

# The Biblical Examiner

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith



## WORSHIP

By Rev. Need

*3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Exodus 20*

The Lord has given precise instructions that must be followed if one will worship Him. Anything less or more than what He has commanded is worshiping a graven image of the imagination.

### • WORSHIP AND EMOTIONS

**Over the last several decades, we have seen the average Worship Service become little more than an entertainment service where people come to “experience God.”** How many self-identified Christians attend church looking for a close-to-God feeling. Worship services that provide an exciting, ecstatic experience will draw multitudes of followers who will hand-somely support those ministries.

In our text, we see that God alone defines worship, and how He must be worshiped. Is worship defined as simply a meeting of a group of believers? Does God define worship in terms of **1) Worshipful feelings, 2) Worship Songs, 3) Worship Leaders and 4) Worship Teams?**

Does worship consist of a mystical look, raising hands, doing a holy wave, and singing a few nice words over and over? (7-11 songs) Does worship consist of drums beating out a rhythm that at times sounds more like a jungle beat than something that belongs in a Christian church, particularly when the beat overwhelms the words? **(Scripture encourages raising one’s hands toward heaven in worship and prayer, though that is not this writer’s style.)**

Psalms 150 speaks of several instruments used to praise God, but you cannot read into the passage that the music used in that praise sounded like the surrounding pagans’ music, nor that the music was used to draw pagans to the house of God.

According to Psalms 95:6, worship means to bow down. The three Hebrew Children were commanded to bow down and worship the image. (Daniel 3:15. Psalms 95:6 *O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.*) If we consider worship little more than bowing down or lifting our voices in praise, then are we any better than the Muhammadans who bow down three times a day to worship their false god?

**FIRST, worship must glorify His name,** Psalms

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89:9:

*All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.*

The Lord rebuked His people for entering His gates to worship Him, yet they continued to follow the desires of their heart. They were worshiping the Lord, yet ignoring the ways in which He had commanded them to walk. Thus, their worship was no worship; rather, their worship was sin that brought judgment upon them.

Jeremiah prophesied God's harsh judgment against those who professed His name, yet their hearts were far from Him. They performed ceremonies of worship, and were confident that their worship delivered them from God's justice against their disobedient living the rest of the time. (Jer 7:10, Isa 30:1, 2)

How many godly religious leaders have been thoroughly distressed over those who felt that church attendance three times a week appeased God for their ungodly living the rest of the time? How many famous and professed Bible believing preachers have led their people to believe that their good works for the cause of Christ — or rather for the cause of the church and their faithfulness in every church service — can influence God to overlook their daily actions?

**Biblical worship will glorify God** in every thought and action, not just in the public assembly, or around the preacher or around other Christians. (1 Cor 10:31)

True Worship hallows the Holy name of Jesus. Hallow means we are to sanctify or set apart the Holy name of Jesus, Luke 11:2. Thus, true worship sets the Christian apart from the world in holiness — holiness in language, dress and deeds.

How many go to church looking for and having a wonderful worshipful experience, yet their lives are vain? How many leave an exciting and uplifting worship service, and then continue in their service to the world, flesh and the devil on Monday?

John Gill: "let thy name be hallowed," or "sanctified by us," "O Lord our God, before the eyes of all living."

Biblical worship is 24/7, as it continually represents the name Christian to the world with pure words, honest actions, modest apparel and a godly attitude.

Godly worship produces holy living and daily service in the Kingdom of God. All of the Worship Services, Worship Songs, Worship Teams and Worship Leaders in the world mean nothing to the Holy Lord God unless it produces a holy witness before the world.

**SECOND, worship is connected with service, Jeremiah 13:10:**

Jeremiah condemns those who refuse to hear the words of God. They stop their ears from hearing, so they can continue to follow their heart and serve the gods after their imagination. Ezekiel 12:2.

**Scripture never identifies Godly worship with a mystical feeling** that will cause people to respond to an "invitation." In the Christian circles with which I identified until 1982, the greatest thing that could happen to a pastor or evangelist was to have his name mentioned in the *Sword of the Lord* as having a great number of people come forward in a year or in a series of meeting. Of course, they never mentioned the foolish nonsense they had to do to get those people to the altar.

Worship means Service to God according to his word. --- obedience, labour and work for the Kingdom. Acts 14:22 tells us that it is through much tribulation that one enters the Kingdom.

### **1) Worship involves obedience.**

Worship is firmly identified with obedience, particularly with teaching the commandments and judgments of God to our children. In the context of Deuteronomy 6:13-16, failure to teach God's law and judgments to the next generation is to tempt the Lord our God.

Among many other things, obedience requires education for our children in terms of the word of God. Anything other than a Biblically grounded education for our children is an act of apostasy for a believer. It involves worshipping other gods and bowing down before them to learn from those other gods, such as statist education. (Pro 22:6, Eph 6:4)

Regardless of one's view of predestination, the wicked know they can predestinate or control the future through their education systems, and with their entertainment and advertising. The wicked fight to control all education, and sadly many Christians are willing to pass their responsibility on to the wicked. Ungodly propaganda has controlled entertainment and advertising for several decades and we are now living in the future they predestinated for us.

Christian parents who are home educating "his reward" (Ps 127:3) in the ways of the Lord shall control the future. An honest, well-educated, disciplined young person today, who is willing to work, has a world of opportunity before him or her. The pagan education system is producing an almost totally uneducated work-

force, a work-force that has been told the world owes them a living. The wicked know what they are doing as they intentionally produce an uneducated workforce that will be obedient servants, and not be a threat to the “powers that be.”

Many companies no longer require a drug test, because so many young people cannot pass it. The military and law enforcement in general have lowered their standards to a level that is hard for us older people to imagine. We were picking up some material at Lowes, and asked one of the young men helping us about the help he needed. He said that their new employee wanted to stand around with his hands in his pockets, doing nothing.

The great Presbyterian pastor and Confederate Army Chaplain Robert Louis Dabney (1820-1898) said, “A non-Christian training is therefore an anti-Christian training.”

Comment: Better said today in the terms of 1 John, an Anti-Christ training, Christ or Anti-Christ.

(Discussions, vol IV, Secular, p, 196ff. Reprint by Sprinkle Publications. It is a profitable read for homeschoolers, particularly his section on “The State Free School System”. Writing in 1870, he foresaw every aspect of the destruction of society by the enforced Northern government education system. It reads as though he were writing it today. By the way, “Confederate Soldiers—American Veterans by Act of Congress.” 1898, 1901, 1906, 1929, 1958. The attacks on Confederate monuments are officially attacks against every American serviceman. <https://www.veteranstoday.com/2013/04/03/confederate-soldiers-american-veterans-by-act-of-congress/rs>)

Dabney also quotes Dr. Griffin, “to educate the mind without purifying the heart is but ‘to place a sharp sword in the hand of a madman.’ ” We are now in the hands of madmen. There can be no true moral culture without Christianity. Some time ago, The Chalcedon Report had this quote by Dabney:

The education of children for God is the most important business done on earth. It is the one business for which the earth exists. To it all politics, all war, all literature, all money-making, ought to be subordinated; and every parent especially ought to feel every hour of the day, that, next to making his own calling and election sure, this is the end for which he is kept alive by God? This is his task on earth.

Many of us can remember Bill Gothard. One good thing I remember about him was his saying “Education without God only makes one more effective in his rebellion.” How true it is.

How many do we know who might tell of a wonderful, worshipful experience they had in church, yet on

Monday they send their children to the government schools to be trained in the State Religion, Marxism–Humanism. How inconsistent can a professed Christian be?

There is a children’s book, “*Hermes, God of sports*”, by Julie Anne Wight. The Christians and anti-Christians who build their lives around sports are clearly serving another god, and government education system finds almost unlimited funds in Hermes. “We need better sports facilities,” and they influence the voters go to the polls like sheep to the slaughter to be sheared to finance their monuments to Hermes.

In West Virginia, the county in which we lived was divided by a mountain range, so they had two schools – one on each side of the mountain. The school on one side of the mountain wanted to build a new sports arena, but they could not get county-wide public approval for more debt unless they built a new sports arena for the school on the other side of the mountain.

Some time ago when speaking to a neighbor, he bragged about how well their granddaughter was doing in sports. Not a word about how well she was learning to read, write or calculate, subjects in which Christian education strives for excellence. Their concern was how well Hermes was being served.

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**SUNDAY “WORSHIP” IS HYPOCRISY IF THE LORD GOD IS NOT SERVED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, EXO 20:5.**

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The prophets warned us that God’s mercy will expire, and then judgment. Consider where we are today!

Willing failure to worship and serve the Lord as commanded by the Law of God is tempting the Lord just as sure as Israel tempted God at Massah as recorded in Exodus 17. (Luke 10:27, 1 Cor 10:9, Heb 3:8, 9)

2) **Worship involves teaching.** Obedience requires teaching and applying the law-word of God maybe in unpopular areas such as Titus 2:3-5. We have known ladies who remained home to be homemakers, yet even pastors’ wives condemned them for wanting to stay at home and train up their children in the ways of the Lord. The church today is, by in large, at war against the Christian family, particularly large families.

Obviously, sin, such as State sponsored deficit spending, inflation, has forced many women out of the homes against their will. Sin has forced many godly single young ladies into the work force, because the young men have followed the world, flesh and the devil.



long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? (Rev. 6:10)

The least we can do is sacrifice our bodies to him by avoiding the sins of the flesh.

**FIFTH, worship is connected with humility, Isaiah 57:15, Psalms 51:17.** Humility is humility before God, and not necessarily before men, e.g., Moses.

**SIXTH, worship is connected with praise Psalms 138:2.** Who can worship and praise the holy Name of God enough for his loving kindness? In his mercy, grace and lovingkindness, He gave fallen man His word so man could know his Creator, how to glorify God and he could enjoy Him forever? (Jer 33:11, Heb 13:15, Rom 12:1, 13:11-14.)

**SEVENTH, not all worship is of God, Mark 5:6.** V. 6 pictures worship as a dog licking his master's hand – it refers to prostrating one's self before the one worshiped. Worship does not necessarily mean one is serving or is a servant of Christ. In v. 6, a demon ran and bowed down before Christ, rendering Him homage: he acknowledged Christ's superiority, power, authority and control over even the fallen spirits. (Ps. 72:9, 1 Tim. 5:21, James 2:19, Jude 1:6.)

In Luke 4:7, Satan offered Christ the wealth of the world if only Christ would worship him. St John tells us that there are many deceivers entered into the world who appear righteous, but they are antichrist. (2 Jn 1:7)

How many churchmen and women have sold out to Satan, and acting under the guise of angels of light they have reaped great wealth of the world from their unsuspecting victims. These deceivers offer a gospel that is very prosperous for themselves, yet does not produce godly results. (2 Cor 11. They are *Wells without water.*)

#### Godly Worship:

- glorifies God's name with our daily appearance, actions and words.
- obeys the Lord's commandments, and labors in the word and work of God.
- fears God and departs from evil.
- sacrifices one's self to the Lord to do whatsoever He desires.
- demands far more action than words. A far better description of worship would be the following:

**1.) Worship Services** – studying scripture to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

In Mark 7:7-10, Christ referred to the Ten Commandments as he soundly rebuked those who were faithful to their religious rites, rituals and ceremonies of worship while rejecting the Commandments. They rejected the Commandments so they could follow their heart, which seems to be the theme for those who want to set their own standards of right and wrong.

#### 3) Worship proves love for the King, John 14:15:

The true worshipers of the King rejoice in his commandments, and do not find them burdensome. (1 John 5:3, Matt 11:29, 30, Ps 119)

#### THIRD, worship is connected with fear, 2 Kings 17:36.

Abraham proved his fear of God by sacrificing his only son, Gen 21:12. Noah moved with fear as he obeyed God in the face of all human reason, Hebrews 11:7. Not only is genuine worship of the Lord connected with fear of the Lord, it is also defined by departing from evil. (Job 28:28, Pro 3:7, 14:27, 16:6)

The fruit of true worship is holiness of life. (Lev 20:7, 1 Peter 1:15, 16)

#### FOURTH, worship is connected with sacrifice, 2 Kings 17:36.

Romans 12:1 defines godly sacrifice, and the three Hebrew Children illustrated that sacrifice in Daniel 3:28.

How many Saints throughout the ages, including the Old Testament saints, have yielded their bodies as a *living sacrifice* in order to be faithful to the One Whom they worshiped? How many tens of thousands of Christians over the ages have suffered the most horrendous torture and death at the hands of the ungodly for their testimony of Christ, and are even now suffering at the hands of the Communists, Hindus and Muslims?

The martyrs for the cause of Christ cannot be numbered, and they cried with a loud voice, saying, *How*



**2.) Worship Songs** – songs that conform to Scripture, both in rhythm, beat and words. There were groups of Levites in the house of the Lord whose job it was to produce music and sing praises to the Lord, e.g., 2 Chronicles 29:25. (This writer is quite partial to the “Trinity Hymnal.”)

**3.) Worship Leaders** – leaders of “work groups” that might meet together to learn how to apply the word of God into everyday activity.

**4.) Worship Teams** – “work groups” that are active in the community, e.g., evangelism, community help activities, activists groups that work to bring about godly morality in the community (library, civil service, &c.), and care for the needy in the community in the name of Christ.

How much of what is called worship today is little more than pagan programs designed to appeal to the lower nature? It is designed to attract and hold a crowd in order to build larger monuments to men, and draw in needed crowds in order to pay the debt on those monuments, and to provide the leaders with a life-style given over to the fleshly desires.

*By their fruit ye shall know them.* Godly worship produces active obedience, holy living, glory to God and service to the God of the Christian Bible and service to our fellow man.

**• Megachurch pastor to pay ex-wife \$12K per month in alimony after 33 years of marriage**

By Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post Contributor  
Sunday, August 11, 2024

Despite the church’s claim of being one of the fastest-growing in America, impacting over a million people weekly through Pastor Thompson’s television program “The Truth,” public records and court documents point to legal challenges. ... The pastor, who established the church in 2003 and also leads a fellowship of pastors and church leaders, has authored books on relationships, including *Real Love Dating* and *Real Love Marriage*.

[https://www.christianpost.com/news/megachurch-pastor-to-pay-ex-wife-12k-per-month-in-alimony.html?utm\\_source=Daily&utm\\_campaign=Daily&utm\\_medium=newsletter](https://www.christianpost.com/news/megachurch-pastor-to-pay-ex-wife-12k-per-month-in-alimony.html?utm_source=Daily&utm_campaign=Daily&utm_medium=newsletter)

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## “THE MOST HIGH RULETH”

By Thomas R Floyd

“...The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and

giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men” (Daniel 4:17b).

As we approach election day it is a delight to know that we do not have to worry much about the outcome. Unless the Lord intervenes in some extraordinary way the next president of these United States will be an evil man or woman. But this is nothing new. With one or two rare exceptions these United States have been ruled by evil men since 1861. (However, the nominees of the two corrupt major parties are probably two of the most evil we have seen in our lifetime.) Nor is this anything new in the history of the world. With a few notable exceptions, the nations of the world have been ruled by “the basest of men” (and women). Just men who ruled in the fear of God (II Samuel 23:3) have been very rare exceptions throughout the history of the world. Those of us who believe the Bible have no reason to fret over this, or anything, for our text tells us that it is God who actually rules the nations and sets up whomsoever He is pleased to be kings, prime ministers, dictators and presidents, and all lesser magistrates.

The Most High ruleth over all! “Our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased” (Psalm 115:3). God works all things after the counsel of



His Own will (Ephesians 1:11). He has decreed the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). God has ordained all things whatsoever may come to pass. His determinate counsel and foreknowledge rules over all things

(Acts 2:23). There is not a sparrow, nor a worm outside His sovereign direction and predestinating decree. Believers need not fret because our Absolutely Sovereign and All- Wise God and Heavenly Father has already decreed who the president of these United States will be, as He has absolutely predestinated all things. God has predestinated all things for His Glory and the good of His people (Romans 8:28). I really feel sorry for you Arminians who have such a weak and helpless God that he can’t control the world he created! Lorraine Boettner once astutely observed that there is no consistent stopping place between the absolute predestination of all things and atheism. Thank the Lord for the inconsistency of some professed Christians! Dear people, I am

trying to get you to see that we do not have to fret and worry when we see the wicked prosper. Our Great God has everything under His sovereign control and nothing can happen without His permission and whatsoever He permits, He will cause to work for His glory and the eternal good of those who love Him, who are the called according to His purpose.

But you may ask, “why does God set up the ‘basest of men’ to rule His world?” Well, I, nor any other man can answer every question that may be raised. But we do know some things from His revealed word. First, God raises up the basest of men to rule His world because He is God. That really should be all we ignorant and weak people need to know. God is the “Most High,” and it not for us to say unto Him “what doest Thou” (Daniel 4:35)? Or as the Holy Ghost sayeth in another place (Romans 9:20), “who art thou that repliest against God?” As one hymn-writer expressed the truth of scripture, “whate’er my God ordains is right” (Trinity Hymnal #94)! The God of the Bible is absolutely sovereign, all-wise, and all good. That should be enough for His creatures.

But, it also appears obvious (at least to my puny mind) that God raises up the “basest of men” (and women) to rule the nations, because those under their authority are base themselves. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God we read in Romans 3:23. Whenever God has been pleased to raise up just men who ruled in His fear it has been because of His Own mercy, not because of anything good He has ever seen in man. The fact is my friend if you and I got what we deserved we would already have been in hell. Now you put that in your pipe and smoke it.

But thirdly, it is evident from even a cursory reading of scripture that when God puts particularly base people in authority it is His judgment upon a particularly base people. And this is the America in which you and I live. A nation of baby murderers, fornicators, sodomites, idolaters, Sabbath - breakers, liars, and thieves deserves the wrath of God. And now it is upon us. Mr. Trump cannot make America “great again.” And the communist Biden (I know not if he carries a card, but his beliefs and actions are those of vile Marxism) certainly cannot do anything to make us “great again.” The fact is (contrary to Neo-conservative blather) modern (since 1861) day America has never been “exceptional”, or “great” (unless you want to say “exceptionally wicked”). If America ever was exceptional or great it

was in the colonial and founding era, and in the Ante-Bellum Christian South when the Bible was believed and Christianity was respected. These United States actually deserve worse rulers [possible, whether the Zionist Trump or the Zionist Harris, it will be better than we deserve, ed.]

We who are Calvinists trust in the absolute predestination of God, but we also know that God works through means. The Most High has already ordained who will be elected, but we must do our duty, and leave the results to Him Who is All-wise. May God have mercy on this wicked nation, and may He have mercy on you my dear Readers.

3-12-AD 2020, Thomas R Floyd. 601-862-3919. brickfloyd@bellsouth.net

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## **TRUMP — THE NON-JEWISH MESSIAH**

### **No Matter Who Wins The November Election, Zionists Will Control The White House**

...Brown notes:

Last year, those who are the descendants of the very Jews who opposed Jesus offered the Crown of Jerusalem Award to none other than Donald Trump. One would think with all the pin-the-tail on the antichrist teachings in churches that people would be running as far away from supporting this man as they could. Instead, they support him all the more because they have bought the lie that the modern geo-political state of Israel is God’s chosen people. The Church is God’s chosen people, not a particular people group (Revelation 5:9 -10). ...

Trump’s daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner are high-level Jewish Chabadists. In marrying Kushner, the (loosely) Protestant-raised Ivanka was required to renounce her faith in Jesus Christ as a condition of marrying Jared. Somehow evangelicals conveniently overlook this fact.

Now, we come to Trump’s running mate, J.D. Vance. This man is as radical a Zionist as could possibly exist. He’s the one who is quoted saying, “America first with an Israel exception.” In other words, “Israel first.” ...

<https://chuckbaldwinlive.com/Articles/tabid/109/ID/4605/No-Matter-Who-Wins-The-November-Election-Zionists-Will-Control-The-White-House.aspx>

### **Renowned Jewish Rabbi Says Trump Is Anointed As God’s Non-Jewish Messiah To Serve Israel**

<https://chuckbaldwinlive.com/Articles/tabid/109/ID/4609/Renowned-Jewish-Rabbi-Says-Trump-Is-Anointed-As-Gods-Non-Jewish-Messiah-To-Serve-Israel.aspx>

Sadly, the New Israel of God, the church, is left with

the choice between two openly proclaim antichrist situations. The question will be which one might offer the best opportunity to continue proclaiming the gospel?

For more than you want to know about Satanic Talmucic Judaism, the White House and the Jewish Trump family, see [https://biblicalexaminer.org/PDF%20Essays/Growing\\_Prestige.pdf](https://biblicalexaminer.org/PDF%20Essays/Growing_Prestige.pdf)

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## Mystical Christianity

### **THE KESWICKS**

&

### **MEN OF RENOWN**

By Rev. Need

Since the early 1800s, there have been several extremely significant groups rise to great prominence. These groups have effectively removed the work, power and a wisdom of the Spirit of God from practical everyday applications. These groups consisted of very pious men who had tremendous success in reducing the work of the Spirit of God to little more than an inner mystical working in the life of the individual believer. We are facing the results of the Keswick's Mystical Christianity.

We are now confronted with the fact that most modern religious teaching on the work and power of Spirit of God has reduced His work to little more than a personal mystical and/or emotional work in the life of the believer. Modern theology has the work of God's spirit revolving around the individual for the individual's own personal benefit or exaltation.

One of the more successful groups that denatured Christianity was the Keswicks.

The name "Keswick" was adopted from the location of the first Keswick meeting. According to James Hastings, the first 'Convention for the Promotion of Practical Holiness' was held at Keswick, London, 1875, for the sole purpose of "helping men to be holy." But Keswick's definition of holiness advocated personal peace and purity through surrender in faith while withdrawing from society. Keswick emphasized the power of the Spirit to lead the believer away from evil and towards righteousness, and thus totally separated the power of the Spirit from any power to transform society. The Keswick movement primarily gained its following in America through D.L. Moody, whose involvement proved most influential in forming "other similar as-

sociations for the deepening of the spiritual life."

As we discuss the Keswick movement, please note that we are not suggesting that the men involved were anything but sincere godly men who loved souls and had great insight into particular areas. They were very talented and productive writers, but as one reads their works, he needs to bear in mind that the doctrine these talented men developed reduces "the power of the Spirit" to little more than a mystical experience. Their teachings militate against the historic stand of the church concerning the work of the Spirit. Their teachings removed — whether intentional or not — practical applied Christianity from society. Many of their writings are kept in print, and are very well known and respected among those who hold to the Dispensational Faith. Actually, these men were key developers of the Dispensational Faith.

The Keswicks count many very famous theologians in their ranks: H.W. Webb-Peploe, F.B. Meyer, Andrew Murray, Evan H. Hopkins, Donald Grey Barnhouse, R.A. Torrey, G. Campbell Morgan and A.C. Dixon.<sup>1</sup> James Hastings adds A.T. Pierson, R. Pearsall Smith and H.C.G. Moule to the leaders of the Keswick movement which was on the leading edge of the modern Holiness Movement.<sup>2</sup> C.G. Trumbel (who became vice president of the American Tract Society and often used the slogan, "Let go and let God") was converted to Keswick sanctification in 1910, and became an active promoter of "The victorious life." Other leaders in the personal Keswick holiness movement were C.I. Scofield, Robert Speer, David Baron, George Needham, W.J. Erdman, A.J. Gordon, J. Kennedy MacLean and W.H. Grillith Thomas, who taught at Wycliffe College in Toronto.<sup>3</sup>

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KESWICK HOLINESS IS DEFINED IN THE PERSONAL  
SPIRITUAL REALM RATHER THAN IN PRACTICAL  
EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE.

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In a more popular statement, a 'higher life' or 'second blessing' of 'full salvation' may be experienced through a single act of perfect consecration to God, who in response completely neutralizes or eradicates the sinful nature so as to grant a present deliverance from the power of sin, on the sole condition of 'abiding' in an attitude of dependent life-union with the exalted Christ... Such a claim to perfect holiness, however, is to be interpreted in a religious rather than a moral sense...

Yet its actual forms, apart from the extravagance of human frailty and error, have frequently suffered from

narrowness of theological outlook and a lack of both psychological and ethical insight into the deep implications of the gospel. It is plainly unscriptural to suggest that any ‘second blessing’ can confer on certain Christians a higher kind of sanctification than the holiness that flows essentially from justifying faith, or bestow a new grace of spiritual infilling and deliverance from sin ‘distinct from and additional to’ the gift of the Holy Ghost granted in conversion and regeneration.<sup>4</sup>

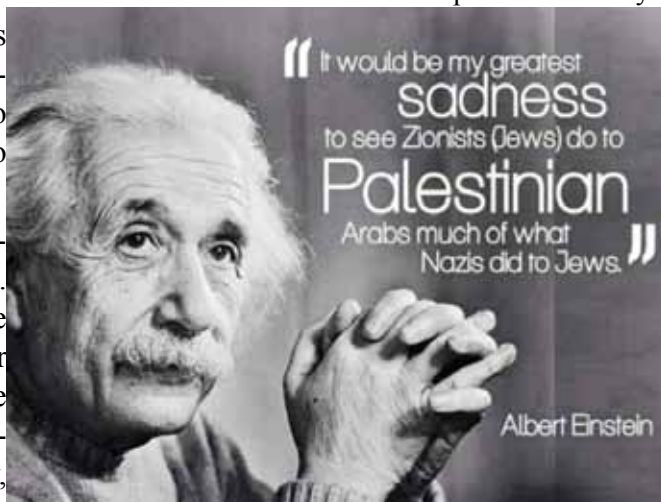
Thus, Keswick redefined holiness away from development of the implications of the gospel and its laws into every area of life and thought (including society in general), and identified spiritual and holy with asceticism, other-worldliness and introspection. According to Keswick doctrine, personal holiness is determined by acts of faith, not by acts of morality. Keswick strictly confined the grace of God to conversion and personal holiness “in a religious” sense.

It is of interest that when D.L. Moody first introduced the Keswick doctrine of personal sanctification (associated with the Keswick conferences in England) into his Northfield conferences through British speakers whom he had met on his evangelistic tours in Europe (c. 1891), their doctrine was considered “heresy.” But even though it was considered heresy, “Moody managed to pacify the disgruntled millenarian leaders, and [a British Baptist pastor, F.B.] Meyer and other spokesmen for Keswick holiness ultimately convinced them that this was no heresy but an essential part of the Christian gospel.”<sup>5</sup>

Hastings concludes his article on Personal Holiness (Keswick) with two contrasting quotes by two different men:

The idea of a holy working man is even grotesque. The virtues which the working classes at their best have recognized have been rather those of integrity, generosity, sincerity, good comradeship, than those of meekness, purity, piety, self-abnegation [self-denial, ed], and the like.<sup>6</sup>

Note how well this Socialist defines modern holiness. Twentieth Century Christianity has incorporated this socialist platform plank into their “Christian Platform.”



Is it any wonder that socialism is taking over every former “Christian country of the West?”

Conversely, Hastings quotes:

I do feel that holiness consists in hearing Christ and following Him step by step in the minutest part of the minutest duty, and in acknowledging an ordinance of Christ in all the natural and social relations.<sup>7</sup>

With these two quotes, Hastings presents two schools of thought concerning holiness: Socialist and Christian. He connects socialism directly to the Keswick doctrine of personal holiness, contrasting Keswick socialism with minutely hearing and following Christ (developing the implications of the gospel into every area of life and thought). Therefore, the current head-long mad rush into socialism of our day will continue until Christians give up their socialistic idea of Christianity which withdraws the gospel from society. Sadly, how can the people of God apply the words of Christ to “the minutest part of the minutest duty” when the vast majority of Christian teaching from all sources gives no instruction in those areas?

**Comment:** A number of people from our mailings have told me by phone and mail that every local church within driving distance of their homes preaches a “Christian” version of Socialism. God help us!

Furthermore, consider Hasting’s words: Keswick Perfectionism holds that:

the sincere man is the perfect man. As God, therefore, expects from every man, at any given moment, only the best that he can do with his impaired faculties, perfection is simply doing one’s best. In other words, perfection is in full consecration, in an entirely surrendered will... The moral law has been superseded by the law of faith. Thus the life of faith is the perfect life, and, when perfectly maintained, excludes the presence and power of sin...<sup>8</sup>

Keswick does not identify holiness as living a lawful life according to 1 John 3:4, but as an act of faith. Does this not explain how “Christians” can believe that they are holy while living a very corrupt social life?

According to Marsden, Keswick teaches that:

There are two stages of Christian experience: that of the



“carnal Christian,” and that of the “spiritual.” To move from the lower to the higher state takes a definite act of faith or “consecration,” the prerequisite of being filled with the Spirit. This consecration means an “absolute surrender,” almost always described by the Biblical term “yielding.” Self is dethroned, God is enthroned. This sanctification is a process, but one that begins with a distinct crisis experience... Meetings for “consecration” [were held by Moody at Northfield] in which Moody urged participants “to yield themselves wholly to God”... Reuben Torrey...reported that early in his career Moody had urged him, “Now, Torrey, be sure and preach on the baptism with the Holy Ghost”... In a more representative way, Baptist pastor Cortland Myers of Brooklyn summarized the prevailing opinions on the role of charity in the [Keswick holiness] movement. “The church of Christ,” he said, “is not a benevolent institution nor a social institution, but an institution for one purpose--winning lost souls to Christ and being instrumental in redeeming the world.”<sup>9</sup>

Hence, Keswick teaches that social programs are necessary, but only in a secondary sense, i.e., bring people under the sound of the gospel. Thus, Keswick’s filling of the Spirit is totally personal and mystical and is only available in the “spiritual” (contrasted with “secular”) realm. Unlike the word of God, Keswick offers no power of the Spirit of God, nor any practical application of the word of God for everyday activity in society.

Naturally, Keswick theology led to the Christian abandonment of culture to the devil. In Marsden’s words:

Keswick’s teaching played at least two important roles complementary to dispensational premillennialism in the Bible institute movement. First, it provided an important subjective confirmation of the faith to stand alongside more objective arguments from the Bible and common sense. Secondly, while premillennialism involved abandonment of the optimistic estimate of the conquering power of the Holy Spirit throughout society, Keswick promised personal “victory.” Although one might not expect to see the millennium in this age, in one’s own life there was hope for a spiritual outpouring which would result in an era of personal victory, peace, and practical service. The light of optimism, then, still prevailed in the American evangelical outlook – only it now shone on the individual rather than on the culture.<sup>10</sup>

Keswick theology did two things: it abandoned society to the wicked, and it redefined faith. The Keswick faith no longer sees the requirement to develop the im-

plications of the gospel into society (hearing and doing every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God, applying that word to every area of society and leaving the results up to the Lord). Rather, the Keswick faith developed the implications of the gospel in the individual’s life (a personal mystical experience and exercises in prayer and Bible reading). Of course, Keswick theology is very appealing because it relieves the individual Christian from hard work, social responsibility and confrontation with the wicked; it relieves the pastor from having to train his people in the practical social implications of the gospel.

#### • CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, we must conclude that the logical implication of Keswick theology is that if an individual desires to live outside of himself and tries to influence society in any way (the “secular” area of life), he must do it on his own without the power of God, the Holy Spirit. Keswick says that the Spirit only works in the “sacred” area of life, the area of “preaching the gospel” and “soul winning.” Let us be quick to add that personal holiness, the personal implications of the gospel, is commendable, but when it is sought and social holiness, social implications of the gospel, is ignored, we drop half the power and work of the Holy Spirit as well as an extremely large portion of the Word of God. (Matt 28:18, 19, is the command to disciple the nations, make all nations followers of Christ and his commandments. That is, convert the nations to following and obeying Christ.)

(Keswick Example: A man I knew some years ago was incarcerated as a political prisoner. A guard at the prison told him how much he loved the Lord. When my friend asked the guard how he could work in such a place, the guard told him that he had learned to separate the sacred from the secular. The guard then went to a misbehaving prisoner, cussing and swearing at him. This seems to be the case far too many times. Christians have learned to separate the sacred from the secular, and have withdrawn Christianity from society.)

As Keswick theology united with its twin, Darbyism, Keswick’s doctrine of personal holiness gained tremendous strength, and the gospel of the Kingdom of God was reduced to mere personal salvation, personal consecration and the personal return of Christ, with no emphasis outside of self.

“C.I. Scofield more or less canonized Keswick teachings in his Reference Bible...”<sup>11</sup> Scofield successfully combined Keswick and Darbyite teaching that perfection involves withdrawing from society in order to become

more personally holy (cf. Old Scofield Bible, pp. 1244, 5). The Scriptures are clear, “Christian perfection, therefore, is not individual or social alone, but the full self-realization of the individual in society...”<sup>12</sup>

In Erskine’s words, “I do feel that holiness consists in hearing Christ and following Him step by step in the minutest part of the minutest duty, and in acknowledging an ordinance of Christ in all the natural and social relations.”

The leaders and teachers of God’s people must develop the gospel in its minutest detail for application into society as well as into the lives of the believers. Every believer must be confronted with the minutest detail of his duty before God.

Because American Christianity has become exceedingly self-centered and satisfied with mysticism and socialism, it will require a very strong and centralized oppressive civil government to persuade professed Christians to move out of their churches and into the world. What will it take to cause American Christians to move against the antichrist, socialist, state churches and schools and take God’s Law into every area of life and thought, civil government included?

### Notes

1. “Keswick’s Authentic Voice, Sixty-Five Dynamic Addresses Delivered at the Keswick Convention, 1875-1957.” Zondervan, Grand Rapids MI. 1959.
2. Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, 1913, James Hastings. Vol. 6, p. 749.)
3. Fundamentalism and American Culture, George M. Marsden, Oxford University Press, 1980, pp 99, 249.
4. Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, vol 6, p. 749.
5. The Roots of Fundamentalism, Ernest R. Sandeen, Baker Book House, 1970, p 176.
6. E. Balfour Bax, The Ethics of Socialism, London, 1889, p. 17.
7. T. Erskine of Kinlathen, Letters, London, 1878, p 152.
8. Encyclopaedia., vol. 9. pg 736, emp added.)
9. Fundamentalism and American Culture, George M. Marsden, Oxford University Press, 1980. Pp 78, 79, 81.
10. Fundamentalism., pp 100, 101. By the way, remember Keswick’s teaching was considered heresy when first introduced by Moody.
11. Fundamentalism., p 79.
12. Encyclopaedia., vol. 9, p 737.

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## WITCHCRAFT 101: TOIL AND TROUBLE

RECENTLY, the University of Exeter in England announced its new master’s degree in magic and the occult. In this program, students will explore the long and diverse history of esotericism, witchcraft, ritual magic, occult science, and related topics.

But social media influences have been educating the culture on witchcraft for years. On TikTok, #WitchTok has attracted over 30 billion views, with influences

teaching spells, performing magic, and promoting self-empowerment. Increasingly, people wear crystals with supposedly calming energies, manifest dream boards, and adopt mantras about believing in yourself and harnessing your own power. Ayla Skinner, with the TikTok handle Witch in the Wilderness, told BBC, “Witchcraft, paganism, it all gives you a bit of control back, you can live your life how you want.”

Witchcraft appeals to people who long for inner peace and some sense of control in what feels like a rapidly unraveling world. Perhaps unsurprisingly, interest in witchcraft, Wicca, and the occult surged in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued to rise with national and global political unrest.

Far from storybook images of witches with warty noses and missing teeth, real-life witches promise personal empowerment to live your own life free of tradition and societal norms, reflecting the tempter’s original lie that “you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5). Often secretive and reclusive, they offer reprieve from worldly troubles and strife.

God’s Word is clear about witchcraft and magic. The Old Testament consequence for practicing such things was severe (Leviticus 20:27), and Revelation 21:8 reaffirms the eternal damnation that awaits those who practice it. Though the occult compels people to tap into their own power to find peace, we have an opportunity to point them toward true power—the power of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who indwells all believers (John

14:26; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:26). ■

Answers, Jan-March 2024

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## A REVIEW

Death of the Victorious Church: Tracing the Roots and Implications of Modern Dispensationalism, by Pastor Ovid Need by Warren Hoyt

During the process of compiling a book on the Victorious Church, I stumbled across pastor Ovid Need’s Death of the Victorious Church. I was shocked! We are trying to produce a book, but one is already out there which tells how what we are promoting, died?!

Once I read this book, I knew its message had to be

included in our present book, because it validates our book's message while elucidating what has hindered it.

The book affirms that most Christians for some 1700-1800 years believed that the Church would always prevail and be victorious in this world, and that it was destined (commissioned by Christ Himself), to disciple or "Christianize" all nations. This is the very mindset which we at the Third Education Revolution seek to restore! It is the mindset that built what we call "the West" today, including the most prosperous and democratic nation of history, the United States. But Pastor Need's book shows how this mindset was changed dramatically in only 50-75 years, so that today, most Christians hold an opposite view. His book also makes us aware this is not just an academic matter – it has had a very big and a very negative impact upon the world.

To help us recognize that a dramatic change in our thinking has taken place, and explain why, Pastor Need traces that change back to its roots, looking at the historical and societal trends that opened people up to such contrary ideas. He discusses key people, groups, and movements that promoted this change and popularized it. Many of the names are highly esteemed and seen as heroes by most Christians today. Yet, their new theological system had the undesired effect of actually killing the Church's concept of herself as victorious! How could this be? Wasn't the new teaching biblical? How could something so popular be wrong? Need's book presents surprising answers to these questions, leading us to reconsider the concept of the Victorious Church.

All ideas have consequences, especially theological ones. Pastor Need's book shows how the change wrought in believers' minds through this new theological paradigm has led the Church in a totally different direction from the one upon which it was earlier embarked. If the Church, which Jesus said was "the light of this world" (Matt. 5:14), takes a wrong turn, it cannot help but have a negative impact upon all of society over time.

Pastor Need believes that the acceptance of dispensational theology is what changed the Church's direction. Many know of this theology without realizing what it is called, having been taught it in their churches for years. Not many years ago, its latest iteration and "upgrade" came through Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkin's highly popular "Left Behind" series of books and movies. Many seminaries and prominent pastors teach it. Just last week as this is being written, the Speaker of the

US House of Representatives mentioned the "biblical admonition" toward Israel in a way that indicated his familiarity with these "standard" evangelical teachings. One might ask, so what? Surely a view of the last days could not be blamed for something so drastic as the death of the victorious church?! In his book, pastor Need explains why and how this is so, opening our eyes to root causes behind changed actions and changed thinking.

Need's first major contribution is to explain more about the actual source of this system of beliefs. Many of us have heard of the famous Irish preacher, J.N. Darby, and how he popularized this teaching. But we have not been taught how, starting around the 11th century, reform-minded Christians began "to hold the Antichrist as the papal system, past and present," or that this view continued to the time of the Reformation, or that most of the reformers held this view (42), and the Westminster Confession of 1647 says in point XXV VI, that the Pope is the Antichrist!

Need writes that "In order to counter those attacks," various Jesuit priests developed the Futurist system, which said that Revelation was yet future." (41) This theological approach then, was actually created to counter the Protestants' charge that the papal system was Antichrist. Though various Jesuits contributed to this project over a period of almost 200 years, it did not have its full impact on the Protestants until its introduction by another Roman Jesuit, Manuel Lacunza." (41)

Manuel Lacunza (1731-1801) was born in Santiago, Chile, but composed his signature work, "The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty" in his native Spanish, while living in Italy. Printed in Spain in 1790, his manuscript happened to come into the possession of one Edward Irving in 1823. Irving was a charismatic, very unconventional pastor serving in London at the time, who had just started learning Spanish.

Many Pentecostals will have heard of Irving since he promoted and allowed speaking in tongues in his "Catholic Apostolic Church" in the early 1800s. But he was also a serious prophecy enthusiast, who took part in a series of prophecy conferences from about 1826-1833 with other like-minded leaders. It was through these meetings that the "system" Lacunza had developed was discovered by an Irish preacher by the name of John Nelson Darby. Darby took this system, to which he and Irving added a pretribulation "rapture" they had picked up from a young Scottish woman by the name of

Margaret MacDonald, and Darby eventually began to teach the whole system as his own “revelation.” (161)

Darby, writes Need, was a tireless worker and incessant traveler who was very charismatic and drew large crowds to his ministry wherever he went. He eventually won over some very key leaders, D.L. Moody, the famous evangelist, and C.I. Scofield, who produced his very popular Scofield Reference Bible which served to take the Lacunza system worldwide and change the mindset of the Church in very detrimental ways.

Pastor Need believes dramatic world events and social upheaval (the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars in Europe, the Civil War in America) influenced the Church’s mindset, such that it became receptive to the radically different theological system of Lacunza/Irving/Darby. Whereas for 1400 years, the Church had been victorious and seen herself as such, slowly advancing and discipling all the nations of Europe, she now looked upon that task as a futile enterprise. Dependent over world events, and seeing that even the church of their times had become corrupted and apathetic, many were open to a new teaching that said the Bible foretold exactly this, and that our only hope was to wait to be “raptured” so Jesus could bring in the Millennial Age. The Church was powerless, “ruined” as Irving saw it. The world was bound to go from bad to worse! This also played to Christians’ fleshly tendency to be apathetic and give up the struggle to disciple the nations.

Need goes into specifics regarding how the doctrines of this system have effectively neutralized the Church, blocking all forward advance, which we cannot address here. But he also ends on this positive note: “Though God’s people many times love messages of irresponsible escapism, the task before the people of God is not hopeless, ‘For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.’” (Phil. 2:13) The Victorious Church need not stay “dead.” She can awake, rise, and be victorious yet again in our day!

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## JOHN MACARTHUR

**Christian Zionist** Pastor John MacArthur Joins Antichrist Zionist Jew Ben Shapiro In Promoting Genocide In Gaza  
By Chuck Baldwin, July 11, 2024

I must admit that this report is one of the most nauseating news accounts of a Christian pastor that I

have ever encountered. I would count it as one of the most egregious betrayals of Christ’s New Covenant by a “Christian minister” that I have ever witnessed. The Scripture tells us, Ye that love the LORD, hate evil. (Psalm 97:10). Well, this is pure evil.

Chris Menahan has the report:

“It wasn’t until the Persians completely wiped out the Amalekites that God’s will was fulfilled in that judgment,” Pastor John MacArthur told Shapiro. “Now, you might not like the fact that God is a judge but when God determines that I’m going to protect my People Israel and you’re going to attack My People Israel, I have a plan for My People Israel, as the New Testament says, so all Israel will be saved, there’s coming a kingdom he will fulfill every promise he ever gave ... God is going to preserve that people and if you are a threat to that people, historically speaking, God says you need to be removed.”

“I think about that story so often when I think about this is like the modern version of Amalek and until they are wiped out this is just going to go on and on,” MacArthur



continued. “I know I don’t want to be callous about things but God has in his sovereignty made a decision for the preservation of

Israel into the future into the Kingdom of Messiah -- that’s his plan, that’s his promise.”

“You can be a part of that by coming to the Messiah and being a part of his kingdom but if you attempt to destroy the very people that are the heart and soul of God’s plan, then you come under the Judgment of God and I think Israel is acting -- even though they’re, you know, a secular nation in the large sense because salvation is individual not national -- I think their desire to protect and preserve them and to fight in a really, a Terminal Way, against those who would destroy them follows the divine pattern of God for the preservation of that people until he fulfills his plan for them,” MacArthur added.



“You also know in the Old Testament, God said to the children of Israel when you go into the land destroy the Amalekites, destroy them, because I’m bringing judgment down on their heads for their sins -- I mean they’re like a cancer in the world,” MacArthur responded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opened the war by labeling the Palestinians “Amalek” and other Israeli officials followed.

In this interview, MacArthur proves to the world that he is almost totally void of the understanding of Christ’s New Covenant—as are ALL Premillennial Dispensationalists. They are still living in the Old Covenant—a covenant that was completely abolished by Christ’s death on the Cross....

<https://chuckbaldwinlive.com/Articles/tabid/109/articleType/CategoryView/categoryId/7/Columns.aspx>

**Comment:** How absurd! MacArthur said that one can help bring in the kingdom of God by supporting the mass destruction of the Palestinians, the legitimate residents of Palestine. In past articles, we have shown that today’s Israel has absolutely nothing to do with the Old Testament Israel delivered out of Egypt. That national Israel was totally destroyed in 70 A.D.

See <https://biblicalexaminer.org/JudaismOpen.html>

This writer is greatly distressed by those who are regarded as great Bible teachers, yet they cannot understand the clear writings of Paul in the book of Galatians.

Read Baldwin’s article:

“Shapiro denies Christ’s deity, denies He was even a Prophet, accuses Him of being a criminal who “got killed for his trouble.” He denies the vicarious death of Christ for our sins. He rejects Christ as Israel’s Messiah. He denies Jesus’ resurrection. He speaks of Jesus in the most vile, loathsome terms—and THIS is the antichrist that John MacArthur joins with to justify the mass murder and genocide of the Palestinian people?”



A short thought

**DANGEROUS DEVICES**

*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11*

God forbids seeking more into the devices of Satan than what is clearly revealed in His Word, for He has freely given us all the instruction we need so we can freely serve Him and do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29.

**Satan means adversary, accuser, enemy.** Satan is the great adversary of God and man. Satan will do all things possible to hinder the work of God among those who are trying to please God. Satan’s great goal is to prevent the people of God from doing *all the words of this law*.

*And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, [thou] child of the devil, [thou] enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? Acts 13:10*

In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul speaks of Satan presenting himself as an angel of righteousness in order to pervert the gospel, but that is not the subject of this tome.

*Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. John 8:44*

In 2 Corinthians 2:11, the context tells us that the Adversary’s goal was to get an advantage over the church.

The Law-Word of God tells all we need to know of Satan’s plans, his thoughts, his skills and his cunning. We are not ignorant of the many individuals he has destroyed, of the churches he has ruined, of the nations he has overturned. He perverts the purest plans, the purest motives, the purest people and the purest efforts of the church. He perverts wisdom, knowledge, love, understanding, concern, authority and proper submission to authority.

Even more serious is that he has perverted the Law-Word of God with many compromised translations over the past century or so. (A parallel Bible will surprise you with how the Word of God has been neutralized over the years.) Satan perverts absolutely every area of life and thought; God has given His Word which reveals Satan’s devices and tells us how they can be conquered through faith and a clear conscience. God’s people cannot plead ignorance of his devices; rather, they must

plead ignorance of His Word.

**In the context of v. 11**, Satan was seeking an advantage as the church had obeyed Paul's instruction in 1 Corinthians 5, and had exercised church discipline against the man that was living in sin. The church had removed him, and he repented and forsook his sin. Now Paul is telling them to forgive the man, praise the Lord you are being diligent and reinstate him back into fellowship with the church, v. 7.

He tells them that if they do not restore him in love, the adversary, Satan, will gain an advantage over them; he will gain the upper hand over the church. Because of this danger, they were to waste no time in restoring in love the one who had sinned, repented, and made it right, Proverbs 28:13.

• **APPLICATION:**

Requiring more than the Law of God requires is a sin as much as not requiring what the Law requires on both the individual and church level. Lack of proper church discipline as well as going overboard with church discipline gives Satan an advantage over the church.

God's law-word is exceeding broad, and this law includes family law. It is as much a sin to exercise too much discipline and a family as it is to not exercise too little discipline in the family. Colossians 3:21.

Moreover, we can be too harsh on others. It is a common human malady, even among the sincerest Christians, of being mote inspectors while ignoring our own beam. (That is, a small speck of sawdust versus a 2 x 4. Mat 7, Luke 6)

Do we expect others to be at the level of maturity that it may have taken many years and many fiery trials and tribulations for us to obtain? How many times have we failed that trial of our faith, yet we may expect others to stand up where we failed in the past? (1 Peter 1:7)

Ephesians 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* Colossians 3:13 *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye. [quarrel: or, complaint]*

Forgiveness may be difficult when a person has committed a major offence by man's standards. But Paul warns the church of the danger that awaits him if they do not forgive and restore fellowship. However, Biblical forgiveness does not void **Biblical restitution**.

What advantage Satan would gain we are not told. Certainly, if they didn't restore him to fellowship, Satan would use that to destroy the testimony of the church. The forgiving spirit restores fellowship with those who repent and turn. As God restores fellowship to the repentant, so should we. (Read 1 John.)

We will not go into a list of Satan's devices, for they are very well known. However, in chapter 11, Paul warns of the many false ministers of righteousness. The Apostle tells the church that Satan's most effective devices are very well hidden under the cloak of righteousness. The effective devices which are used against the church and the individual are offered by apparent ministers of righteousness, 11:13-15. (See John MacArthur this issue.)

***For we are not ignorant of his devices.*** We have the Law-Word of God which exposes Satan, so we are without excuse for being caught unawares.

As the Lord prospers those churches that preach and teach the gospel, one can be assured that Satan has many devices "planted" in that church ready to destroy its unity.

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.* 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

The Apostle tells us Satan's devices may come from the most unlikely sources. That is what makes them so dangerous.

*But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. [dishonesty: Gr. shame} 2 Corinthians 4:2.*

*And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil, i.e., the evil one.* Luke 11: 4.

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## AUGUSTINE IN THE BALLOT BOX

By Collin Garbarino

ESSAY | A historic treatise on politics and religion sheds light on this year's contentious election season

ROME has always served as the West's quintessential empire. Not only did it conquer the entire Mediterranean Basin and much of Northern Europe, it also

colonized Western civilization's mental landscape. At its founding, America imbibed deeply from the well of Rome, finding inspiration in its republican institutions and mimicking the iconography and architecture of its artists and builders. Is it surprising that we sometimes search Rome's history for clues to our country's future?

The situation confronting the fifth-century Roman Empire on the eve of its collapse holds a superficial similarity to contemporary America. Out-of-touch elites governed the empire, and people had lost faith in governmental institutions. A stark divide existed between the needs of rural and urban populations, and citizens faced economic uncertainty as the government manipulated the currency by experimenting with different coinage. Rome even had its own immigration crisis, failing to assimilate the Germanic Goths, who a generation earlier sought asylum in the empire when fleeing from the Huns. Other Germanic tribes illegally crossed Rome's porous border, exacerbating an already desperate problem.

On Aug. 24, 410, Germanic Goths led by their king, Alaric, sacked the city of Rome. It was the first time foreign enemies had breached the city walls in 800 years, and news of the devastation shook the foundations of the empire. The empire's mood darkened over the following months as the government failed to contain the fallout. But during this destruction, Augustine of Hippo wrote one of Christianity's greatest literary works, *The City of God*.

In his magnum opus, Augustine argues that the City of God and the City of Man aren't the same thing. It's a timely reminder for Americans, as our country finds itself in the midst of another election cycle. For many—both left and right—politics has become a religion. But it's a religion filled with fear and trembling because the whims of a voting populace, in which each half distrusts the other, shape the world's destiny, rather than the designs of a good and sovereign God.

While Italy burned, Augustine served as bishop in the small town of Hippo in the Roman province of Africa, modern-day Algeria. Though Hippo lay across the Mediterranean, hundreds of miles from Rome, those

living there saw firsthand the effects of the empire's collapse as refugees flooded into North Africa. In 412, Augustine began writing *The City of God* to make sense of the calamity. Americans in crisis might glean a shred of insight from studying Rome's turmoil, but Augustine's message offers better insights for Christians seeking to live faithfully in this world as they await the Second Coming.



Fifth-century Christians often viewed Rome as a Christian empire, and many American Christians fall into this same trap, talking about the United States as if it's analogous to the City of God rather than just another manifestation of the City of Man. Sen. Ted Cruz, for example, has often referred

to America as "the last best hope" for the world and a "shining city on a hill." To be fair, Cruz is echoing theologically loaded language from Ronald Reagan and other politicians throughout America's almost 250-year history. But that rhetoric wouldn't impress Augustine. His writings reminded readers that Jesus is the world's last best hope and the Church is the shining city. When these categories get confused, Christians begin to expect more from politics than it can possibly deliver.

The title of *The City of God* comes from Psalm 87:3, in which the psalmist sings of God's exaltation of Zion: "Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God." Opposed to this heavenly city is the city of man, which seeks to establish itself through pride and self-sufficiency. Augustine worked on *The City of God* over 15 years, exploring the interplay between these two cities in a book that would run to a thousand pages.

His initial goal was to answer the criticism of pagans who blamed the Roman Empire's precarious situation on its embrace of Christianity. The Sack of Rome took place about a hundred years after Constantine began favoring Christianity. After Constantine's baptism toward the end of his life, all Rome's emperors claimed Christ—except Julian the Apostate, who met with a violent, untimely death.

Throughout the fourth century, Christianity grew in both imperial influence and sheer numbers as the faith attracted more converts. Rural areas remained largely



unconverted, but Christianity became the driving cultural force in the empire's urban centers. Many Christians, most notably the church historian Eusebius, began to view Rome as the locus for the promised kingdom of God. Christianity had conquered the empire, and this new Christian empire would usher in the millennial reign of Jesus.

But then Alaric's Goths sacked Rome, and the loose political structures that had held the empire together for centuries began to unravel.

Pagan critics of Christianity pounced. Many of these men belonged to Rome's most distinguished families, rich enough to insulate themselves from imperial pressure. They claimed Rome's misfortune occurred because the people failed to honor the city's traditional pantheon. These gods, according to the pagans, had protected Rome for almost a thousand years, but now they had abandoned Rome. The Christian God wasn't up to the task of defending the city.

Augustine begins *The City of God* with a frontal assault on Rome's traditional religion and those thinkers who support it. He recounts the pagans' own stories, showing how time and again their gods proved faithless. The Romans prided themselves on piety, absorbing all the gods from their conquered peoples. But if those gods didn't save conquered peoples from Roman aggression, why should the Romans depend on them now?

Augustine's attack on Rome's long-dead religious traditions might not seem to have much contemporary relevance. But he doesn't merely attack the misconceptions of Christianity's critics. He also corrects and admonishes the Christians living through Rome's disaster, building a theological framework for how Christians should view the state.

Augustine's writings remind us that Jesus is the world's last best hope and the Church is the shining city. When these categories get confused, Christians begin to expect more from politics than it can possibly deliver.

IN AUGUSTINE'S DAY, many Christians had adopted Eusebius' idea that the Roman Empire was the

manifestation of Jesus' coming kingdom, and the Sack of Rome elicited fear and spiritual anguish. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin, watched events unfold from Bethlehem, and Rome's plight wrecked him emotionally. He compared the city of Rome to Zion, and he moaned, "The entire world perished in a single city."

If Rome were the manifestation of the kingdom of God, the situation would indeed be dire. Why was God allowing these things to happen? What sin had Christians committed to bring on this suffering? Even more theologically troubling was the notion that perhaps God's purposes for the world could be thwarted by barbarian swords.

It's easy to see how Eusebius, Jerome, and countless other Christians could be attracted by the promise of a Christian state. We see some of the same impulse in those who espouse extreme forms of Christian nationalism today. But Augustine suggests the entire project is misguided. When Jesus said His kingdom wasn't of this world, He didn't mean it's coming later, during the days of Constantine—or during the days of Trump, for that matter.

In Augustine's formulation, the City of Man isn't bound by a particular time and place. Instead, it manifests itself in different ways throughout human history. The Assyrian Empire, the Hellenistic empires, the Roman Empire—they're all manifestations of the City of Man. Early in his book, Augustine launches into a study of history to show that every human political institution is doomed to collapse, only to be replaced by another.

The Bible uses the imagery of Babylon to refer to this world system, and Augustine says Christians ought not confuse themselves by assuming Rome had become a New Jerusalem rather than just another iteration of the old Babylon.

The machinations of the City of Man offer no hope, but there's another city that can claim the Bible's promises to Jerusalem, and that's the City of God. The City of God is also boundless, containing all God's people throughout time and space along with the holy angels. This city, roughly analogous to the Church, is the body through which God will bring about His purposes.

The City of God won't shatter beneath barbarian swords, and unlike the City of Man, which will finally be overthrown at Christ's second coming, the City of God is everlasting. In the midst of trials, Augustine





comforts believers by pointing to their ultimate hope.

Augustine offers a nuanced approach to politics, much like the Apostle Paul's. In his letter to the Philipians, Paul said, "Our citizenship is in heaven," but he also took advantage of his Roman citizenship when it suited him. Christians are citizens of both the City of God and the City of Man, but only the heavenly citizenship is eternal. Our earthly citizenship is passing away, and Augustine says Christians are like pilgrims traveling through the earthly city on their way to a better country. We must avoid the vices of the City of Man, but that doesn't mean we should show contempt for the earthly city and its politics.

Christians are free to make use of the politics and culture of the City of Man, but we must always remember those things are not ends in themselves.

Some contemporary conservative politicians, like Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, claim America is a Christian nation, because the Founders said so. But do the Founders or contemporary politicians get to decide, or does God? Some also claim the country must turn back to God if it is to achieve its former glory. Even some pastors succumb to this politicized rhetoric that portrays the goal of the Christian religion as restoring and supporting a proper social order.

Augustine would say that's a pagan way of thinking. Remember, the pagans in Rome talked the same way: If we get our religion right, Rome will be glorious again. They made a plausible case. By many objective measures, Rome was more prosperous and more peaceful before Christianity became politically influential. Even Enlightenment writers in the modern era blamed Rome's decline on Christianity's enervating influence.

Writers like Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Jordan Peterson, and Tom Holland use a similar argument when they support Christianity today. Christian virtue should be promoted in order to save Western civilization. But this attitude is exactly backwards. It turns Christianity into something to be used and the preservation of the West as the end goal.

SO HOW DO WE avoid the siren's call of using religion to prop up a doomed way of life? Augustine says an honest assessment of history should do the trick. The Romans, pagan and Christian alike, shared an inordinate pride in their empire's accomplishments, but Augustine takes a notoriously dim view of state building. In *The City of God*, he says citizens of small states are often happier than those in large empires, and he

claims that without justice the only difference between a kingdom and a criminal gang is size, implying the Roman government was no better than Alaric's marauding Goths.

Augustine attacks the very heart of Roman nationalism, spending a significant portion of *The City of God* dismantling Rome's most cherished stories. He talks about how the country was founded in blood, and he examines the golden age of the Roman Republic, showing that it really wasn't so golden after all. In fact, Augustine denies that the Roman Republic even warranted the name "Republic," a word that denotes a government by and for the people. A true republic possesses true justice, and one can't find true justice apart from Christ. At its best, Rome was a shadowy facsimile of a republic, driven by pride and lust for domination.

In the fifth century, pagans and Christians alike wanted to make Rome great again, but Augustine asks, "When was it ever great?" Americans often fall into this Roman tendency of idealizing the past, but is there a period of our history in which we can honestly say we fulfilled the mandate of "justice for all"?

This isn't to say America is as bad as it could be, devoid of common grace. Despite trampling Rome's sacred calves, Augustine evinces a certain amount of pride in being Roman. The government didn't possess justice, but it was a better government than other manifestations of the City of Man. Rome was able to achieve peace and prosperity because it possessed a certain kind of martial virtue. Augustine admits the effectiveness of Roman virtues, but he concedes they were merely "splendid vices"—vices masquerading as virtue that kept even worse vices in check.

Augustine says Christians are like pilgrims traveling through the earthly city on their way to a better country. We must avoid the vices of the City of Man, but that doesn't mean we should show contempt for the earthly city and its politics.

Looking at American history, Augustine likely would accuse our version of the earthly city of failing the standard of justice—but he might also admit that the United States is as good as it gets on this earth. Ultimately, however, as good as it gets simply isn't good enough.

Augustine is unequivocal in his dismissal of civil theology, and our modern conception of church and state operating in separate spheres owes much to his thinking. Ancient societies believed religion and civic life overlapped, and for the Romans, traditional reli-

gion was an aspect of civic life. After Rome converted to Christianity and Christianity supplanted paganism as the new civic religion, those old habits of thought persisted. Augustine warns that God never meant for Christians to think this way.

Despite his skepticism concerning the civic order, Augustine supports it. He doesn't advocate tearing down or supplanting the government with some idealized polity that has no chance of achieving perfection. He frequently cited Romans 13 to remind Christians they're under the authority of the civic magistrate: "Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."

In the waning days of the world's greatest empire, Augustine surveys Rome's long history and decides Paul and the other martyrs were Rome's real heroes, not the politicians and soldiers. Rome's senators and citizens crafted a polity that lasted for a thousand years, and Rome's legions spilled their blood conquering the world. But the glory they achieved for Rome proved ephemeral.

In *The City of God*, Augustine referred to the Apostle Paul as "the best and strongest of men." Paul didn't exhibit strength through war and conquest; rather, he gloried in his own weakness. Likewise, Augustine esteems the martyrs who possessed humility in the face of death. Their first concern was testifying to their faith in the heavenly city rather than fighting for fading glory in the earthly city.

Augustine ends *The City of God* with a contemplation on that heavenly city, saying, "There we shall be still and see, see and love, love and praise. Behold what will be in the end without end! For what else is our end but to reach the kingdom without end."

During a contentious election cycle, it's easy to forget our ultimate concern should be the kingdom without end, rather than restoring America's fading glory. But citizens of heaven still have a civic responsibility to work for the good of the earthly city. As we prepare to cast our votes this year, Augustine would urge us to faithfully engage in politics—without putting our faith in it.

Collin Garbarino is WORLD's arts and culture editor.

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## SLIGHTING ALL WORLDLY THINGS

Sibylla of Cleves

**Mighty Men Herald** – Virtuous Women Edition,

January of 2024

The famous defender of Martin Luther was not the only noble in his family to take up the cause of the Reformation. Duke Frederick "the Wise" of Saxony is well known to history for his clandestine "kidnapping" of Martin Luther on the way home from the Diet of Worms. The courageous Duke Frederick refused to surrender Luther even to the united demands of the Emperor and the Pope.

This noble spirit was passed on to the relatives of the Duke. Duke Frederick "the Wise" was succeeded by his brother John "the Steadfast." John's son combined the virtues of his steadfast father and his wise uncle and was aptly named John Frederick.

Duke John Frederick of Saxony, the nephew of Frederick was a personal friend to Martin Luther and has been described as "one of the most sincere, devoted, and intrepid defenders of the Reformation."

John Frederick was a giant of a man. His boots were so large that it was rumored that a six-year-old child was able to stand up in one boot without difficulty! At the age of 24, Duke John Frederick took as his bride a tender young girl named Sibylla of Cleves. She was only 17 years old at the time. Although she was raised in Romanism, she was a convert to the Lutheran faith, and eagerly embraced the truth of faith alone in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

Sibylla was elder sister to Anne of Cleves, a girl destined one day to be married to King Henry VIII of England. Sibylla, in contrast to her quiet and more contemplative sister, was vivacious and charming as well as beautiful. She was an ideal companion for her husband, Duke John Frederick.

Sibylla's home was the castle at Wittenberg, and Martin and Katherine von Bora and their children were often guests of the Duke and Duchess of Wittenberg. Martin Luther played the lute skillfully, and the Luthers often sang "A Mighty Fortress" with the Duke and the Duchess in the halls of the castle. The Lord blessed Duke John Frederick and Sibylla with four healthy sons that gave promise of following the noble example of their worthy ancestors.

But the clouds of war threatened the security and peace of Saxony. A league of Protestant Nobles had joined together into a confederation known as the Schmalkald League. For many years, this league provided effective deterrence against the tyranny of the Emperor and his

minions.

But the same year that Martin Luther died, in 1546, Emperor Charles V, the same one that had defied Luther at the Diet of Worms over two decades earlier, gathered a force of Roman Catholic princes augmented by Spanish mercenaries to overthrow the League of Schmalkald. John Frederick Duke of Saxony and Philip Landgrave of Hesse were joint commanders of the Protestant forces.

The Protestant and Catholic forces met in battle in April of 1547, and the Protestant princes were defeated. Duke John Frederick put up a gallant defense and personally slew a horde of Spaniards in his final resistance. Finally, wounded and bleeding, the Duke was taken captive.

The victorious Emperor marched his armies against the fortified town of Wittenberg. In the absence of her husband, Sibylla was in command of the town. She organized a determined defense, personally riding among the garrison and inspecting the fortifications. When the Imperial army reached the gates of Wittenberg, the Emperor found the city strongly defended. Surrounded by strong walls and a boggy marsh, the Emperor realized that he could not take Wittenberg by storm. Enraged, he resorted to a cowardly threat.

The Emperor sent word to the Duchess Sibylla that he would order the execution of her captive husband if she refused to surrender the town of Wittenberg. To show it was no idle threat, the Emperor convened a court martial and condemned Duke John Frederick to death. The news came to the Duke as he was playing chess in a tent with another captive. He calmly finished his game (and won it) and then prepared himself to die.

But Sibylla his wife had prepared an effective plea for the Emperor. She offered to open the city gates to the Emperor with the firm condition that the Lutherans of the city not be compelled to abjure their faith. The brave duchess made it very clear to the Emperor that both she and her husband would rather die than surrender for a moment the truth of God.

Seeing the sincerity of her plea, the Emperor countermanded the death of John Frederick. He allowed the Duke one week to spend with his wife, and then he would be taken away into permanent captivity. John Frederick and Sibylla spent a precious week together before their parting.

During the five long years that they were apart, the

Duke and Duchess kept in touch by letter. The Emperor sought to get the Protestants of the German States to agree to a compromise where Catholic doctrine would be restored to the churches but the communion could be celebrated in both kinds according to Lutheran custom. He also offered to allow the marriage of priests if the Papacy could be restored. But Sibylla and her husband refused these subtle compromises. Duke Frederick wrote, "I cannot forsake the known truth. I retain the doctrine of the Augsburg Confession . . . slighting all worldly things."

Sibylla wrote in similar language, "I cannot act contrary to my judgements and my conscience. I would rather be poor and forsaken with God than rich and great without him." These words must have sounded to the Emperor hauntingly like the words of Martin Luther.

Refusing to recant, the Duke and Duchess were stripped by the Emperor of their lands and titles. Forced to leave the castle at Wittenberg, Sibylla resided in a small castle at Weimar. She dressed in black and never wore jewels, praying daily for the return of her husband. She concentrated upon raising her four sons to serve God steadfastly and wisely like their father.

The hopes and prayers of Sibylla were finally realized after her husband had been in captivity for five long years. The Emperor, facing a new threat from France, needed the military support of the Protestant princes. He announced that Duke John Frederick was going to be set at liberty!

In 1552, Duke John Frederick was reunited with his faithful wife. Both were broken in health by the long hardships of war and ensuing poverty at Weimar due to the confiscation of their lands and comforts.

They were only together for a year and a half. Sibylla's strength ebbed away and she died beside her husband while a Lutheran minister was praying. The minister wrote that God took Lady Sibylla so gently that "she seemed like a candle going out in the socket." She was forty-three years old. Her husband, broken in health by his long captivity, told his stone workers, "Reserve a place for me beside my wife."

Duke John Frederick of Saxony died only eleven days after his wife. Heirs together of the grace of life, they inherited a mansion that could not be taken away, and an eternal crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Drawn from *Ladies of the Reformation* by J. H. Alexander

## VARIOUS FOR AUGUST 24

**Psalms 140:8** *Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked: further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves. Selah. 9 [As for] the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them. 10 Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again. 11 Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow [him].*

### \* **A woke joke: Secret Service failure for Trump blamed on leftist insanity**

... He said, “Secret Service Humiliated Note and video from intel guy: Absolute humiliation for this gaggle of female Secret Service Agents. Look at the disorder: – Can’t holster weapons – Gear falling to the ground – Erratic, fearful movements – No show of force, compo- sure DEI Secret Service make Presidents LESS Safe.”

[https://www.wnd.com/2024/07/a-woke-joke-secret-service-failure-for-trump-blamed-on-leftist-insanity/?utm\\_source=wnd-news-alerts-beehiiv.com&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=breaking-news-7-15-2024-5](https://www.wnd.com/2024/07/a-woke-joke-secret-service-failure-for-trump-blamed-on-leftist-insanity/?utm_source=wnd-news-alerts-beehiiv.com&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=breaking-news-7-15-2024-5)

\* **MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS.** I believe it was Catherine Fitts who first pointed out to me that the Insiders always combine their plans to increase control with means for them to profit largely.

Think for instance of 9/11 when it came out that “somebody” had shorted airline stocks bare days before airliners started crashing into buildings — and they made a killing. All that was covered up, of course.

Now it turns out that Austin Private Wealth LLCmm majority owned by George Soros’ Vanguard and black-jack, shorted Trump’s company Truth Social heavily. From July 1 to July 12 shorts against Truth Social more than doubled. Read the X post here.

(Interesting and disconcerting article at [https://x.com/diedsuddenly\\_/status/1813766972720484764?t=yiY4FQ3ShphHVmSpQ7a1Jw](https://x.com/diedsuddenly_/status/1813766972720484764?t=yiY4FQ3ShphHVmSpQ7a1Jw))

I don’t know whether this is true or not, but what do y’all want to bet it will all be covered up. Whoops! did I forget to tell y’all that “Coincidentally, BlackRock, the party that would have greatly profited from President Trump’s death, included the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, in a 2022 promotional video”? I’m sure it was all just a cosmic coincidence, right?

Argentum et aurum comparanda sunt.  
Silver and gold must be bought.  
Franklyn Sanders

### • **We’re “Going Bankrupt,” Warns Musk: In June, 76% of Income Taxes Went to Finance the Debt**

By Selwyn Duke

“Neither a borrower nor a lender be,” wrote William Shakespeare in Hamlet. If the U.S. government had taken this age-old advice, we perhaps wouldn’t be in a dire financial situation epitomized by a shocking statistic:

In June, 76 percent of all personal income tax revenue was needed to pay interest on our \$35 trillion national debt.

This helps clarify why, with the federal government having become a legalized counterfeiting operation, more than 80 percent of all the dollars in existence have been printed just since 2020. The bottom line?

This helps clarify why, with the federal government having become a legalized counterfeiting operation, more than 80 percent of all the dollars in existence have been printed ju We’re “Going Bankrupt,” Warns Musk: In June, 76% of Income Taxes Went to Finance the Debt st since 2020. The bottom line?

[https://thenewamerican.com/news/were-going-bankrupt-warns-musk-in-june-76-of-income-taxes-went-to-finance-the-debt/?mc\\_cid=f95fd3ad0a](https://thenewamerican.com/news/were-going-bankrupt-warns-musk-in-june-76-of-income-taxes-went-to-finance-the-debt/?mc_cid=f95fd3ad0a)

Inflation because of debt is not only theft from the people, but is servitude to the FED in this case.

Proverbs 22:7 *The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower [is] servant to the lender.*

### • **ECONOMIC MELTDOWN**

The fault lies with Congress as they vote for the horrendous spending bills in order to remain in power.

### • **WALZ JUSTIFIES RIOTING, SAYS VIOLENT COMMUNITY ‘RIGHTFULLY ANGRY’ AT ‘SYSTEM’**

‘And I want to hold those two truths at the same time. The folks you see out there at Brooklyn Center are in trauma and they’re rightfully angry at a system that does not serve them and puts black youth and people of color at risk.’ ...

[https://www.wnd.com/2024/08/watch-tim-walz-justifies-looting-anarchy-theft/?utm\\_source=wnd-news-alerts.beehiiv.com&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=morning-news-alert-8-9-2024&\\_bhlid=0999e00f627ae8c813a21fd20d975d00e0c13795](https://www.wnd.com/2024/08/watch-tim-walz-justifies-looting-anarchy-theft/?utm_source=wnd-news-alerts.beehiiv.com&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=morning-news-alert-8-9-2024&_bhlid=0999e00f627ae8c813a21fd20d975d00e0c13795)

### • **ENGLISH – DOWN THE MEMORY HOLE**

We have been downloading MP3s, putting them on CDs and listening as we travel; histories such as “History of the Reformation,” “Alexander the Great,” “Julius Caesar,” “the History of England from the time of Julius Caesar” and most recently, “The Byzantine Empire.” These histories were written as early as the 1700s.



Chapel Library republishes sermons from as early as the 1600s, and several are streaming or downloadable, for which we are grateful. As we listen to these older authors, the obvious degeneration of the English language of our day is astounding. Several words may be needed to define the one word in the older English text; moreover, even leaving out a single word changes the sense of a statement. (The degeneration of the English used in the KJV in modern translation is a good example.) Many times, when Chapel Library republishes an old sermon, they place footnotes at words generally unknown to the modern reader. The footnote will take several words to try to define that one English word. **How long will it be before the modern readers will not be able to understand these older writings.**

Changing words and the meanings of words cuts the reader off from the past which is needed for the “Great Reset.” Erase the old and create a new history.

- **WATERGATE A SCAM**

[https://tuckercarlson.com/tucker-show-geoff-shepard?utm\\_campaign=20240808\\_aug8dailybriefsubs&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_content=geoffshepard](https://tuckercarlson.com/tucker-show-geoff-shepard?utm_campaign=20240808_aug8dailybriefsubs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=iterable&utm_content=geoffshepard)

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## OPPRESSION AS LAW

R. J. Rushdoony

The news about the public schools gets worse daily. We read now that in San Francisco lesbians and male homosexuals are allowed to visit that city’s high schools to explain and defend homosexuality to the students. No such right is given to Christians. Indeed, we read frequently of a teacher fired somewhere for doing no more than giving favorable treatment to the Bible.

What can we expect of a country that does this? What kind of future do we have? Psalm 94:20 declares, “Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?” The Berkeley Version renders this verse thus: “Can a corrupt government be allied with Thee, one that organizes oppression under the pretense of law?”

This, of course, we have been doing for some time now, organizing oppression under the pretense of law. In one area after another, law has ceased to be a protection to the righteous and has become an oppression. Our laws and our taxes now discriminate against the hardworking and the godly citizens. It has become dangerous to have a new law: it winds up penalizing us rather than the criminals.

In the face of all this, students are taught, “there’s noth-

ing perverted about being a gay,” and they are taught to “act out gay roles.” At the same time, last November the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Kentucky law requiring the Ten Commandments to be posted in all schools! Perhaps the judges felt it would be traumatic or upsetting for children (those who have learned to read) to see such statements as “Thou shalt not steal.”

Under the circumstances, what can we expect from God except judgment? Should we be surprised or upset if the years ahead become grimmer and grayer?

Remember, there may not be justice in our schools and courts, but there is in God’s universe.

Taken from *A Word In Season: Daily Messages on the Faith for All of Life*, Volume 5, pp. 12-13.

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### How the Game is Played

## OLYMPIC BLASPHEMY

By Rev. Need

**Olympic blasphemy: Summer Games mock Last Supper with return to their bloody, pagan origins**

‘Athletes and priests also made elaborate blood tributes to their gods, including the sacrifice of a hundred oxen at the Great Altar of Zeus’

The Olympic Games in Paris appear to be on an agenda to return to the games’ original pagan roots, where blood ceremonies highlighted the days and allegiances were sworn to various pagan gods....

The report explained, “Father Richard Pengelley, the former Anglican dean of Perth who represented Australia in water polo at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, says sport and religion were inseparable for the ancient Greeks.”

He said the goal actually was “religious education.”

...  
[https://www.wnd.com/2024/07/olympic-blasphemy-summer-games-mock-last-supper-with-return-to-their-bloody-pagan-origins/?utm\\_source=wnd-news-alerts.beehiiv.com&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=morning-news-alert-7-27-2024](https://www.wnd.com/2024/07/olympic-blasphemy-summer-games-mock-last-supper-with-return-to-their-bloody-pagan-origins/?utm_source=wnd-news-alerts.beehiiv.com&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=morning-news-alert-7-27-2024)

Many Olympic traditions are intertwined with religion and ancient Greek history

### **Naked athletes and blood tributes**

The Games began in 776BC in ancient Greece at the sacred site of Olympia, home to the temple of Zeus.

Vrasidas Karalis, professor of modern Greek at the University of Sydney, grew up in Olympia, where he used to play with friends among the ancient stadium ruins.

“For the ancient Greeks, the Olympics were about the elevation of the human to the level of the Divine — a form of deification,” he says.

For an athlete to devote themselves to athletic pursuits was to honour the gods.

Even the word “ascetic” — used to describe acts of religious self-discipline — is derived from the Greek word “to exercise”, Professor Karalis explains.

“So I think there’s a continuity between the Olympic Games and the language of religion,” he says.

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“So I think there’s a continuity between the Olympic Games and the language of religion,” he says.

When the Olympics were banned

The ancient Olympic Games continued for centuries, until they were outlawed in 393AD by the early Christian Roman Emperor Theodosius I. He viewed the Games as a pagan cult.

Father Pengelley explains that Theodosius, like many Christians in the early Church, was influenced by the writings of Saint Paul.

“[Saint Paul] cottoned onto this binary dichotomy between body and soul,” he says.

“So, the Games and sports were seen as idolatrous body worship.”

As centuries passed and Christianity spread, Olympia was left in ruins and the ancient Games all but forgotten. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-18/olympic-traditions-religion-antiquity-ancient-greek-history/104087026>

### Comment

**Body Worship.** How can modern humanist education not be seen as body worship when so much of that education is centered around sports? More than a few new public schools have been built in order to have a larger and bigger gyms and sports arenas — the community revolves around a local sports team. How many times is it the sports program that draws young people to a particular

school district or to a college?

Moreover, are not tattoos body worship?

### Here is how the game is played

Do your dirty deed, then apologize or place the blame elsewhere.

Paris Olympics Organizers Issue Apology to Christians Over Last Supper Parody

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/world/paris-olympics-organizers-issue-apology-to-christians-over-last-supper-parody-5695177?utm\\_source=RTNews&src\\_src=RTNews&utm\\_campaign=rtbreaking-2024-07-28-4&src\\_cmp=rtbreaking-2024-07-28-4&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=digital&est=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAbvQicV0CzMTMzLQDv2xVRbd1xtrEQrjNM548fCj6siE6pes%3D](https://www.theepochtimes.com/world/paris-olympics-organizers-issue-apology-to-christians-over-last-supper-parody-5695177?utm_source=RTNews&src_src=RTNews&utm_campaign=rtbreaking-2024-07-28-4&src_cmp=rtbreaking-2024-07-28-4&utm_medium=email&utm_term=digital&est=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAbvQicV0CzMTMzLQDv2xVRbd1xtrEQrjNM548fCj6siE6pes%3D)

**The wicked do their dirty deed,** make their evil statements, and if they get blowback, they apologize or blame it on someone else. In the end, the wicked know that NO ONE will be held accountable. However, the Olympic size apology was a non-apology as they blamed others for being offended by their effort to be inclusive, inclusive to everyone except Christians.

As we were making a public uproar in Indiana over countywide zoning, one of the men in our group pointed out that the public is like a flock of geese. They can be stirred up, look around, make a lot of noise and go back to feeding just as they were.

### TOOTHLESS CHRISTIANITY

**‘Disrespectful to Christians’: Elon Musk blasts Olympics opening ceremony, calls Christianity ‘toothless’**

Elon Musk, Tesla’s CEO who recently referred to himself as a “cultural Christian,” also weighed in on X, describing the performance as “extremely disrespectful to Christians.” He added in a subsequent post, “Christianity has become toothless.” ...

American Catholic Bishop Robert Barron condemned the act as a “gross mockery of the Last Supper,” ques-



tioning why France chose to “mock this very central moment in Christianity” during an event intended to highlight the best of French culture. He further emphasized that France’s cultural identity “is grounded very much in Christianity.” ...

[https://www.christianpost.com/news/elon-musk-blasts-olympics-opening-ceremony-disrespectful.html?utm\\_source=Daily&utm\\_campaign=Daily&utm\\_medium=newsletter](https://www.christianpost.com/news/elon-musk-blasts-olympics-opening-ceremony-disrespectful.html?utm_source=Daily&utm_campaign=Daily&utm_medium=newsletter)

#### • PUSH BACK

Musk is quite perceptive. Christianity has become a toothless giant as Christians will not push back against the many efforts of the wicked to overturn the once Christian society and dethrone “the LORD and his Christ.” Where were the Protestant leaders pushing back against the Olympic opening?

“This ‘deeply secular postmodern society knows who its enemy is, they are naming it, and we should believe them,’ Barron said in a video message. ‘We Christians, we Catholics should not be sheepish. We should resist. We should make our voices heard.’ ”

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/drag-performance-resembling-last-supper-olympics-opening-ceremony-rcna163927>

Are Christians saying, “The Olympics are pagan, so it is outside of our realm of concern.”

Christian unconcern seems to be not only for the paganization of society in general, but particularly in the political realm, “That is secular, so it does not concern us.”

#### Pay attention as to how the game is played

The assassination attempt. It is quite obvious that the attempt was well-planned, and the planners had no plan “B.” At Trump’s death, there would have been a great amount of weeping and wailing and an abundance of apologies about missing the shooter approaching so close. But no one would have been held accountable. (USSS Director Kimberly Cheatle was the sacrificial lamb, but no “heads will roll” over the event. Why has no one identified the SS men who saw Crooks?) Nor is anyone in “government” ever held accountable, though the state will come down on a citizen’s violation like a duck on a June Bug.

The preceding assessment of the event is confirmed at <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/video-from-trump-assassination-attempt-victim-s-pov-shows-figure-moving-on-roof-moments-before-gunfire/ar-BB1qY2Eb>

#### BIDEN SAYS HE DOESN’T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER IF TRUMP LOSES

By Donald Judd, CNN

President Joe Biden said Wednesday that he doesn’t have confidence there’ll be a peaceful transition of power if former President Donald Trump loses in November, pointing to comments from the Republican nominee suggesting the only way he’d lose is if the election is stolen from him.

“If Trump wins, no, I’m not confident at all,” Biden said in an interview with CBS News, before correcting himself. “I mean, if Trump loses, I’m not confident at all. He means what he says, we don’t take him seriously, he means it — all the stuff about if we lose, there’ll be a bloodbath, it will have to be a stolen election,” he added in his first interview since ending his campaign, which is expected to air in full Sunday morning....

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/08/07/politics/biden-trump-peaceful-transition-of-power/index.html>



## THE COMING WAR AGAINST NORTHERN AGGRESSION

**Opinion:** “Unlimited power” is on the line, so the “powers that be” must stop Trump by any means possible including murder, which will be blamed on a foreign individual or a foreign power. If Trump “loses” again and there is resistance against the theft, the “powers” will say that resistance is like the June 6 “insurrection,” and the military can be activated to quell the “insurrection” with martial law and imprisonment in reeducation camps. **Another Civil War**, *i.e.*, War Against Northern Tyranny, is brewing over the same issue as was in 1860. That is, resistance against the all-powerful, tyrannical central government that determines what is good and what is bad for all things under heaven, enforced with science and with the power of the sword. Regardless of the attempt to change history, the War of Northern Aggression was over states’ rights and the tariffs Lincoln needed to pay the northern bankers.

The large Blue cities will burn in protest as they did in 2016, yet with no arrests for the real insurrection. Those within the distance of one tank of gas from those cities will be in great danger.



## PSALMS 53

By Rev Need

*6 Oh that the salvation of Israel [were come] out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, [and] Israel shall be glad.*

V. 6, throws an interesting light upon this Psalm, for it speaks of the **future** regathering and joy of Israel and Jacob. V. 6 presents this Psalm as a prophetic and messianic Psalm.

This Psalm repeats Psalms 14 as though man does not understand, so God repeats himself. "There is none that doeth good" is repeated many times in the Law-Word of God, as He stresses that there are none who have a natural desire to seek Him; they are all under His judgmental wrath. In Romans 1 & 3, Paul uses these Psalms to make his point that man is a fallen sinner with no hope without God's Spirit of Grace through Faith intervening.

**Vv. 1-4** tell us that man is a hopeless mess, and in his natural state he is continually at war against God. Which leads us to an interesting conclusion in **vv. 5, 6**.

**V. 5** tells us that His enemies are scattered everywhere. **V. 6** is God's promise to gather the elect to Himself, and, by the preaching of the Law-Word of God, and by His Spirit of Grace, He will bring them willingly under His authority (footstool). (Ps. 14:7, 50:2, &c.) Notice the basis of the New Covenant is,

**John 12:32** *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.* **Isaiah 5:26** *And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly: 27 None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken: (See Isaiah 7:18) **Zechariah 10:8** *I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed**

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*them: and they shall increase as they have increased.*

David looks forward to "the salvation of the new **Israel of God**, which will come out of Zion." The "Israel of God" are those who walk "according to this rule" as given by the Apostle in Galatians 6. The prophecies of Zion speak of "the city of the great King," (Ps 48, 74, 78, 125:1, Isa 4:5.)

**Joel 2:32** *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount **Zion** and in **Jerusalem** shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. (Obadiah 1, M Micah 4:7) (Sion and the New Jerusalem, the city sought by Abraham, whose builder and maker is God.) **Romans 11:26** *And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of **Sion** the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **Hebrews 12:22** *But ye are come unto mount **Sion**, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly **Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels, **Colossians 1:13** *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (Rom 5:10, Eph 2:16, Col 1, &c.)****

Let the Elect of God pray with David: *Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.*

**We are living in that glorious day** longed for by David: Now is the day of Salvation with its deliverance from the horrible and destructive bondage to sin. Let us pray with David, and rejoice and be glad, for our Redeemer God reigneth from His throne on high, from where He derides "the workers of iniquity," and calls His own to Himself.

**Look us up at the conference this fall:**

**Blue Collar Confessionalism 2024**

**East River Church, Batavia OH**

**Aug 29. 5:30 pm – August 31.**

