavirus (Covid-19) is up to 97 percent unreliable – so basically useless. Portuguese judges reportedly upheld a lower court ruling that forcibly quarantining four German tourists after one tested “positive” for Covid-19 ...

*** The CDC is an all-powerful government agency with military powers and a PRIVATELY FUNDED network**

(Natural News) The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is not a benevolent, tax-payer funded agency that adheres to Congressional oversight and judicial accountability. The CDC is an all-powerful government agency that serves the interests of the vaccine industry and the rest of its PRIVATELY FUNDED network....

*** BOMBSHELL: Johns-Hopkins researcher says CDC data show COVID-19 has NO effect on percentage of death in older people and has NOT increased number of U.S. deaths**

(Natural News) When all is said and done, Americans — and the world — are going to discover that while the COVID-19 virus is real as was the pandemic, virtually nothing we’ve been told about the infection morbidity rates has been accurate. Not even close; in fact, and this has been borne out by a new analysis of COVID-19 death and ...

*** People faced with several vaccine options might**

end up choosing none

(Natural News) The race to develop a vaccine for the Wuhan coronavirus is progressing at an unprecedented speed and scale, with more than a hundred now in development worldwide. However, scientists’ concentrated efforts to come up with several vaccines in the hopes of developing the best one might be doing more harm than good.

*** Coronavirus fears are causing “delusional psychosis” in Americans, cautions psychiatrist**

(Natural News) Over the past few months, millions of Americans have grown afraid of catching the COVID-19 virus and dying from it. But whether these people were fed lies or unknowingly consumed misinformation online, the result is the same: delusional psychosis. (The **manufactured fear** was political to keep people from voting in person. Hence, the mail-in ballot scandal.)

*** Face masks make it harder to hear, affect social interaction**

(Natural News) Even without a national mask mandate, people in some states are required to wear face masks in public places and inside business establishments like bars and restaurants across the U.S. But this might be easier said than done for people with hearing loss. ...

*** Experts warn mRNA vaccines could cause irreversible genetic damage**

(Natural News) There are plenty of reasons to avoid the many COVID-19 vaccines that are being pushed on us, but Robert F. Kennedy Jr. of Children’s Health Defense recently drew attention to some of the most concerning aspects of these vaccines.

*** National security risk: MIT received over \$51 million from Russian foundation**

*** China is reaping the financial benefits of unleashing a bioweapon on the world as they take over all wealth producing manufacturing, which they invest it in overthrowing the West. (The West failed to support Chiang Kai-shek when the Communist took over mainland China. We are paying the price now.)**

MASK HYSTERIA

“UNFOUNDED PUBLIC HYSTERIA”

On 13 November, Dr. Roger Hodgkinson, who was certified in medicine by the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in 1976, was a prominent

speaker at the Edmonton City Council meeting regarding the city's extension of its face-mask orders.

Dr. Hodkinson began his speech by stating his credentials:

"I'm a medical specialist in pathology which includes virology. I trained at Cambridge University in the UK. I was previously an assistant professor in the Faculty of Medicine doing a lot of teaching. But more to the point I'm currently the chairman of a biotechnology company in North Carolina selling the COVID-19 test."

His opening remarks regarding the ongoing lockdown strategies included:

"The bottom line is simply this: There is utterly unfounded public hysteria driven by the media and politicians. It's outrageous. This is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on an unsuspecting public. There is absolutely nothing that can be done to contain this virus. Other than protecting older, more vulnerable people. It should be thought of as nothing more than a bad flu season. This is not Ebola. It's not SARS. It's politics playing medicine and that's a very dangerous game."

Among the key points made by Dr. Hodkinson:

- "A word on testing: I do want to emphasize that I'm in the business of testing for COVID. I do want to emphasize that positive test results do not mean a clinical infection. It's simply driving public hysteria and all testing should stop. Unless you're presenting to the hospital with some respiratory problem."
- "Masks are utterly useless. There is no evidence base

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walking around like lemmings, obeying without any knowledge base, to put the mask on their face."

- "Social distancing is also useless because COVID is spread by aerosols which travel 30 meters or so before landing. Enclosures have had such terrible unintended consequences. Everywhere should be opened tomorrow as well as was stated in The Great Barrington Declaration that I circulated prior to this meeting."
- "All that should be done is to protect the vulnerable and to give them all in the nursing homes that are under your control, give them all 3,000 to 5,000 international units of vitamin D every day which has been shown to radically reduce the likelihood of infection."
- "And I would remind you all that using the province's own statistics, the risk of death under 65 in this province is one in 300,000. One in 300,000. You've got to get a grip on this."

Dr. Hodkinson concluded by telling the public officials at the meeting:

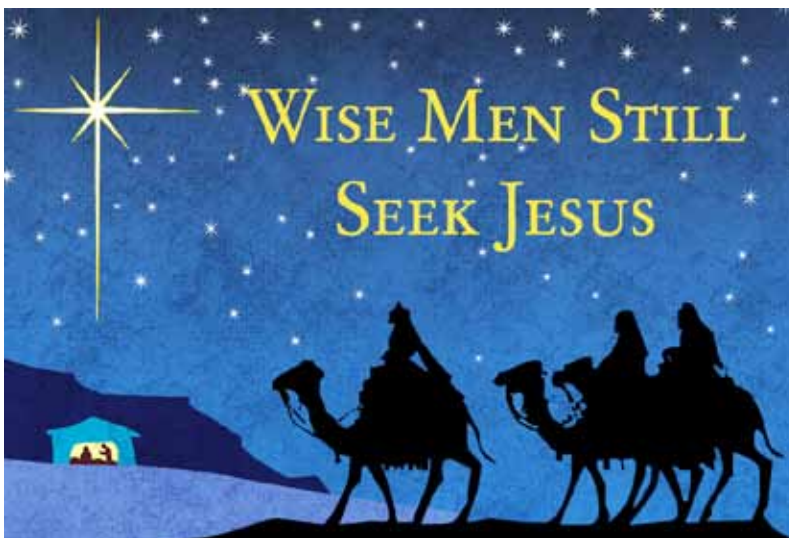
"The scale of the response that you are undertaking with no evidence for it is utterly ridiculous given the consequences of acting in a way that you're proposing. All kinds of suicides, business closures... It's simply outrageous."

Despite the vast array of data that does not support the draconian lockdown mandates that have, and continue to, destroy millions of businesses, lives, and livelihoods, the media and the vast majority of politicians continue to promote the "patriotism" of fighting the COVID War, as Joe Biden has.

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for their effectiveness whatsoever. Paper masks and fabric masks are simply virtue-signaling. They're not even worn effectively most of the time. It's utterly ridiculous. Seeing these unfortunate, uneducated people – I'm not saying that in a pejorative sense – seeing these people