

# The Biblical Examiner

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## WINDOWS OF THE SOUL.

### THE COUNTENANCE

By Rev. Need

Knowing that our eyes are in a way the windows of our souls, **32** and that all evil desires make their way into the heart through the eyes as their natural passageways, he wished us to destroy such desires utterly while they were still outside that they might not spring up within us and put forth their deadly shoots within the soul, if they once germinated in our eyesight. [**32** See Laetantius De opificio Dei 8.11: "The mind is that which sees through the eyes, placed in front of it, as if through windows covered with translucent glass or mica."]

Salvian (c. 400-490) On the Government of God 440 AD. Columbia University Press, 1930

Look around! Observe the faces of those we encounter. We are surrounded by cast down, sad, stressful faces, faces of those who either have no hope, or have lost hope.

### PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS

#### 1 in 6 Americans Takes a Psychiatric Drug

Antidepressants were most common, followed by anxiety relievers and antipsychotics

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/1-in-6-americans-takes-a-psychiatric-drug/> also <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/psychiatric-drugs-study-reveals-widespread-use-women-men/>

We are living in the midst of an explosion of "mental illness," alcoholism and the massive use of pills to try to solve emotional problems. There is an explosion of madness and idiocy as though the hordes of hell have descended upon mankind. An army of "Counselors" who are trained in humanism and pill pushers have been loosed on America to deal with the outbreak of mental illness and alcoholism, diseases totally unknown until the 20<sup>th</sup>

century. "Disease" means no personal responsibility. Imagine the foolishness of saying, I caught the disease of alcoholism or mental illness from my wife, husband, neighbour, coworker. I must admit that idiocy and mental illness is transferable from the humanist teachers in the education system, and even in the apostate churches. Paul explains what has happened; that is, people's commitment to sin leads to moral depravity:

**Ephesians 4:17** *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity [moral depravity] of their mind, **18** Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: [blindness: or, hardness] **19** Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

Paul descends to the fruits of Christian doctrine, and reasons first upon the principles of conduct and actions,

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setting down a most grave comparison between the children of God, and those who are not regenerated. For in these men all the powers of the mind are corrupted, and their mind is given to vanity, and their senses are darkened with most gross mistiness, and their affections are so accustomed by little and little to wickedness, that at length they run headlong into all uncleanness, being utterly destitute of all judgment. (Geneva)

That is, those given to sin have no hope being destitute of judgment, they rush headlong to self-destruction.

They [the rebellious] are now morally and intellectually worthless. (Hodge)

**Romans 1:21** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

Because of man's hatred of God and his commitment to be *as God*, God has given our nation (and the nations of the world) over to the **reprobate**. **He has** allowed darkness, madness, lunacy and idiocy as he allows men and nations to follow their *reprobate mind* of vain imaginations, and thus to commit suicide. (*They that hate me love death.*)

The morning newspaper, apparently so fresh and novel, is but a reprint of Moses and the prophets, with some slight difference in incident and color, but with no difference whatever of moral substance and meaning. (Joseph Parker. 1830-1902)

Today also it **is but a reprint...** However, God raises up godly counselors, *e.g.*, Jay Adams, who scripturally deal with the problem, sin. He is raising up a godly generation through the growing homeschool movement, as parents take back their God given responsibility to train up their children in the ways of the Lord.

**Pay attention and observe the turmoil of the soul you can see in the faces** of those we meet in any public face. Often their utter hopelessness and turmoil is readily visible in their countenance, which reveals the heart. Their countenance should make a Christian hurt for them.

#### THE COUNTENANCE

Let us examine 4 words in Genesis 4:4-7

*4 And Abel, he also brought of*

*the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had **respect unto Abel** and to his offering: 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had **not respect**. And Cain was **very wroth**, and his **countenance fell**. 6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. (KJV)*

1) V. 4. **had respect**: To look at with approval.

2) V. 5. **no respect**: God looked on Cain's offering with **disgust**. God paid no attention to Cain's offering, and turned his back on Cain.

3) V. 5. **wroth**: Because God looked on Abel's offering with respect while rejecting his, Cain **was consumed with great anger**.

4) V. 5, 6. **countenance**: The **face identifies the person**, and reflects the inner attitude and sentiments of the person.

"In the Bible the 'face' (along with the other parts of the body) is described not merely as an exterior instrument in one's physiology, but rather as being engaged in some form of behavioral pattern, and is thus characterized by some personal quality. It is only natural that the face was considered to be extraordinarily revealing vis-a-vis a man's emotions, moods, and dispositions." (TWOT)

**Thus, the countenance of the face reveals the inner soul of a person.** Though this saying comes from Shakespeare, "Eyes are Windows to the Soul," it fits very well with Matthew 6:22-24.

In several places, scripture describes the **countenance of the face**:

1) **Hard face**: Defiance, **Jeremiah 5:33** This countenance is particularly easy to see in children as they harden against authority. Sadly, the authority may have a hardened face toward the child. We must all remember that a soft answer turns away wrath.

2) **Impudent face**: forward or bold: Proverbs 7:13.

3) **Proud face**: **Proverbs 21:4** Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin! We cannot mistake God's mind that is so clearly declared here. Yet this sin assumes so many different forms that until God's Spirit reveals a man



to himself, he does not think it applies to him. Indeed, he manages to be proud of his pride! (Bridges) A proud heart; pride lurking and reigning in the heart, though it do not discover itself to men by outward actions, but be disguised with a show of humility, it is frequently. (Poole)

**4) Shamed face: 2 Samuel 19:5.** Defeat, frustration, humiliation, dried up, withered and confounded.

**5) Flaming face:** Overcome with terror to where one shakes uncontrollably, **Isaiah 13:8.**

**6) Troubled face:** Daniel 5:6. Alarmed dismay.

**7) Sad Face vs joyful face. 1 Samuel 1:18** *no more sad*; her heart being cheered by the priest's comfortable words, and especially by God's Spirit setting them home upon her, and assuring her that both his and her prayers should be heard, it quickly appeared in her countenance. (Poole) When was the last time we saw a joyful face in a crowd?

**8) Hopeless face: Ephesians 2:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:13.** Hopelessness can be seen in the faces of those who have no Christian hope as well as those who think they have a Christian hope, but have no prospect in the future except tribulation and troubles. One may have a happy face because of a false hope, but that is certainly a misplaced, false hope. (God raises up false prophets to test his people's loyalty to his law-word, e.g., *88 Reasons Why the Lord Will Return in 1988*. The author bought a farm in KY with the proceeds of that booklet. See Deut 13 & 18.)

**9) Changed face: Genesis 31:5** [*I see your father's countenance, that it is not,*] &c. Had Laban's sons only murmured, Jacob might have borne it; but their father partook of their disaffection, as was palpably evident by his altered demeanor. **It is wisely ordered that the countenance shall, in most cases, be an index to the heart; else there would be much more deception in the world than there is.** We gather more of men's dispositions towards us from looks than from words; and domestic happiness is more influenced by the one than the other. Sullen silence is often less tolerable than contention itself, because the latter, painful as it is, affords opportunity for mutual explanation. ... But while Jacob had to complain of Laban's cloudy countenance, he could add, 'The God of my father has been with me'; or, as the Chal. has it, 'The Word of the God of my fa-

ther has been for my help'; thus bearing witness to his integrity; for had he done wrong, he would not have been thus blessed. The smiles of God are the best supports under the frowns of men. If we walk in the light of [his] countenance, we need not fear what man can do unto us. (Bush)

**10) Shining face:** Joy and peace with God, **Job 32:8, Ps 104:15, Job 29:24.** The faithful followers of Christ will be **unconscious of the shining of their face.** The hard, sad, troubled and fallen faces are prevalent all around us, even among those within Orthodox churches.

**11) Fallen face:** Very strong anger or displeasure, **Genesis 4:6** And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

**V. 6. Wroth.** Cain burned with violent anger:

The **context** of the LORD's words to Cain is Cain's uncontrolled anger. Did Cain blame Abel for his rejection by God and kill him?

**First, anger at God** because God accepted Abel's offering and not his? Cain's anger toward God was so strong that he took that anger out on his brother, and killed him. **Second, his anger** could have been motivated by envy toward his brother because Abel succeeded where he had failed. The LORD is speaking to Cain in **Genesis 4:7.** The context is v. 6, burning wrath, or intense anger:

*If you do well, are you not accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lying at the door. And its desire is to rule over you, but you must rule over it.*

V. 7, the LORD tells Cain, **If thou doest well**, or if one please Me. **One's attitude toward the LORD will show in his countenance and actions.** It is quite easy to see into the heart of an individual according to the countenance of the face. Many times, their countenance will show us what kind of prayer they need. I know a pastor who is very proud of his position, yet his countenance is the darkest I have seen even on an unsaved man.

The LORD told Cain: Sin lies at your door and it desires to rule over you, but you must rule over it in order



to be accepted by Jehovah God. Control it or it will control you.

## Anger

Note the danger of anger; anger allows sin to rule over us. Paul develops the doctrine of anger found in Genesis 4:6:

**Ephesians 4:26** *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

All of us have been **angry**, sometimes angry enough to wish or to even work to harm the object of our anger. (*As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.* I would rather one be angry enough at me to kill me, but keep it in his heart.) We have seen how fits of anger can control a person enough to do bodily harm, e.g., “Road Rage.”

However, there are many things we are commanded to be angry about: **Be ye angry, and sin not.** That is, be angry enough to take **godly** action, but that anger must not control us.

**Genesis 4:7** lays a foundation for the doctrine of sin. **The New Testament develops the implications of v. 7. We are continually** warned that **it** lies at the door of every man, and waits for the slightest opportunity to pounce as a hungry lion and devour men, including professed Christians. The result of sin is evident everywhere we look, e.g., strife, hatred, lust, immorality, unspeakable evil acts that we cannot even imagine, murder and wars. Acts 7:9, Romans 1, 1 Timothy 6: 4, Titus 3:3, James 4:1, &c.

**Comment:** The establishment has worked very hard to create racial anger, even hatred, convincing “non-whites” that all their problems are due to the oppressions of the “whites.” That anger is boiling over in unprovoked attacks against “whites.” A “Race War” will only increase the power of the State.

**The power of Christ did not stop sin’s desire to rule;** rather, Christ’s power provides the strength for man to either rule over **it**, or be destroyed by **it**, i.e., *Sin lies at your door and it desires to rule over you, but you must rule over it in order to be accepted by Jehovah God.*

The New Testament develops the Old Testament requirement of a proper blood sacrifice needed to be accepted by Jehovah God. We are told of the utter worthlessness of any works one might do to please God for

remission of sin. The New Testament warns of the danger of and the tenacity of **it**. Scripture defines how **it** can be and must be ruled over if one will have the **respect** or the approval of God. (Gal 2:8, 9)

**1 Peter 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

Satan is a creature, and is not omni-present, but sin certainly is omni-present in our fallen nature, and it seeks for any opportunity to claim a victim.

**Sin:** As does a mouse in the winter look for and taking advantage of any chance to invade the house, **it, sin, lies at the door**, always ready to invade at the slightest opportunity. (As we opened the garage door, we saw a mouse dart into the house and disappear.) **It, sin,** will fight against any effort to expose and remove **it**. One must fight to keep **it** from gaining entrance, and when **it** does enter, one must search everywhere with the light of God’s word to find **it**, so **it** can be cast out.

**Hebrews 3:13** (*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*) tells us that **it** is exceedingly deceitful. **It** can creep in, and hide **itself** even behind good works and a fair countenance. We must continually examine ourselves in the light of the word of God for any hidden spirit of anger. 2 Corinthians 13:5.

**Romans 6:12** *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

**From the cradle to the grave, it** desires to reign over us. There is no rest in this warfare against **it**, as **it** seeks every opportunity to take control of our spirit. There is no avoiding the fact that our countenance, words, and our outward appearance, betrays the heart.

God requires that we continually compare ourselves with the His Law-Word. **1 Corinthians 11:28** *But let a man examine himself,* and pray that God will reveal that hidden sin, so **it** might be cast out:

**Philippians 3:15** *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.*



The pure in heart are those who submit themselves to the cleansing of the Holy Spirit, who allow their lives, their thoughts, their actions to be governed by God. The result of that cleansing will be a life of striving for faithfulness to every word that proceeds *from the mouth of God*.

The means of purification is provided in **Titus 2:14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. A Christian must not be like other men, but he must always be watchful for even little sins:

**1 Thessalonians 5:6ff.** *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (See Canticles 2:15)*

The context of Genesis 4:7 **is the anger, bitterness and wrath** that Cain had in his heart. Rather than controlling that anger, he allowed it to control him.

**1 Corinthians 10:11** tells us that all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

#### Lessons for us

**1) We must understand that all anger and rebellion is against God.** We may take our anger out on our brother, sister, parents or anyone around us, but it is against God. David said, *Against thee, and thee only have I sinned.*

**2) The ungodly are so angry at God** and His Law-Word that they must take that anger out on those nations whose laws reflect His laws and on the innocent who are trying to follow His laws.

**3) Cain gave place to the devil**, allowed his anger to take over, and he killed his own brother.

**4) Paul tells us that anger is a primary way** sin gains control. In Cain's situation, he was told that if he did not control **it**, **it** would control him, and **it** did as he killed his brother

**5) The power of Christ does not stop** that desire of **it** to rule over us; rather, the power of the resurrected Christ breaks **its** power, and allows his people to rule over **it**.

**6) By force of will**, one might be able to control his spirit and put on a good outward appearance, but not the countenance or look on his face. The countenance will reveal the truth: forced or real. Also, the spirit in our

words will betray the attitude of the heart.

**7) How many times have we caused frustration** on the face of others? They may not say anything to us, but it is in their face.

**8) Internal sin that is revealed** in the face cannot be controlled by the law, but only by the grace of God working in the heart of the individual. It is the Spirit of Christ who must change the countenance of a person by changing the attitude of the heart.

**9) Victimization.** Cain was convinced that he was a victim of God. Cain knew better, yet he was angry because God refused to accept the works of his hands as an offering for sin.

**10) Cain denied responsibility** as he said, *Am I my brother's keeper?* But he could not hide from God, nor can we. God held him responsible as God placed his curse upon him and his **seed**. Today, no one is held responsible for anything, which is a message all in itself.

**Everyone desires to paint themselves a victim** rather than take personal responsibility, *e.g.*, the so-called opioid crisis is not the fault of the drug manufacturers nor of the drug runners; it is the fault of the users. I recently saw a large billboard that said, "Drug Addiction is a Disease," implying that the druggie is not responsible for his sin, nor for anything he might do under the influence; the mass shootings are not the fault of the gun manufacturers, but is the fault of those holding the gun. How much fault lies with the pulpits for refusing to preach responsibility? There are multitudes of people killed in car wrecks, but there is no public outcry for the car manufacturers to stop making cars. (The EV are proving to be a public hazard, *e.g.*, don't charge it in the garage. It may catch fire. It may lock up on a freeway.) Alcohol causes untold damage in every area including family and finances, yet there is no cry against it. Gambling has placed many in the poorhouse, yet the state loudly promotes it. These destructive vices are to be controlled by law, but only grace can solve the sin problem, Romans 13. Remember Frank Sinatra and "**I Did it my Way?**" When we do it our way and fail, rather than take responsibility, we blame God or others.

**11) As one gets** get older, it is much easier for various distresses to gain control.

**John 8:36** *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. Ephesians 5:1* *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us*

*an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

We live in a sin cursed world, and we should not be surprised when sinners look and act like sinners. We must rule over *it* in order to please and be accepted by Jehovah God. We as Christians have the power and authority to take control of that anger, bitterness and rebellion against God. We are responsible to tell the world about the only true peace and Freedom.



How many times have we refused to take responsibility, particularly before God? *Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, i.e.,* “Show yourselves strong, put forth all your strength and courage, and once for all act like brave and valiant men,” or you will be servants unto sin. (Poole, 1 Sam 4:9)

2023 needs to be a year for taking responsibility as required by the Word of God. Determine to seriously read the Word with a desire for the Spirit to reveal responsibility and give the power to fulfill that responsibility. Seek out hidden sins and let the Spirit clean house of any spirt of anger. (Matt 12:44)

**Hosea 4:9** *And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.*

That is, the LORD raises up leaders after the hearts of his people. We have been told that only as professed Christians live out what they say they believe will God raise up Godly leaders. (1 Pet 4:17)

Our countenance will reveal what is in our heart.

**Psalms 119:135** *Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.* **Psalms 42:5** *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and [why] art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him [for] the **help of his countenance.*** **salms 42:11** *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, [who is] the **health of my countenance, and my God.***

“The countenance is often a true index to the mind.” (J. Denham Smith, 1860. TOD. See Romans 5)

The heart behind those distressed faces shows that

they obviously have a tremendous turmoil, even guilty conscience in their heart. I realize that “The eyes are a window to the heart” is not scriptural, but it is true. Troubled heart? God’s own children may be cast down by sin and guilt; ask yourself, Why? and then flee to the cross for the joy and peace that only the Lord can provide.

**End Note.** Some time ago, I met a very lovely and radiant young black nurse at the VA hospital rehab clinic. When we were finished, she walked me out to the waiting room, and I asked her if she was a Christian. She said, Why do you ask? She replied, Yes, I am. How did you know? I told her that it was the countenance of her face. I asked her why she was not married, and if she wanted to marry. She answered yes, and said there are no men worth marrying. That was sad but true statement, especially for committed Christian black women. The problem is not only rampant in the black community, but due to the anti-Christ education and the parents who have turned over the education of their children over to the state and wimpy pulpits, the problem is equally bad in the non-black community.

Over the years, my wife and I have seen a dramatic growth in the homeschool movement. Those Christian families are training their children in respect, obedience and a godly work ethic.

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## BEING AN EXAMPLE

Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg

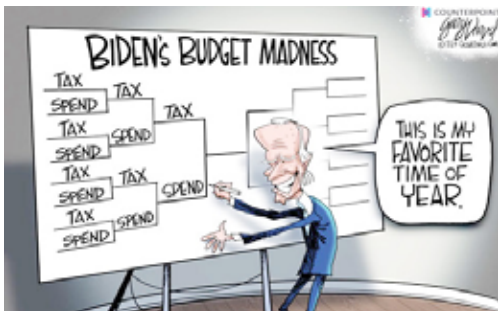
“Let no man despise thy youth; be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1 Tim. 4:12

There was a Polish prince who customarily always carried a picture of his father near his heart. At special times he would retrieve the picture and say, “Let me do nothing unbecoming so excellent a father.” As we think of our Saviour given to us by our Father in Heaven, we should never want to do anything unbecoming our heavenly Father. Neither should we want to do anything unbecoming of our earthly father or our Confederate grandfathers, great grandfathers, great great grandfathers. The Bible reminds us to give honor to whom honor is due.

I think of a remark by the Rev. Richard Cecil (1748-1810) who was an excellent writer as well as a profound preacher; he declared, “Example is more forceful than precept. People look at me six days a week to see

what I mean on the seventh day.”

Paul, in this passage, was encouraging Timothy regarding the importance of an exemplary life. Paul’s words to him were, “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” It is important to not only be an example to others, but we should



be a model of the believer for others. A Christ-like life has no effective argument against it. Timothy was to reflect this kind of

life verbally (in word), and behaviorally (in conversation) but manifestly in love, faith, and purity. His life was to be a life of faith. The entirety of Timothy’s life was important internally, eternally, and externally. One is reminded of the Christian lives of such men as Lee, Jackson, Pelham, etc.

On one occasion a rental agent had some Christian ladies recommended to him as “practicing Christians.” He inquired, “What’s a practicing Christian?” The one making the recommendation replied, “A practicing Christian is a debt-paying, neighbor-loving, law-abiding, Christ-glorifying person—a person who practices what he preaches.” Yes, a practicing Christian is one who honors his father and mother as well as his Confederate ancestors.

We need to be like our God. Dr. Ida Scudder was making her morning rounds in the hospital in Vellore, India, and a Muslim woman asked her, “Tell me. I want to know. Why didn’t you lose your temper with me the time I spoke so abusively of you?” But before the doctor could answer, a Hindu woman in the next bed said, “Don’t you know why? Her God is long-suffering and slow to anger, and she is like her God.”

To be a faithful servant of Christ one must be exemplary. What does that mean? There are two imperatives connected by the strong adversative “but.” And like a good car battery it has a negative and positive post.

### I. Negatively

Timothy must not allow his youth to be despised—“Let no man despise thy youth” (v.12a). Chrysostom

paraphrased it, “Let no man despise thee on account of thy youth.” What is the meaning of “youth” in this verse? This particular Greek word refers to someone who is under the age of 40, and Timothy was possibly between 35 and 40. The emphasis on Timothy’s age may have arisen because the elders in the church at Ephesus were much older and apt to look down on him. We must not allow anyone to despise our age—whatever it is! The Lord should be honored in our lives at every age.

What Timothy must not do is to let anyone “despise” his youth. It means that he must not let anyone look down on him mentally, think little of him, or push him around.

### II. Positively

Timothy must “be an example of the believers” (v.12b). The word “example” means a pattern. This is like a Greek child who has a wax tablet with the alphabet imbedded in it for him to trace to learn his letters. He is not just an example to them, but he is also a model for them. What kind of pattern was he to be? He was to be [1] a Christian pattern in his outward way of life—“in word, in conversation,” [2] a Christian pattern in ruling principles of life—“in charity, in spirit, in faith,” and [3] a Christian pattern in the consecration of life—“in purity.”

He is to be a pattern “in word.” There must be verbal veracity. One’s word must be his bond. The use of public speech, private speech, and speech that involves preaching, teaching, exhorting or writing is referred to here. The tongue can be a dangerous instrument full of deadly poison, James said, so we should be slow to speak (James 3:8; 1:19). Timothy’s speech should be full of grace and seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6). The truth must be spoken in love (Eph. 4:15).

He is to be a pattern “in conversation or conduct.” There must be external behavioral continuity (James 3:3; 1 Peter 3:1-2, 16; 1 Cor. 11:1). This is the revelation of character. The deportment of life can undermine the weight of words. This deals with the conduct in the local church, the community, the home, and the state. The use of words and the behavioral activities show motive.

He is to be a pattern “in charity or love.” There must be the internal motive of love in all Christian service. Our internal love for God is evident in our external love toward God’s people (1 John 4:20-21). If a man has the

tongue of men or angels and has not love, he is nothing. This is a ruling principle in one's life. Think of 1 Corinthians 13.

He is to be a pattern "in spirit." There must be an internal governing of passions. There is a need for meekness and a forgiving disposition. And perhaps it also refers to the spring of zeal (Col. 3:23). As Robert G. Gromacki remarked, "The spirit is the self, the spiritual, mental, and emotional center of activity." This is a ruling principle in one's life.

He is to be a pattern "in faith." There must be a pervading confidence in God for all of life. And this will evidence itself in trustworthiness and faithfulness. This is another ruling principle of life. We are to walk by faith and not by sight.

He is to be a pattern "in purity." There must be a principle of consecration helping govern the life (thus signifying a spiritual atmosphere of life). Timothy must be personally chaste, pure in intentions, and show sincerity of character. Purity in thought, word, and deed is of necessity (Phil. 4:8). Unto the pure all things are pure.

**CONCLUSION:** We are to be examples, and we are examples. We are examples of one kind or another. The descendants of God-loving, Christ-exalting, Holy Spirit-indwelt Confederates should exemplify their ancestors in consecrated lives. Wearing period clothing does not exemplify them. The love of Christ should constrain us.

The greatest commentary on what the Bible teaches on Christian living is the faithful obedience of the child of God. Dr. R. L. Dabney, the Confederate Chaplain explained, "The light of holy example is the gospel's main argument."

C. H. Spurgeon exposed the heart of it all when he said, "Our lives should be such as men may safely copy." And William Bates (1625-1699) the Puritan preacher wrote, "Precepts instruct us what things are our duty, but examples assure us that they are possible.... When we see men like ourselves, who are united to frail flesh and in the same condition with us, to command their passions, to overcome the most glorious and glittering temptations, we are encouraged in our spiritual warfare."

My View

## I SURVIVED A FAILED ABORTION ATTEMPT

By Melissa Ohden

Some people find it impossible to believe my story.

At the annual March for Life a few years ago, I held up a sign that revealed the shocking truth about my birth: "Aborted cS survived. Ask me about my rights as a woman." My pre-teen daughter, standing beside me, held a companion sign: "Alive because my mom survived."

A woman frowned as she stood nearby, shaking her head as she examined the words. My daughter locked eyes with her, nodding "yes" in response. The woman's headshaking grew more emphatic, as did my daughter's nods. Finally, my daughter told her plainly, "Yeah, my mom survived an abortion." But the woman kept shaking her head. No.

I understood her skepticism. I once had a hard time believing it myself.

As a small child, I enjoyed a normal, happy childhood. Growing up in Iowa, I was part of an adoptive family with a mom, a dad, and a big sister who was my nearly constant companion.

My sister and I were raised to think of adoption as a gift. I counted myself doubly loved — by the parents who had chosen me and by the birth mother who had given me over to their care. But that tidy story began

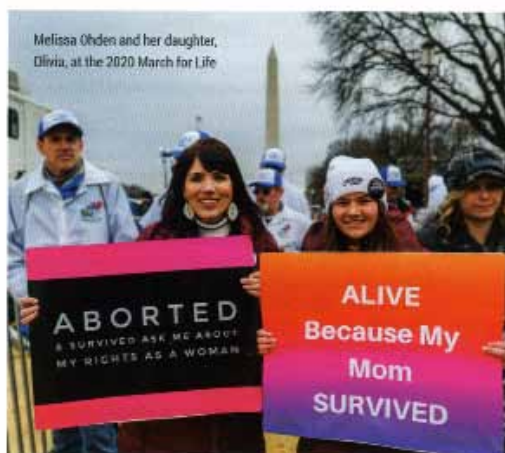
to unravel when I was 14 and my sister shouted in the middle of an argument, "You know, Missy, at least my biological parents wanted me!"

I felt like the wind had been knocked out of me. What did that mean? That night, still shaken, I approached my mom for answers. It took hours for her to finally say the words: "Missy, your biological mother had an abortion during her

pregnancy with you ... and you survived it." I was stunned, didn't know that abortions could fail, that babies could live after someone tried to end their lives.

Years went by before I learned the full story.

My birth mother, Ruth, was a 19-year-old college stu-





dent when she went to a hospital in Sioux City, Iowa, for a saline abortion. The procedure involved injecting a toxic salt solution into the amniotic fluid surrounding me,

intended to poison and scald me to death. I soaked in that toxic solution for five days. On the fifth day, I was finally expelled from the womb ... still alive.

Weighing less than three pounds, I was laid aside to die. Then a nurse noticed my weak cries and rushed me to the NICU. Against all odds, I survived.

Learning the truth about my birth left me feeling ashamed, hurt, and angry. Had my biological mother really thought so little of me, to try and end my life that way?

At first, I wanted to distance myself from the pain. I began abusing alcohol and developed an eating disorder. Eventually, though, I let go of my bitterness and chose to be grateful — knowing I was loved by my adoptive family and valued by the God who had created me.

When I was 19,<sup>1</sup> embarked on what would be a decade-long search for my biological mother. When we finally connected by email, I learned that she had spent 30 years believing I had died that day at the hospital. Three years later, when we finally met in person, I was struck by the regret I saw in her eyes.

Ruth had never wanted an abortion. The decision had been forced upon her by her mother, a prominent nurse in their community, with the help of a colleague who was the local abortionist. After I was born, it was my grandmother who told her colleagues to “leave the baby in the room to die.” Apparently convinced she’d made the right decision, my grandmother openly shared this with family members.

By chance, Ruth and I both live in Kansas City, along with one of my biological half-sisters. We see each other regularly, and I consider my biological family an important part of my life.

Around the time I connected with my birth mother,

I began sharing my story publicly — first on college campuses, then more broadly. Sometimes I heard from other survivors, and discovered that many were struggling with the same kind of trauma I had experienced after learning the truth about my birth.

“Lord,” I prayed one day, “somebody’s got to do something about all these needs that survivors have.”

Then I realized that “somebody” was me.

In 2019,<sup>1</sup> I launched the Abortion Survivors Network, which offers support to survivors of failed abortions while educating the public that such survivors exist.

So far, the network has connected over 600 abortion survivors, many drawing quiet comfort from knowing others with a birth experience like their own. Others have chosen to share their story publicly.

As our network grows, so does awareness that abortion survivors exist. When I began sharing my story in the early 2000s, a common response was, “Oh, that didn’t happen. She must be a liar.” But now we have this growing community, with more and more survivors telling their stories. And it’s harder to discredit when it’s not just one story, but a phenomenon affecting an entire population.

This year, we’re working to enlist ambassadors from every state in our network. They will be trained in how to advocate for life, particularly for born-alive legislation that offers legal protection to newborns who survive abortion attempts. This is already happening on a small scale, but we’re taking it to a whole new level. We’re giving survivors the opportunity to be seen and heard.

That testimony is powerful in a culture hardened to the violence of abortion after 50 years under Roe v. Wade’s deadly rule. We can talk about the humanity of the unborn child, but no one understands the brutality of abortion like someone who’s survived that attempted murder. Our stories are a compelling reminder that abortion is not about a “choice,” but a child.

World Magazine. [wng.org](http://wng.org)

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## THE MUSLIMS HAVE A PLAN

By Rev. Need

A year ago, a Christian brother put [REDACTED] in contact with me about the Examiner. He was moving to the Philippines, and asked to be placed on the mailing list. He used the Examiner in a Bible study he hosted.

After he got there, I asked him about the Muslim situation there. He sent me a good response that I thought I saved, but... So, I wrote to him to remind me what he said. The Muslim’s are quietly taking control of the Philippines, using tactics that Christians should be using here. Because we are failing in this very practical Christian action, the wicked have taken control.

Here is his letter. I have highlighted important points and put in a few comments.

Hi Bro Ovid,

It's good to hear from you. How is your health? I hope you are doing well. Thanks for emailing me the examiners every month.

I found the part of the conversation I referenced before in an email dated April 7, 2022:

“The muslim influence is strong although they have retreated back to their usual territory after Christians created a ‘prayer wall’ stretching 100km. They prayed the muslims wouldn’t cross the prayer wall. Although nothing physically stopped them, many of the muslims DID move back within a year or so! The muslims are very, very organized. It’s impressive actually. They bring in business leaders from other countries and **train their people up to create and scale businesses**. Muslims here are generally “rich” because they are usually business owners. They also have a **strategic plan to apply to every open government job**. They know that over a generation, muslims can control the entire government. Even if they don’t serve in elected positions, they will still effectively control the government via staff positions.” (1)

Update to that:

I have not heard any update if the prayer wall is continuing. The people I knew that participated in it have moved and I don’t know anyone else involved. I suspect it’s continuing. It’s also interesting that people are very sometimes (5-10% of the time) very bold in their real estate postings. Some will say “Christian only” (generally meaning Catholics here) or “Open to Christian or Muslim buyer.” I’d say that around half of people, and maybe more, will not sell to a muslim person---they just won’t advertise it. The muslim people tend to find an area to live and then invite their friends, and then the whole block becomes muslim over time. I doubt that’s unique to muslims though--I bet a lot of “minorities” do that in every place. (2)

While muslims are the minority here, they take up roughly half of government jobs by my observation. (3) Here are the stats from Wikipedia:

Religion (2015)

88.7% Christianity

79.5% Catholicism

9.1% Other Christian

6.0% Islam

5.3% Other / None

It’s actually a very smart way to take over a country over a generation or two! I think the principal can and should be used in America. The leftists tend to be in government in many parts of the country. I think it’s essential for every common sense person (even if I don’t agree with them) to get involved in their community. That may be serving on a parks & rec board or other governing board, or the city council itself. People should pick something they have an interest in and commit to only what they can. A lot of these roles are only once a month for a couple hours. If people aspire to more, great, but we should all do something. We need to teach this in our churches as I think it’s a calling of a Christian to seek the welfare of our communities. People love to put this secular/sacred divide on their lives as Christians. (4) I have some personal stories about how God taught me that. Some of my most effective influence people ever allowed me to have in their life was actually not by my intentional effort; it was by God’s grace and people recognizing “something is different.” That difference is Christ and the Holy Spirit that dwells within.

Take care Bro.

Blessings,



People think that politics starts at the top but I strongly believe all politics are local.

**Update, 3/10/23**

I agree it [the above, ed.] needs to be published and the Muslims are doing what the Christians should be doing (everywhere).

My ministry has been slow here but that’s OK. I find God uses me best when I am available to respond to needs. Sometimes this is a full time job and sometimes I’m doing other things and waiting upon the Lord for instructions. I’m at peace with how the Lord directs me because I’ve seen that his ways are so much better than my ways, time and time again hahaha.

**Observations:**

We have generally allowed the ungodly to fill the empty places at the local level. However, in our conservative small communities, professed Christians seem to occupy most of the local offices.

1) How right the Muslims are. Unelected bureaucrats

control the government. Read the above closely, and apply it to what Christians do. The Muslims are very organized. Christians seem to be more interested in protecting their turf than in taking over a community for the Kingdom

2) *E.g.*, in Detroit, Muslims have their own police force, and live by Sharia law. Some cities have even made animal sacrifice legal. London has been taken over by Muslims.

3) In the Philippines and with only 6% of the population, the Muslims are taking over the local authorities! A much larger percentage in the US claim Christianity, yet the ungodly occupy those very influential places on the local level. However, in our small rural communities, the local positions are occupied by Christians. Do they operate according to a Biblical World-View is a different story?

**Conclusion:** Does such a supposed separation between the Christian religion and the a “secular state” release one from responsibility for his community?

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## SEEKING A SAVIOR

Muslims are increasingly interested in Christianity, but is the Church ready to give an answer?

... Conversions from Islam to Christianity, once rare, are multiplying exponentially around the globe. Some who study these trends claim more Muslims have professed faith in Christ during the past four decades than in the past two millennia. ...

Several factors have contributed to this trend, including Muslim immigration in the wake of political unrest and the explosion of Christian media outreach. Dreams about Jesus are another factor sending Muslims on a journey to learn more about the God of the Bible. (More on that in a moment.)

“We used to hear maybe of a person coming to faith maybe once a year,” said Fouad Masri, CEO of Crescent Project. “But now every week we see people downloading Bibles.” Masri founded his ministry in 1993 to equip the Church to reach the growing number of Muslims in the United States. Crescent Project now has seven Muslim-background believers on staff and a digital outreach with 500 volunteers regularly talking to Muslims online. ...

Mike Westerfield grew up in a Christian home and encountered Islam while working as a correctional of-



ficer at a prison. Muslim inmates gave him Islamic literature challenging Christianity, and he found himself drowning in the doubts he failed to adequately address during Bible college. After three years of study, he became a Muslim in early 2001.

He fully immersed himself in Islam—working as a Muslim chaplain, praying five times a day, raising his kids in the faith, and studying to be an imam. But

for seven of his 12 years as a Muslim, he felt unsettled.

Early one morning in 2012, Westerfield had a vivid dream of Jesus that included a flood of crimson blood drowning him as he ran. Then he was suddenly filled with peace. When he woke up, he was convinced the dream came from an evil spirit, until a colleague approached him the next day at work. “He said, ‘Jesus told me to tell you that He loves you.’ And it’s just like the dream came back again. I just broke down crying at work,” Westerfield said. ...

World magazine, March 25, 2023

“More Than Dreams” tells the compelling, true stories of five Muslims from five countries who share one life-changing experience. Each of them saw Jesus Christ in a dream or vision and their lives were forever transformed.

<http://morethandreams.org/>

I have the video, and in each case the dream told the person where to go to hear the gospel.

Brad Peppo has a work in Dayton OH. Some time ago, a Muslim approached him wanting to learn English so he read about Jesus on his own. That request turned into a very effective ministry among the Muslims who desire to learn English, as he uses the Bible to teach the class.

God is moving in the hardened hearts of the Muslims. Our prayer is that he would have a similar movement in the hardened hearts of self-professed Christians.

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## MURPHY’S TECHNOLOGY LAWS

\* Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.

\* Technology is dominated by those who manage what they do not understand.

- \* If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization.
- \* The opulence of the front office decor varies inversely with the fundamental solvency of the firm.
- \* The attention span of a computer is only as long as it 's electrical cord.
- \* An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing.
- \* Tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint on it and he'll have to touch to be sure. Great discoveries are made by mistake.
- \* Nothing ever gets built on schedule or within budget.
- \* All's well that ends.
- \* A meeting is an event at which the minutes are kept and the hours are lost.
- \* The first myth of management is that it exists.
- \* A failure will not appear till a unit has passed final inspection.
- \* New systems generate new problems.
- \* To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.
- \* We don't know one millionth of one percent about anything.
- \* A computer makes as many mistakes in two seconds as 20 men working 20 years make.
- \* Nothing motivates a man more than to see his boss putting in an honest day's work.
- \* Some people manage by the book, even though they don't know who wrote the book or even what book.
- \* The primary function of the design engineer is to make things difficult for the fabricator and impossible for the serviceman.
- \* After all is said and done, a lot more is said than done.
- \* A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works.
- \* If mathematically you end up with the incorrect answer, try multiplying by the page number.
- \* Computers are unreliable, but humans are even more unreliable. Any system which depends on human reliability is unreliable.
- \* .Give all orders verbally. Never write anything down that might go into a "Pearl Harbor File."
- \* If you can't understand it, it is intuitively obvious.
- \* In designing any type of construction, no overall dimension can be totaled correctly after 4:30 p.m. on Friday. The correct total will become self-evident at 8:15 a.m. on Monday.
- \* All things are possible except skiing through a revolving door.
- \* The only perfect science is hind-sight.
- \* Work smarder and not harder and be careful of yor speling.
- \* If it's not in the computer, it doesn't exist.
- \* If an experiment works, something has gone wrong.
- \* When all else fails, read the instructions. (My brother used to say, "You mean I gotta read?") He was the DBA for Herf-



Jones.)

- \* If there is a possibility of several things going wrong the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.
- \* Everything that goes up must come down. Corollary: Not always
- \* Any instrument when dropped will roll into the least accessible corner.
- \* Any simple theory will be worded in the most complicated way.
- \* Build a system that even a fool can use and only a fool will want to use it.
- \* The degree of technical competence is inversely proportional to the level of management.
- \* A difficult task will be halted near completion by one tiny, previously insignificant detail.
- \* There is never time to do it right, but always time to do it over.
- \* The remaining work to finish in order to reach your goal increases as the deadline approaches.

## PERSONAL

We spent 10 days in March traveling through the south while we are still able to travel. We visited one of Bettie's sisters in NC, another in SC, then Bro. Morecraft in Georgia, whom Bettie went to college, then to her oldest daughter in Enterprise AL, then my oldest daughter in Nashville. It was a lot of time on the road, but worth the time and effort.

Bettie's yearly mammogram showed an unwelcome spot where a cancerous lymph node was removed. The spot is cancer. We do not know yet what all will be involved this time. This discovery motivated several of the articles in this Examiner. Pray for us,

**Planned Move to Iowa:** Everything is on hold with this new cancer development and other things. There are so many things we could say about Divine Providence, but let it suffice to say with **Job 23:10** *But he knoweth the way that I take: [when] he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

**Next Examiner:** Treatment was over an hour away depending on traffic, so a great amount of time may be spent on the road for treatments as happened 2 years ago. As we have said, the **Examiner is published as we have TIME and funds.** Time has always been the problem. We will keep folks up to date through Facebook.



## Days of Noah

On our way to church 2/26, we were listening to a program in a local radio station. On Sunday mornings, that station feature messages from local churches. Some of those programs might be worth listening to though they all seem to have the same basic message with no practical application except their brand of salvation.

The message that caught my attention was when the preacher referred to “as in the days of Noah...” as he emphasized necessity of salvation. (We have heard none of those radio preachers clearly present the plan of salvation that mentions anything about the responsibilities of conversion. Few even mention the necessity of trusting in the redemptive work of Christ.)

**Days of Noah!** Matthew 24:37-39. Matthew **23:34-39** make it clear that the terrible tribulation spoken of in chapter 24 looked forward to the very soon coming destruction of Jerusalem, 70 AD. We are not saying that there is not an abundance of drunkenness, fornication and adultery in our day, but the context of the passage of *day of Noah* was referring to the social climate just before 70 AD.

People need to pay attention as they read Scripture, particularly to the time period in which it was written and the context.

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### Small Things

## SAINT PATRICK’S DAY

By Rev. Need

As Paul Harvey used to say, “Here is the rest of the Story.”



The book “The Reformation in England” was recommended to us, and we spend time on the road reading it. It would have been nice to have this account of Maewyn Seccate in time to publish the facts behind St.

Patrick’s day.

**Zechariah 4:10** *For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel [with] those seven; they [are] the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.*

From one young boy to the Conversion of England, Europe and the Western world, c. 400 AD

After the extraordinary manifestations of the Holy Ghost, which had produced and distinguished the apostolic age, the church had been left to the inward power of the Word and of the Comforter. But Christians did not generally comprehend the spiritual life to which they were called. God had been pleased to give them a divine religion; and this they gradually assimilated more and more to the religions of human origin. Instead of saying, in the spirit of the gospel, the Word of God first, and through it the doctrine and the life—the doctrine and the life, and through them the forms; they said, forms first, and salvation by these forms. They began to ascribe to bishops a power which belongs only to Holy Scripture. Instead of ministers of the Word, they desired to have priests; instead of an inward sacrifice, a sacrifice offered on the altar; and costly temples instead of a living church. They began to seek in men, in ceremonies, and in holy places, what they could find only in the Word and in the lively faith of the children of God. In this manner evangelical religion gradually gave place to Catholicism, and by gradual degeneration in after-years Catholicism gave birth to Popery.

This grievous transformation took place more particularly in the East, in Africa, and in Italy. Britain was at first comparatively exempt. At the very time that the savage Picts and Scots, rushing from their heathen homes, were devastating the country, spreading terror on all sides, and reducing the people to slavery, we discover here and there some humble Christian receiving salvation not by a clerical sacramentalism, but by the work of the Holy Ghost in the heart. At the end of the fourth century we meet with an illustrious example of such conversions.

At this period, in the Christian village of Bannavern, a little boy, of tender heart, lively temperament, and indefatigable activity, passed the earlier days of his life. He was born about the year a.d. 385, of a British family, and was named Succat. His father was Calpurnius, deacon of the church of Bannavern, a simple-hearted pious man. Doubtless his parents endeavoured to instil into his heart the doctrines of Christianity; but Succat did not understand them. He was fond of pleasure, and delighted to be the leader of his youthful companions.

Then a terrible calamity befell him. One day as he was playing near the seashore with two of his sisters, some Irish pirates, commanded by O'Neal, carried them all three off to their boats, and sold them in Ireland to the petty chieftain of some pagan clan. Succat was sent into the fields to keep swine. It was while alone in these solitary pastures, without priest and without temple, that the young slave called to mind the Divine lessons which his pious parents had so often read to him. The faults which he had committed pressed heavily night and day upon his soul: he groaned in heart, and wept. He turned repenting towards that meek Saviour of whom his parents had so often spoken; he fell at His knees in that heathen land, and imagined he felt the arms of a father uplifting the prodigal son. Succat was then born from on high, but by an agent so spiritual and unseen that he knew not "whence it cometh or whither it goeth." The gospel was written with the finger of God on the tablets of his heart. "I was sixteen years old," said he, "and knew not the true God; but in that strange land the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes, and, although late, I called my sins to mind, and was converted with my whole heart to the Lord my God, who regarded my low estate, had pity on my youth and ignorance, and consoled me as a father consoles his children."

Such words as these from the lips of a swineherd in the green pastures of Ireland set clearly before us the Christianity which in the fourth and fifth centuries converted many souls in the British isles. In after-years, Rome established the dominion of the priest and salvation by forms, independently of the dispositions of the heart; but the primitive religion of these celebrated islands was that living Christianity whose substance is the grace of Jesus Christ, and whose power is the grace of the Holy Ghost. The herdsman from Bannavern was then undergoing those experiences which so many evangelical Christians in Britain have subsequently undergone. "The love of God increased more and more in me," said he, "with faith and the fear of His name. The Spirit urged me to such a degree that I poured forth as many as a hundred prayers in one day. And even during the night, in the forests and on the mountains where I kept my herd, the rain, and snow, and frost, and sufferings which I endured, excited me to seek after God. At that time, I felt not the indifference which now I feel: the Spirit fermented in my heart." Evangelical faith even then existed in the British islands in the person of this slave, and of some few Christians born again, like him, from on high.

Twice a captive and twice rescued, Succat, after returning to his family, felt an irresistible appeal in his heart. It was his duty to carry the gospel to those Irish pagans among whom he had found Jesus Christ. His parents

and his friends endeavoured in vain to detain him; the same ardent desire pursued him in his dreams. During the silent watches of the night he fancied he heard voices calling to him from the dark forests of Erin: "Come, holy child, and walk once more among us." He awoke in tears, his breast filled with the keenest emotion. He tore himself from the arms of his parents, and rushed forth—not as heretofore with his playfellows, when he would climb the summit of some lofty hill—but with a heart full of charity in Christ. He departed: "It was not done of my own strength," said he; "it was God who overcame all."

**Succat, afterwards known as Saint Patrick**, and to which name, as to that of St Peter and other servants of God, many superstitions have been attached, returned to Ireland, but **without visiting Rome**, as an historian of the twelfth century has asserted. Ever active, prompt, and ingenious, he collected the pagan tribes in the fields by beat of drum, and then narrated to them in their own tongue the history of the Son of God. Ere long his simple recitals exercised a divine power over their rude hearts, and many souls were converted, not by external sacraments or by the worship of images, but by the preaching of the Word of God. The son of a chieftain, whom Patrick calls Benignus, learnt from him to proclaim the Gospel, and was destined to succeed him. The court bard, Dubrach Mac Valubair, no longer sang druidical hymns, but canticles addressed to Jesus Christ. Patrick was not entirely free from the errors of the time; perhaps he believed in pious miracles; but generally speaking we meet with nothing but the gospel in the earlier days of the British church.

Shortly before the evangelization of Patrick in Ireland, a **Briton named Pelagius**, having visited Italy, Africa, and Palestine, began to teach a strange doctrine. [See footnote.] Desirous of making head against the moral indifference into which most of the Christians in those countries had fallen, and which would appear to have been in strong contrast with the British austerity, he denied the doctrine of original sin, extolled free-will, and maintained that, if man made use of all the powers of his nature, he would attain perfection. We do not find that he taught these opinions in his own country; but from the continent, where he disseminated them, they soon reached Britain. The British churches refused to receive this "perverse doctrine," their historian (Bede) tells us, "and to blaspheme the grace of Jesus Christ." They do not appear to have held the strict doctrine of Saint Augustine: they believed indeed that man has need of an inward change, and that this the divine power alone can effect; but they seem to have conceded something to our natural strength in the work of conversion; and Pelagius, with a good intention it would appear, went still further.



However that may be, these churches, strangers to the controversy, were unacquainted with all its subtleties. Two Gaulish bishops, Germanus of Auxerre and Lupus of Troyes, came to their aid, and appear to have silenced the heretics at St Albans.

Shortly after this, events of great importance took place in Great Britain, and the light of faith disappeared in profound night. In 449, Hengist and Horsa, with their Saxon followers, being invited by the wretched inhabitants to aid them against the cruel ravages of the Picts and Scots, soon turned their swords against the people they had come to assist. Christianity was driven back with the Britons into the mountains of Wales and the wild moors of Cumberland and Cornwall. Many British families remained in the midst of the conquerors, but without exercising any religious influence over them. ...

“The Reformation in England,” Vol. One, Merle d’Aubigne, pp. 26-33. Banner of Truth Trust. **Note:** Jean Henri Merle d’Aubigné (1794–1872), the most popular church historian of the nineteenth century, was born on 16 August 1794 into a well-known Huguenot family in Geneva. d’Aubigne was an excellent writer, and his writings will hold your attention. He gives detailed events surrounding the greatest events that shaped Western Civilization.

**Note: Pelagianism.** Armenism is semi-Pelagianism. I have a small booklet with a side-by-side comparison of Armenism and Calvinism. In it, I trace the origin and theology of each. It is available upon request.

**Note that Succat was converted** at the age of 16, and lit the fire that set the British Isles, and then the Western World on fire for Christ; he certainly should be celebrated. Rome fabricated a history to say he was “educated in the Roman tradition,” that he became a Roman deacon and missionary, and attached many “wonderous” miracles and tradition to him, so the faithful followers of Rome would venerate their make-believe saint. The church never canonized him as a Saint, but simply added Saint to his name. However, history tells us that Maewyn Succat was nothing like Rome has made him out to be; he was a simple and faithful follower of the Dear Lamb of God, not of any man. He certainly would

curse the drunken revelers that have come to be associated with him.

We were with my daughter in Tennessee, and she had her house decorated for St. Patrick’s day.

## CURE FOR ANXIETY

Rev. Need

**A Simple Thought on Faith** for personal comfort in very distressing situations, e.g., cancer.

**Matthew 6:30** *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, **O ye of little faith?***

There are many applications of the **faith** mentioned above, e.g., **Mark 9:24**, *Lord I believe: help my unbelief*; **Matthew 9:29**, *According to your faith be it unto you*; **Luke 17:19** *And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole, &c.* However, in our particular situation (cancer) my wife and myself find ourselves in considering v. 30 in its context a great encouragement in our time of anxiousness.

In Matthew 6:25-30, the Lord Jesus outlines God’s providential care of his creation: He feeds the birds; he clothes the flowers with such wonderous beauty yet they are here today and gone tomorrow. After Christ reviews these wonders of God’s care for smallest of his creation, he asks his disciples why they would doubt his care for his own. Then in vv. 33, 34, he concludes this short rebuke with the charge to **seek ye first the kingdom of God...** He tells them that it is a lack of faith to be anxious about tomorrow. Anxiousness reveals that we have **little faith** in his providential care for us as he illustrated with birds and grass.

The Lord tells us that God’s government is so total that it extends to the grass of the field, to the birds, to the very hairs of our head. He tells us that his people are within his providential plan, they are within the circle of his love. **Oh ye of little faith.** Our biggest problem is not the IRS, Washington D.C., the leadership of our state, Russia nor China. Our problem is our **little faith**, our almost faith, our brief, our flickering faith and our refusal to believe that God can and does control all things for his glory and for our good.

**Little faith** that our prayers will be answered?

**Salvian:**

The question is raised why, if everything in this world

is controlled by the care and governance and judgment of God, the condition of the barbarians is so much better than ours, why among us the fortune of good men is harder than that of the wicked. Why should upright men fall ill and reprobates recover? Why does the whole world fall prey to powers for the most part unjust? Perhaps a rational and fairly consistent answer would be: "I do not know." For I do not know the secrets of God. The oracle of his heavenly word is sufficient proof for me in this case. God says, as I have already proved in my earlier books, that all things are subject to his oversight, his rule and his judgment. If you wish to know what doctrines you must accept, you have the sacred writings: the perfect course is to hold fast what you have read in them.

Moreover, I would not have you ask me to account for God's actions in the cases of which I speak. I am a man; I do not understand the secrets of God, I do not dare search them out, I am afraid to pry into them, for to seek to know more than is permitted is in itself a kind of rash sacrilege. God says that he moves and ordains all things: let that suffice. Do you ask me why one man is greater and another less, one wretched and another happy, one strong and another weak? Why indeed God does such things I do not know, but the proof that he is the source of all actions should convince you fully. As God is greater than the sum total of human reason, our knowledge that everything is done by him ought to have more weight with us than reason alone. You do not need, therefore, to hear any new argument on this point; let God's authority be set over against all reason from any source whatever.

We are not at liberty to say that of the actions of the divine will one is just and another unjust, because whatever you see is done by God, whatever you are sure is done by him, you must confess is more than just. ...

(Salvian the Presbyter *On the Government of God*, p. 78 c. 440 AD)

### ***Little faith in prayers being answered?***

**A conclusion: *O ye of little faith.*** Christ outlined God's providential care for the least of his creation, and

then rebuked his disciples for their *little faith*. In the contest, it is *little faith* in God's total authority over EVERY ASPECT of his creation, particularly his providential care of his people that produces anxiety. Anxiety sets in when we do not see things work out according to our prayers. Our biggest problem is our *little faith*, our almost faith, our brief, our flickering faith and our refusal to believe, or trust in God's providential care for his own according to Romans 8:28, 29. (Prayers are to be offered in the spirit of "nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done," and contentment that his will shall be and is being done. Lk 22:42.)

"We are not at liberty to say that of the actions of the divine will one is just and another unjust, because whatever you see is done by God, whatever you are sure is done by him, you must confess is more than just."

Anxiousness and anxiety are a very real part of human nature: The cure for both is easier preached than practiced: Vv. 33, 34 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

**1 Timothy 6:6** *But godliness with contentment is great gain.* (Philip 4:11, Heb 13:5)

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## **CREATION HAS A PURPOSE**

By Rev. Need

My wife and I try to listen to a lecture by Rushdoony every evening. (Pocketcollege.com.) I started a subscription to his cassette tape ministry in the late 70s, and he has been one of my major instructors over the past 40 or so years. Everything is now available on CD or downloads. Rushdoony published several of my Examiner articles, and he wrote a Foreword for my book. Here is a short, instructive word adapted from his series on Providence.

**Creation has purpose because it comes from the hand of God.** That *purpose* is to subdue all thing to the Son.

Clearly, the eschatology of victory found in Scripture subduing all things not by the *arm of flesh*, Jeremiah 17:5, but by the power of the Spirit. Therefore, the doctrine of creation, providence and eschatology means that all things are working to accomplish the goal stated in Psalms 110:1 and restated throughout the New Testament. (Matt 22:44, Luke 20:43, Acts 2:35, Heb 1:13.) In





other words, the Biblical view of the end sees all things being subdued to the Son before the end: *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.* **1 Corinthians 15:24.** Note the wording, *shall have* which is past tense

**Jonah 2:9** *Salvation is of the LORD.*

**Zechariah 4:6** *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

In a few words, the doctrine of providence tells us that God's purpose rules and overrules in all things so that God never lets an iota of creation waver from his ordained purpose of subduing all things to the Son. Biblical Christianity requires an eschatology of hope and confidence in the future, Romans 8:28. Why pray if one does not believe that God controls the future?

Man is created in the image of God in terms of knowledge, righteousness, holiness, and dominion. So being created in the image of God, fallen man seeks to fulfil the terms of his creation without God, particularly in dominion. He therefore works to exalt himself as god, and exercise dominion without God, *e.g.*, Nimrod.

Man cannot live without meaning or without purpose; without purpose, he dies. The fallen nature seeks to find meaning in vacations, money, sex, "things," but all those things fail, for there is no meaning apart from the Christian faith. (Meaning: doing all things for the Glory of God.)

One of the dangers of retirement is the loss of meaning. I saw what it did to my dad. His desire was to build things out of wood after he retired from construction. He wanted to design and build, and not have to get his hands dirty as he did in handling heavy steel. He was an outstanding "mechanic" and welder. When a doctor put him on Coumadin with a warning about cutting about cutting himself, he was fearful of working with wood. With no meaning in life, he then sat in a chair and watched the birds. He did not last long. He died shortly after my wife died.

Conclusions:

• **The doctrine of providence tells us that God's creative purpose rules and overrules in all things so that God never lets an iota of creation waver from his ordained purpose.**

• **Scripture is a seamless garment; it cannot be rent without the destruction of it all.**

Every man has an "eschatological" outlook, and that outlook will control his life. Eschatological outlook of defeat equals what is the use of getting involved, or eschatological outlook of victory, let us get to work subduing all things to Jesus Christ. Humanism sees man working all things to the glory of man. Christianity sees man working to the Glory of God.

Where there is no providence, there can be no effective work for the Kingdom.

These articles are personally motivated. We find hope in them, and we pray you will also.

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## PASS THE BISCUITS

Great story and puts things in perspective.

When I was a kid, my Grandma liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day. On that evening so long ago, she had placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my Granddad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

Yet all my Granddad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Grandma and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing; never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Grandma apologize to my Granddad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then."

Later that night, I went to kiss Granddaddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Grandma put in a hard day of work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults, and choosing to celebrate each other's differences, is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

And that's my prayer for you today... that you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the

end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship!

So, please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burned one will do just fine.

From Pastor Bob McCurry, now with his Maker.

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## SECRET THINGS PUBLIC CONSEQUENCES

By Rev. Need

**The vain mind tells us that what goes on between “consenting adults” in private is no one’s business.**

The law-word of God militates against such ideas.

Remember this? Supreme Court Rejects Contraceptives Mandate for Some Corporations

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled that requiring family-owned corporations [Hobby Lobby, Conestoga] to pay for insurance coverage for contraception violated a federal law protecting religious freedom. Below, how the justices decided on this and other major cases this term and the implications of their decisions.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/us/hobby-lobby-case-supreme-court-contraception.html>

A picture posted with the article shows women holding signs, such as “Bosses – Keep your business in the boardroom not in our bedrooms”

The lie has been effective: “What goes on in private has no public consequences.” We are experiencing the public consequences of the secret things. Note that if man connects sin with the evil consequences, then he must admit he needs a saviour.

### God’s Word?

The secret things take place in the dark, secret places of the heart, and places hidden from the view of man. From the evil, darkened and dead heart, those things work their way out in works of “*all uncleanness with greediness*”. Just as righteousness and true holiness is revealed in the actions of the redeemed, all uncleanness is revealed in the actions of the lascivious persons, even as they try to hide their actions.

**John 3:19** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved*

*darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

Lasciviousness takes place in secret, but God rewards it openly. Secret activities are deadly serious, for though they are done in secret, they destroy the foundation of any society, the family.

### SECRET THINGS

**Leviticus 18** deals with family law. **Vv. 1-23** list sins against the family. **V. 21** deals with sacrificing one’s children to the state education system.

**In the past, the common law of this nation was Biblical law.** Those laws identified secret things as illegal, such as sodomy, adultery, and bestiality. But those laws have been overthrown even in many of our lifetimes. The Texas law against sodomy was overthrown some years ago, and state after state has removed laws against the most perverse act of bestiality. (The depths of sin is only limited by what man can imagine, Gen 8:21.)

Leviticus 18, as developed by Christ in Matthew 5:27ff, where he gives us God’s thoughts on the secret things of the heart. His word shows us that he is concerned about every detail of life, particularly the secret things of the heart which will produce actions. (As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.)

Through Moses, God prepares his people to be a peculiar treasure unto himself by separating them from the overwhelming pagan society which will surround them on every side:

**Leviticus 18:30** *Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinances that ye do not any of the abominable customs, which have been done before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: for I am the Lord your God.*

**Exodus 19:5** *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests,*

*and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exo. 19. 1 Peter 1:15, 16, 2:9.)*

**Secret sins that resulted in judgment:**



[Lev. 18] In this chapter the Israelites are directed in general not to imitate the customs and practices of the Egyptians and Canaanites, but to keep the ordinances, statutes, and judgments of the Lord, Le 18:1-5; and they are instructed particularly to avoid incestuous marriages, Le 18:6-18; carnal copulation with a menstruous woman, Le 18:19; adultery, Le 18:20; letting any of their seed pass through the fire to Molech, Le 18:21; sodomy, Le 18:22; and bestiality, Le 18:23; and they are deterred from these things by observing to them the pollution and destruction which they brought on the inhabitants of Canaan, and would bring the same on them should they commit them, Le 18:24-30. (John Gill)

**God ejected the wicked** Canaanites for their evil deeds and replaced them with His people. Sadly, as these works of the flesh have taken over what was once a great “Western Christian Culture,” God has established anti-Christian administrations that not only allow but encourage the pagan armies of the world to take over the nations that are now no better than the nations in Leviticus 18.

### **Invasion taking placed now.**

Fox News footage shows release of Chinese nationals into US amid massive spike in encounters

Rio Grande Valley Sector has seen more than 900% increase

**EXCLUSIVE:** Footage taken by Fox News this week shows how Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are releasing busloads of Chinese nationals into the U.S. interior, just as the U.S.-Mexico border is seeing a 900% surge in encounters with migrants from the communist regime. ...

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-footage-shows-release-chinese-nationals-us-amid-massive-spike-encounters>

Under Biden, there is no need for military invasion of the US, as he allows millions of Chinese “nationals” open access across the southern border.

God is sending His army against an apostate nation just as sure as He sent Babylon against His then apostate nation. This invasion speaks for itself.

**Leviticus 18:1-5.** These first five verses introduce the Lord, and tell by what authority He speaks.

### **I AM THE LORD**

**First,** Leviticus 18:1, “*I am the Lord your God...*”

He sets before them His authority, and His constraining love. He knows our frame, and He sees that man resents interference with his liberty in the things of daily life and

private actions, more than in anything else; therefore, to silence objection, and to draw the will, He adduces the argument of His sovereignty and love. (Bonar.)

**2 Peter 1:1** *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Christians have been made partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Throughout Scripture, God makes sure His people know Who He is, yet they still fall into sin.

At the end of Matthew 7, Christ finished his instruction to his disciples—his sermon on the mount, *28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

In both Leviticus 18 (which opens and closes with the reminder that *I am the LORD your God*) and in Matthew, God spoke with the divine authority that is His alone. In both messages, God makes known that his authority reaches into the most secret areas of man’s life--the things man does in secret in his attempt to cover his wicked deeds. God’s authority reaches into the darkest recesses of the mind.

**Second,** v. 3, *the land of Egypt... land of Canaan...* The people had been surrounded by *lasciviousness* in Egypt and would be surrounded by *lasciviousness* in Canaan. The wilderness was really the only place where paganism did not prevail other than in the heart.

**Third,** v. 5, *which if a man do he shall live in them;* The purpose of the laws the Lord is to give to His people life in the midst of the surrounding death. He promised national Israel long life in the land of Canaan, with great happiness and prosperity, a promise common throughout the Old Testament. (Deut 30:20, Isa 1:18-20) The same blessings are available to any nation:

**Psalms 33:12** *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”* (Ps 144:15.)

But those blessings for obedience do not include the blessing of eternal life. (Eph 1:6, 7, *we have redemption through his blood...*)

Paul is clear throughout his letters that Moses never offered eternal life through obedience to the law. The only hope for eternal life for fallen man is through Christ, as a free gift to all who will trust in him. (Ga 3:11,12,2.)

**Significantly, today's "Health" movement emphasizes** exercise, diet and pills, but it sees little or no need for Biblical morality. Certified "organic" food and exercise will not substitute for Biblical morality.

**1 Timothy 4:8** *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

There is a great amount of money and time going into finding medical answers for illness, finding new profitable illnesses, and finding longer life, but Scripture clearly tells us that a long, healthy life is a direct result of following God's moral and dietary laws, e.g.,

**Ephesians 6:2** *Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."*

The offer of longer life through a healthier life-style apart from Godly morality is a cloud without water. People might live longer through medical advances as Biblical Christianity fades into the background, but natural disasters and drought have increased dramatically, e.g., California.

**Ephesians 4: 18** *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

Those who are at war against the Lord and His Christ **give themselves** over to lasciviousness; they must refuse to see any connection between sin and the evils that are upon us. If they would admit such a connection, then they would have to admit a judgment and the need for a substitute and Savior.

**Fourth, v. 5, he shall live in them...** Psalms 19 tells us

that God's law is perfect. If man could keep it perfectly, he would have eternal life. But perfect obedience to the perfect law can only exist *in the vanity of their mind.* (Eph 4:17.) Man's only hope is in the perfect obedience of the God-Man, Christ Jesus.

**Leviticus 18:6ff.,** his authority established, the LORD proceeds to give laws pertaining to morality, laws that will counter the lust of the flesh, laws which if ignored will lead to death at the hand of God, of man, of nature as the LORD tells disaster where to strike, or at the hand of disease.



The family laws show us that the Lord takes great care to protect the family, and the godly authority of the husband and father. We should mention that when civil government fails to exercise the same care of the family as does the Lord, the civil government will self-destruct.

**Vv. 6-18** is the first-time laws against incest are given. Up to this point, marriage between close relatives, even brothers and sisters, were permitted, e.g., Abram and Sarai. Marriage between first cousins were permitted. Modern civil law forbids marriage closer than second cousins. The *law of the Lord* covers every area of life and thought, even the most intimate and secret things of the heart and bedroom:

**Hebrews 13:4** *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

As with all other passages in Scripture, Hebrews 13:4 will not stand alone: Leviticus 18 lists several things that clearly defile the *marriage bed*, and moves God against the guilty. Our God demands purity in the family and in the marriage union.

Having, in former chapters, fenced His own tabernacle, He now fences the tabernacles of men. (Bonar.)

The earthly family relationship is to resemble the heavenly family relationship. Speaking to the Christian family at large through Paul, he said,

*The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.* (1 Tim 5:2.)

The law of Moses, Leviticus 18, requires pure affection



among physical family members, free of lustful desires; the law of Christ, 1 Timothy 5:2, requires pure affection among the spiritual family members as well. In both cases, our love and care one for one other must be holy and pure. (See 1 Tim 4:12, Ph 4:8, 1 Thes 5:22, & 2 Tim 2:22.)

**Leviticus 18:24-30 the secret things behind closed doors have very open and public results**, and the land will be taken from the unclean and greedy people.

There is much more that could be said about Leviticus 18, but we will stop. The earthly family is to reflect righteousness and true holiness of the spiritual family. These laws dealing with the family repaired to some degree the disunion of the Fall and the divisions of Babel. The work of Christ, the Law of God, reverses the effects of sin.

There is no hint in the New Testament that these family laws have been repealed; rather Paul expresses horror that a man would marry his father's widow or step-mother. He firmly declares that he is building on Leviticus 18:7, 8 in both moral and divine authority.

Vv. 7, 8 & 1 Corinthians 5:1, Paul points out that Divine law is written in the heart of all men as he says *not so much as named among them*. No man has an excuse.

Wicked man must make a conscientious effort to remove or repress the knowledge of God, for His Divine law is written in every person. When man makes that effort long enough, God gives them over to a reprobate mind:

**Secret things have Consequences, both personal and national.**

Our Thrice-Holy God is concerned with what goes on in the recesses of the mind and in the dark and behind the closed doors of the bedroom. (Philip 4:8) Our God is a total Lord over every area of life; he leaves nothing to man's vain imagination.

The nations given over to the shameful *secret* things of Leviticus 18 are knocking on death's door.

**Psalms 9:17** *The wicked shall be turned into hell, [and] all the nations that forget God.*

**1 Kings 18:37** *Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou [art] the LORD God, and [that]*



*thou hast turned their heart back again. Hear me, O LORD that you will turn the hearts of this nation toward you and know that you are the LORD he is God.*

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## BLINDNESS AND JUDGMENT

By Rev. Need.

**John 9: 39** *And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.*

**Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.*

This text is rightly called, "The Great Commission," and is one of the most familiar passages in the Scripture. Our Lord clearly tells us God's only answer for the world's ills is to take the gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world, baptize the new believers and then instruct them in the total law word of God.

**Notice what the Lord did not say in this passage:** go into all the world and elect good men into office; go into all the world and study the constitution; go into all the world and work for good laws; go into all the world and protest evil in all its many forms. All of these things are commendable, and this writer has been involved in all of these things even as he knew they were not the Lord's answer to the deteriorated conditions in the world today.

Man's and thus society's problems issue is out of his own heart, so the Lord tells us that the answer to the surrounding evil is to *Go into all the world and preach the gospel* and baptize those who receive the gospel and then teach them *the law the Lord* and how to live it; that is, change the heart so it loves law of God. The Lord's instruction is clear: the only means which the Lord has of advancing His kingdom over the earth is through the redeemed proclaiming the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and teaching the converts to apply the word of God.

The gospel of grace is the only means given to cure the ills of the family, church, community, world and America. Only the gospel contains the power of God to bring social change, 1 Corinthians 1 & 2. God's answer is not hard to understand, and it is

right before us. Matthew 28:19, 20, is God's plan for claiming the world for Christ and for stopping the anti-christ crowd.

We understand why the reprobate cannot see the obvious, but why cannot professed Christians see that the Lord has clearly given the answer to the mounting world-wide crises of socialism and tyranny? If God's method for stopping the "New World Order" is so obvious, why cannot Christian people see and understand it? Why will Christians dedicate themselves to so many things except promoting the gospel of peace? It seems we find time to do many things except obey the Lord's "Great Commission" to make disciples and teach them the word of God? We should preach or offer the gospel at every opportunity, and support financially those who are preaching and teaching the gospel

Look around, and we see that even Christians are blinded to the obvious teaching of God's word. A term which we hear which describes the situation is JUDICIAL BLINDNESS (J-B). By this term we mean that men are blinded by God so that God can bring just judgment against sin.

When Christ said, *For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind*, (Jn 9:29-39), He was speaking specifically of and to the nation of Israel of His day. In Matthew 23:34-39, Christ said that Jerusalem was going to be judged for all of the innocent blood which had been shed upon the earth from Abel unto Zacharias. That judgment was fulfilled in The Great Tribulation recorded in Matthew 24. Thus, He came not only to redeem His people, (Isa 53:8) but to judge those who rejected Him (*i.e.*, Jerusalem) and the One He represented, the Heavenly Father. In other words, Israel was **supernaturally blinded** to Christ so that they would crucify the Son of God, (Acts 2:23) so God **could judge** them for all the innocent blood that had been shed upon the earth. Israel's murder of Christ resulted in Israel's destruction as judgment for her evil ways; that is, **Judicial Blindness** was upon them.

### **Blindness: two points**

**I. 2 Corinthians 4:6**, J-B prohibits men from making logical connections. So, they press on in their foolish causes. Blinded to cause and effect, especially in their own lives, they see no need stop what they are doing, and repent. If they would see the need to repent, they would see God's mercy in every area of society, includ-

ing their families and civil government.

**II. It prohibits Christians** from seeing the obvious teaching of the word of God. In our text, J-B Blindness prohibits Christians from seeing that the answer to society's ills is the presentation of the gospel and making disciples of the converts by teaching them God's law and its application. The result is that as those blinded escape from reality, tyranny increases and the "New World Order" expands.

Those who are not hindered by blindness, the blindness around us is astounding. Even God's professed people are unable to see any cause and effect either in their own lives, in the decisions they make nor in society around them.

In my contact with people, including pastors, there are times that I am amazed at the blindness present; they seem to be totally oblivious of any connection between what they see happening all around them (in their families, in their society) with the sense in society in general. The Scriptures say a great deal about Supernatural Blindness; a few passages are Exodus 5:2 & Deuteronomy 29:4, 32:28.

The first direct record we have of Judicial Blindness is with Pharaoh and the nation of Egypt. Pharaoh was blinded (hardened) by God so that He might bring judgment against Egypt for its sin against Him and against His people. We could define Judicial Blindness as a God-sent blindness so He can bring just judgment against individual and national sins.

God sent Judicial Blindness upon Pharaoh that He might bring His judgment against Egypt for its sin against His covenant-people; Judicial Blindness was also sent upon Israel so that God could judge them for their sin against Him (they rebelled against His man, Moses, and absorbed much of Egypt's ungodly culture). All of Israel's Egyptian generation had to die because they were Egyptian slaves at heart.

Judicial Blindness IS NOT limited to the unsaved; rather, it is according to the relationship to the law-word of God: the word of God speaks clearly, but people are unable to see it or its obvious implications. Accordingly, both professed Christians and pagans can be blinded to cause and effect in relationship to His word. Here are six points to consider about Judicial Blindness:

**1) the purpose of blindness** is so the Lord can take flaming vengeance upon the disobedient to His law-word; *i. e.*, that God might judge sinners, 2 Thes 1:8,

2:12, 12 (cf. Tit 1:16, 1 Jn 3:4). (Ps. 79:6, Pr 4:19, 10:21, 13:18, 14:12, Isa 6:9, 10 [Mt 13:14; Jn 12:38-41], Isa 29:10-12, Amos 9:10, Mat 15:14, Rom 11:25.)

**2) a result of blindness** is that people cannot understand (or ignore) Moses, 2 Corinthians 3:14 (1 Jn 1:6, 2:4-9, 3:1).

**3) blindness replaces** the wisdom of God with the wisdom of this world, 1 Corinthians 1:18-20.

**4) only by God's supernatural intervention** will one be delivered out of the kingdom of blindness (darkness) and into the kingdom of light; therefore, the answer to blindness is to honestly and sincerely seek the Lord, Acts 26:18, Eph 4:18, Col 1:13, Pro 28:5, Ph 3:15.

**5) Our Lord warned** us that from His time on, we will see Judicial Blindness increase; consequently, we should not be surprised at the overwhelming blindness we have around us, 2 Tim 3:13, 2 Thes 2:11.

The depth of "Judicial Blindness" in the church is seen in the fact that Christians cannot believe the Lord's words of Matthew 28:19, 28. If they did, their primary effort would be proclaiming the gospel and **training the converts** how to live out his entire law. Our land would be healed, 2 Chronicles 7:14.

**6) We are left with this question** regarding Judicial Blindness: "Why does blindness increase instead of decrease?" Though there is an abundance of passages which deal with this question, we will only look at a few.

**A) it is through His judgment against sin that,** a) men forsake their false gods and graven images and b) his law is magnified and made honorable, Isaiah 42 (v. 21). The time-frame of Isaiah 42 is important: it was set in motion at the time of Christ, vs. 1-4.

**B) it is through His judgment against sin that** the hypocrite turns from his hypocrisy, Isaiah 48.

**C) God's salvation is defined** as His judgment against sin, eradicating sin, Isaiah 51 (v. 4-6). Isaiah 11:4 tells us that His righteous judgment against sin (*the rod of his mouth*) will result in the slaying of the wicked, the exaltation of righteousness and the earth being filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. **Psalms 72** (cf. Ps 96 & Isa 55:10), tells us that as His righteous judgment against sin descends like the rain, righteousness and peace will flourish like the new mown grass. Moreover, His judgment against sin establishes His dominion from sea to sea, unto the ends of the earth; it causes all kings to bow before Him and all

nations to serve Him. Moreover, His deliverance of the needy, the poor and those who have no help depends upon His judgment falling against sin. (See also Acts 14:17. *Thy kingdom come* means judge the wicked so *his kingdom* can flourish.)

Therefore, the answer to the questions, "What is the purpose of Judicial Blindness?" and "Why does blindness increase instead of decrease?" is that God increases Judicial Blindness so that He can bring in His righteous reign and justice here on this earth. As time progresses from the time of Christ on, men grow harder and harder in their refusal to turn to the law of the Lord. The result will be a) the end of the Lord's goodness, forbearance and longsuffering, b) His wrath revealed from heaven against all ungodliness, c) His law exalted and magnified and, finally, d) righteousness and salvation springing up as the new mown grass after a rain storm. (Cf. Rom 2.)

Judicial Blindness is prevalent today, not only among those who make no profession of Christ, but among the great majority of God's people. The blind are leading the blind, and the results are upon us. (Mat 15:14, Lk 6:39) People are unable to make any connection between their personal relationship with the Lord and His law, their personal lives (attitudes, decisions and indifference to the things of God), and what is taking place around them in society. People are unable to see that society only reflects their attitude toward the Lord and His word.

The result is two-fold: first, men, even "Christian men," seek answers everywhere except where the answer lies: renewed faithfulness to the Lord and to His total word. People no longer see the foundational importance of proclaiming the gospel, teaching the law of the Lord to the converts and of long range planning. People now look for short cuts through protests of all kinds, laws, political/religious leaders, and social/political actions of all description (but they will only find judgment). The second result is that the situation can only deteriorate farther away from God, hastening God's judgment against sin.

In the face of the blindness, we have a sure promise that God's judgment descends like the rain so that righteousness, justice and salvation might flourish as the crops in the field.

In farming communities, corn can look very sickly at the first of July because of drought. By the end of July,

a good, hard rain and much lightning crops will recover and rapidly add the needed growth. The storms must come or there will be no crop. Likewise, God's judgment must come or there will be no righteousness. (cf. Mat 7:21-29)

**The answer to blindness is to sincerely seek the Lord:**

**Proverbs 28:4** *They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them. 5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all [things].*

**Philippians 3:15** *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

We must emphasize spreading the gospel and instructing the converts in how to apply the laws of God into every area of life. Any other hope is vain and is clearly unscriptural.

**What a marvelous day for the faithful servant of God to live in!**

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## OPPRESSION IS NOT THE PROBLEM

Rev. Need

In our evening Bible study, my wife and I listen to theological lectures. In a recent lecture, I was reminded of Matthew 5:39. In my study in Matthew 24, "The Triumph of Titus," I developed the historic situation Christ was addressing in Matthew 5. Judah was on the verge of open rebellion and war against Rome.

In the days of Christ, there were many calls for revolution against the oppressive Roman rule, slavery, high taxes, &c. That call for revolution came to a head a few years after Christ, and was put down by Rome in 66-70 AD with the total annihilation of Judea and Judaism. In Matthew 5:39, the Lord tells Judah that revolution was futile, for Rome was not the problem---Judah was the problem. In addition, Judah's rulers had become more oppressive than Rome. According to Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, the Lord raises up oppressive rulers and sends his army against apostate nations; His army was Rome in this case. Rome was oppressing Judah because of his apostasy. If Judah had listened to and obeyed the law-word of God, he would not have been under so great oppressions.

**In other words**, scripture is clear that apostasy must result in oppressive rulers and foreign armies. Neither larger armies, nor a well-armed IRS, will provide safety

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and security.

**Conclusion:** To cry out against oppressors but not against sin is wrong, which is what the Jews were doing, and is what people are doing throughout the western world today. We are crying out against oppression and looking for a deliver, but we are not crying out against sin. In 1 Samuel 8:18, the LORD tells rebellious Israel that the LORD will not hear the cry of his oppressed people when the result of their rebellion comes upon them. Our cry must be against sin in our lives and in our nation. **Only a return to righteousness will deliver from oppression.**

**For your information**

**First**, we are in the process of giving our web site, [www.biblicalexaminer.org](http://www.biblicalexaminer.org) a whole new look. Lord willing, it should be ready in a couple of weeks.

**Second**, e-mail [tbe@biblicalexaminer.org](mailto:tbe@biblicalexaminer.org) no longer works. G-mail started charging us as a business address, so we did discontinued it.

**Third**, Ross House is republishing "Death of the Church Victorious," which they were unable to publish some years ago because of RJR's health. It may shortly be finished. I will keep you posted on Facebook.

Thank you for your prayers!

